WAFTED FROM WASHINGTON.

Art Auction in Washington—How Pictures and People are Sold—Congressional Feet—Senators Dolph and Mitchell—President Cleveland's Charity—Naval Officers in "Coventry."

[SPECIAL HERALD CORRESPONDENCE.]

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Americans are a very gullible people, and Washington furnishes its full quota of credulous persons. Scarcely a week passes that the auction houses are not full of buyers who are regularly fleeced by the wary tradesman. Last week a large auction sale of paintings occurred which was supposed to be the works of reputable artists. Figures ran high, and fabulous prices were paid for the reputation of spurious artists. The method employed by the auctioneers is to gather together a lot of rubbish from the studios of second rate artists throughout the country, whose names often bear a similarity to noted painters. For example: A sketch by Mr. Carro will be put up and sold for a Carrot. The initials of an ordinary artist bearing the same surname of some noted painter will often mislead the public. Such are the tricks of the trade, and it is not confined to paintings. Domestic bric-a-brac, rugs and china often bring fabulous prices from people who think they are getting the genuine article. The auction business in Washington is a paying one, and it will remain so as long as people will buy spurious articles.

A Washington letter says regarding Congressional feet: "Senator Mahone wears a No. 3, and employes the softest kid in the manufacture of his shoes, which are slender and very low at the instep. Often he appears at the Capitol wearing low cut shoes, with a one strand tie, or Congress held on by a single rubber band drawn over the shoe at the top. It is said that Senator Beck, of Kentucky, has the largest foot in the Senate. He wears a broad eleven, of calf. Senator Voorhees, of Indiana, can stand a No. 10, if broad at the toe, while Senator Butler, of South Carolina, has the smallest foot, excepting Senator Mahone. Mr. Butler wears a No. 5, with a stylish, narrow toe, and is always careful to have them shining."

Senator Dolph, of Oregon, is taller, more erect, more angular, has a longer and straighter beard and more of a military bearing than Senator Mitchell. He lives in a large house on Lafayette Square, and cuts a considerable figure in society. He is a prominent lawyer, and completed his studies of law in the office of his colleague, Senator Mitchell. Both the Senators are of the same age, and both are esteemed highly as lawyers at home. Mitchell is the quicker mind of the two, and his unassuming manners contrast with the somewhat stiff military bearing of Senator Dolph. The senior Senator affects what may be called a Senatorial style, so as to be in keeping with the tall ceilings and carved oak of his reception room and the portraits of the mighty statesmen which adorn his study walls. It is not my intention to convey the idea that Senator Dolph is not a most polite and courteous gentleman and most proper in his bearing. It is only in comparison with such unaffected men as Senator McMillan, of Minnesota, Senator Chase, of Rhode Island, and some others that this side of Senator Dolph's nature comes out. Oregon is certainly well represented in the Senate. She has two men both in the prime of life, both men of ability, both good speakers and sound thinkers, and both bountifully endowed with good looks.

A lawyer friend of President Cleveland from Buffalo recently gave me some interesting gossip about him, He said: "While he was Governor of New York he gave away the whole of his salary in charity, save that which he used for his personal expenses and for the support of his mother. I have seen many instances of his charity. One night I was with him in his private office at the Albany Capitol. It was after he had been elected President. He was opening his mail, and many of the letters contained requests for alms. I saw Governor Cleveland answer fully a half dozen of these by inclosing $5, $10 and at one time a $20 bill in an envelope with a kind word, and sending it to the beggar. One case was especially touching. It was that of an old man in southern New York who had lost his horse by death. He had a little garden-patch of a farm, and this horse was his sole means of making a livelihood upon it. He had raised some money by contributions from his neighbors, but still lacked enough by $20 to buy the horse, which was to serve as the support of himself and his gray-haired wife. Some of his neighbors had heard of Cleveland's charity, and had suggested that he write to him and ask him to help him. From the tenor of the letter you could see that the old man was very proud of its composition and handwriting. He said that he had written it himself with his own hand, and the appeal throughout was that of a simple-minded, unsophisticated, childlike person. Cleveland's eyes filled with tears as he read it, and he put a $20 bill in an envelope and sent it to him with a few kind words."

A naval officer, while speaking of the Boston *Traveler* correspondent, said: "You have no idea of the number of officers who have recently been placed 'in Coventry.' You don't know what that means? Well, it is a species of ostracism. The last officer tabooed was a young fellow who married his mistress. All communication between him and his brother officers was strictly official. They will not recognize him in any social way, and to all intents and purposes he and his wife have to live alone. Sometimes an apparently trival matter puts a man 'in Coventry.' Not long ago the executive officer of one of the vessels of our navy took away the smoking privilege from the ward-room officers. He had the power and he exercised it. If one of his subordinates wanted to smoke he had to go on the forecastle, among the sailors. By virtue of his position he presided at the table. The officers would sit and talk and joke among themselves, but never a word would they say to him. He had absolutely no companion on the entire ship, and that means a great deal when a man is at sea. Well, this officer had a great deal of grit and stood it for eight months. Then he caved in and restored the smoking privilege. As that was all that the other officers were contending for they began to recognize him again in a social way. He called them together and gave them one of the greatest jollifications of the season in honor of the event. I know of no more disagreeable position for a man to be in than to be 'in Coventry.'" FAX.

NEW YORK LETTER.

Montanians Met With in the Metropolis—Enough for a Colony—A Touch of Mountain Weather--Surface Railway Earnings—The Texas "Lion"—Increased Interest Felt in our Territory.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

NEW YORK, March 12, 1886.—Montana is pretty well represented in New York by Governor Hauser, E. L. Bonner, W. A. Chessman, John Caplice, and Mr. Van Wart. I suggested to them that they form a Montana colony and all stop at one hotel. The Governor looks well and happy, and under the genial influence of the Fifth Avenue Hotel is actually growing stout. Mr. Bonner could not be accused of that, but he is active even in this heavy and damp atmosphere. I was surprised and gratified to see our Lewis and Clarke representative walk into the hotel, accompanied by Mr. Van Wart, the other day. He told me that he was on his way to Philadelphia and probably Washington, and I suspect has some designs on President Cleveland. Riding down town in a street car I met John Caplice, of Butte. This all occurring in one day convinced me that there was some important matter on hand which would sooner or later interest our people.

For a few days we have had real Montana weather, with a moderate temperature and south wind. To-day we have an east wind, with indications of rain and unpleasant weather.

The Broadway Surface Railroad is causing much excitement here, and it is not wonderful. It must be a *mint*, for every car is filled, crammed, jammed, and half of the time one has to stand all the way. It is estimated that each car collects about $50 per day, which would be a total revenue of about two and a half millions per year. It is something worth fighting for, and it looks as if the Philadelphia syndicate would get away with it. Whatever the result and whoever owns the road, it is a great public convenience and will greatly appreciate property on Broadway.

The Texan (Holland) has been quite a lion at the hotel at which I am stopping. He seems to carry himself with much dignity, and evidently has warm supporters with him. He certainly rid the people of New York of a hard character, but the manner of doing it is not calculated to help good government.

In meeting and talking with capitalists and investors, I find Montana is attracting attention. If our corporations are well handled, with the intention of making dividend paying properties, it is only a question of time when Eastern money will flow freely to the her varied interests. People of the East have purchased so many wildcat stocks that it is difficult to convince them that Montana is an exception to this class of property. VERNSOY.

Circumscribing Silver Circulation—The Experience of a Montanian—Hinting at New Railroad Projects—Great Falls—Montana Attracting Capital.

[HERALD CORRESPONDENCE.]

NEW YORK, March 16, 1886.—The Eastern bankers make discriminating objection to the use and free circulation of silver, and particularly the silver dollar. My personal experience has been as follows: I tried at the hotel at which I am stopping to get ten dollars in silver, but they said they had little use for it and had little on hand, but that they did have plenty of it yesterday. At a Western Union telegraph office the operator had to go down in his stocking to get change in silver for ten dollars. At an office of the Hudson River Railroad Co. I got accommodated for the first time in a manner that seemed if it was used for currency. This seems to be the plan and manner of using silver in the East, and it is not wonderful, therefore, that silver does not circulate. The whole problem would be solved if the people would use silver here as we do in Montana. I well recollect when silver was sought after in New York as much as it is discarded now. The whole thing seems to be done in the interest of the banks and monied institutions.

The most reliable information that I can get is that Helena will have at least two new roads this year. With these we can expect a large increase of population and renewed activity in all directions. Governor Hauser can probably give authentic information on this point, and he will be heading for Montana at anearly day.

Great Falls seems to be attracting considerable attention, and her immense water power I heard to-day compared to that of St. Anthony. This much can be depended upon at least: Eastern capital is seeking good investments, and, like English capital, is looking away from home for safe and sound enterprises. I find people to-day willing to talk of Montana, her resources and products, who two years ago would not lend a listening ear. VERNOOY.

THERE are in the New York Assembly 108 natives of that State, eight born in Texas, two in Pennsylvania, four in Scotland, three in New Jersey and three in New England.

THERE are in twenty-two States of our Union 308,478 more women than men. Dakota has 29,415 more men than women.

THE COURT HOUSE CONTROVERSY.

In all that the HERALD has said upon this unfortunate and unpleasant controversy, there has been but one controlling motive, and that was to have the court house built, well built, expeditiously and economically built, upon the site selected, and to have it completed the present season in substantial compliance with the contract and in conformity to the plans and specifications which have met with general approval. It has been no part of our undertaking to defend all that the Commissioners, the architect or the contractors have done. In some respects the Commissioners confess that they have made mistakes, and they do not pretend to be faultless. They give their reasons for not having had a local superintendent. They thought between themselves and the occasional visit of the architect and the risks that the contractors would incur by departing from the terms of the contract, that there would be little danger in this direction. Results have shown their mistake. Any one can see it now. Only malignant enemies would attribute the mistake to worst motives. Such mistakes occur in the experience of the most prudent men in the conduct of their own affairs.

In the array of those who seem to be moving heaven and earth to consume the County Commissioners and blast their reputation for time and eternity, we recognize several distinct classes inspired by widely different motives—some of these motives utterly unworthy and ashamed to avow themselves; others, as we think, founded upon mistake and misrepresentation, but honest and worthy of respectful consideration.

To attempt to strike the one and avoid doing harm to others, is about as difficult a matter as confronted the hunter who saw some animal in the bushes and aimed so as to miss it if a calf and kill it if a deer. Those whose malignity springs from disappointment in not having been able to dictate the location in their own private interest, are a class by themselves. They are not numerous, but they are active and furnish the leading spirits in this eager foray and most of the ammunition of the unsavory sort. We have no desire to follow their slimy tracks in seeking to glut their vengence and baffled hopes. There would be neither pleasure or profit in such a hunt. Our only concern with them is to prevent public interests from being made to suffer, or to furnish the atoning sacrifice their vengeance demands.

There is another class of taxpayers, who are opposed to building a court house at all on the score of expense. It necessarily costs money to build a good, creditable court house suitable for present wants and our just expectations and ambition for the future, and the taxpayers must furnish the money. The controversy with these men ought to have been closed before the passage of the law, certainly before the contract was let and the bonds sold, which has created the burden that rests upon them. To continue the opposition now only increases the expense and delays the completion of the work, when the harvest of returning benefits shall efface all doubts and regrets. These men are simply mistaken and in continuing their opposition are injuring themselves and all public interests.

There is still another class, including some of the former and others besides, who have been led to believe that the Commissioners, architects and contractors are combined in a conspiracy to rob the county, cheat in the work and divide the spoils. Those disappointed in the site chosen and those whose bids were not accepted have nursed and fed these suspicions till we have not the least doubt they believe what they say, and they are acting as though the conspiracy was proved.

Even these men are not deserving of wholesale and unqualified blame. We can account for their position without assailing their motives. Somebody was bound to be disappointed in the site and in letting the contracts. There would have been a cohort of those disappointed from these causes in any event. This is simply an unavoidable misfortune. Of course those who would themselves steal and cheat if they had a chance will always believe others who have the coveted opportunity are doing so. Every community has some of this sort, and it would be too much to expect that there were none in Helena. Let us charitably hope they are very few.

We believe no petit jury of Lewis and Clarke county will ever by their verdict say that the Commissioners wilfully and corruptly neglected or refused to do their duty in the matter of not hiring a local superintendent. They have openly and repeatedly declared that such a superintendent will be employed before any further work is done. Till then we fail to see the great importance of having one. It is no little matter to select such a superintendent to meet the wants and criticisms of such an exacting body of men as will hover about the premises in the capacity of imaginary proprietors and professional experts. So in the matter of appointing experts to examine the foundation. The grand jury seem to be in hot haste to have it done forthwith. They go upon the presumption that the Commissioners are not giving any attention to their requests, but are wantonly defying them and treating their recommendations with contempt.

We do not share these convictions. We know that the Commissioners intend to have this examination made. They have unequivocally said so over their published signatures. It is not any easier matter to get competent experts to assume such a responsibility and face such a fire as their report will call forth, than it is to find a local superintendent. It stands to reason that the Commissioners would be glad to unload some of their responsibility as soon as possible. And it further stands to reason that the longer this examination is deferred without interfering with the progress of the work the more will any latent defects have time to show themselves. If there is any symptom or tendency for the walls to settle or crack and crumble the more time that is given the more such defects are liable to appear. An examination this spring will be better than one made last fall, and in the mean time no work could have been done.

It is a profitless and uninviting task to hunt down every falsehood and misrepresentation, even those emphasized by italics. Let them flutter around till they are weary of wing and then they will alight on their own perch, and then any one who cares to do so can ascertain whether it be owl or eagle.

While lamenting the divided and discreditable condition of public sentiment at home and its evil influence abroad we try to console ourselves by thinking that it might have been worse if another site had been chosen and other men had been County Commissioners and contractors. Time will set things right and effectually answer all pertinent queries. The lightnings and the hurricanes do not get all the credit they deserve for purging the earth and atmosphere.

In good time and in a safe and orderly way let the work go on to completion in such fashion that it shall be a silent and enduring answer to all calumny to this and future generations.

THE Broadway Organ appears to think it a small matter to be indicted "for neglect of duty;" but even that would have been avoided had the Commissioners appointed that board of experts, as this community desired them to do in November last.—*Independent.*

The Ismaelite organ seems to think it a big matter. In fact, it could not suppress, even for a day, explosions of exultation that its crusade of "character blasting" had marked another point. The indictment will be judged by the basis for it. It charges "neglect of duty in refusing to appoint experts." The Commissioners have never so refused. The request of the architect that the experts be not appointed before he had accepted and approved of the present (foundation) walls of the court house was concurred in by the Board. The foundation walls, to the present time, have not been reported upon, nor could they well have been during the months of winter. They have yet to be examined and excepted, and we shall hear from the experts before building work is resumed. Architect Hodgson never said he "would not accept and approve the present walls until the whole structure has been completed." That is but one of the many inventions and falsehoods of the Ismaelite organ. The December meeting of the Board was no time for the Commissioners to proceed with the expert matter. That was business seasonably before them at the session and was properly disposed of.

LATEST reports from Washington leave little ground to hope for the admission of Montana at the hands of the present Congress. The rejection of Dakota has been determined by the powers that are in the ascendency and that alone would be reason enough to refuse to consider the claims of Montana and Washington. It is better for us to munch our deferred hopes than indulge any false ones. We have borne our disfranchisement and struggled with our disadvantages until a generation born on our own soil has reached the age of active, responsible citenship. Our population has not increased relatively as much as our resources have been developed. The tide of emigration breaks and scatters before it reaches our borders in any considerable volume. It cannot be so always, nor much longer. The cloud of Indian reservations that overshadows so much of our Territory will lift and roll away. Means of communication with the older States will multiply, quicken in time and cheapen in price. Bad as our condition is in some respects, there is not another of all the Territories that possesses within itself so many of the resources of independence and prosperity. Our varied interests are not conflicting or belligerent. Our people are well united and progressive in all matters of general education, good laws and their orderly and economical administration. While other Territories are recklessly plunging into debt for public buildings and institutions that return little benefit in proportion to their extravagant cost, Montana has conservatively and prudently kept out of debt and reserves her strength till the time comes when it can be exercised to better advantage.

THE *Pioneer Press*, of the 20th inst., confirms the report that the roads between St. Paul and Chicago have agreed to allow double deck cars for the transportation of sheep to pass over their roads after April 1st. This will be most acceptable news to the sheep men of Montana, who have virtually been excluded from the Chicago markets by the unfair treatment of the connecting roads, making rates that left them no profit on live sheep shipments. The credit for the concession seems to be the due to Northern Pacific people who threatened to open a route for this traffic by the lakes. Rather than risk the success of this diversion they acceded. The use of double decks reduces the cost of transportation between St. Paul and Chicago one half and leaves a margin of profit for Montana sheep growers. Last year our shippers could not realize above $2.25 per head on fat sheep, which was not more than one shearing of wool would bring in most cases.

THE Montana Central has now at work between Helena and Prickly Pear cañon, twenty-five miles north, five distinct grading parties, not counting the rock and tunnel cutters.

UNIVERSITY LANDS.

We are in frequent receipt of letters inquiring what will be done with those who have settled upon and made valuable improvements on school and university lands. In the case of school lands settled upon before surveys are made the law provides amply for their protection. In the case of university lands, the selections were not made till after surveys and those who have settled on them stand in the same condition as those who have settled upon school lands after they were surveyed. They are trespassers and no hope of present legal redress. If they do any permanent injury to the lands by cutting timber and exhaust the soil by cultivation they are liable to prosecution and ejection under the national laws. It is all national domain as yet and will continue so till Montana becomes a State. The laws against fencing public lands or committing waste thereon apply just as much to what are called university or school lands as any other.

What the State of Montana will do about these trespassers when she comes into possession of her promised dower, is altogether a matter of speculation.

It is not likely that these trespassers will be allowed to take advantage of their own wrongs to deprive the school or university fund of any of their rights or interests. Nor, on the other hand, have we any idea that the State Legislature will appropriate any part of the valuable improvements placed on these lands by those in possession.

We can only judge by what other States have done in similar circumstances. These lands will be appraised at what they would have been worth without improvements and what the improvements are worth separately and then they will doubtless be offered for sale, allowing the one in possession the first opportunity to buy at the appraisal of the unimproved land. If he is unwilling to pay the price, then it will be sold to the highest bidder, with the reservation that the occupant can move off what he can of his improvements or take what they are appraised at from the purchaser of the lands. This is the usual and probable course and we have no doubt that Montana will be as just and liberal as other States have been.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF LABOR.

The report of the National Bureau of Labor is entitled to a careful study. It is only when we view on an enlarged scale the results of suspended labor, whether caused by strikes or the fear of capital to embark in productive industry, that we can realize the waste and loss that comes directly and indirectly from this constantly recurring warfare between capital and labor. The report gives the total loss from unemployed labor alone at $300,000,000 in a single year. But this is only one item of the full bill. Capital has lost as much more by being kept in enforced idleness, and various other items of indirect loss would swell the aggregate to a round billion. This occurs in times of profound peace and while relatively to other nations ours is the most prosperous in the world. Some may say we are getting rich fast enough as it is, and that we should be exposed to other dangers if there were no checks upon our growth in wealth. We do not accept in any degree this view of the case. We believe it is a misfortune and only a misfortune that all our capacity for labor is not profitably employed all the time, and an equal misfortune that our capital finds no more general and constant employment.

We are losing enough by the pending conflicts and misunderstandings between capital and labor to provide comfortable homes for every poor family in the country and to fill them with plenty. Among such a practical and intelligent people as ours there ought to be found a remedy for this conceded costly disease in the body politic. It is as certain that labor cannot dictate terms to capital any more than capital can dictate terms to labor. Somewhere between these two extremes must be sought the path of wisdom and safety. If the government undertakes to impose terms of compromise it will be suspected by both parties and will satisfy neither. Capital and labor must come together of their own free will and accord and arrange the terms with mutual respect and consideration. It will be done in this way or not at all. Capital and labor must co-operate as equal partners for the common good of both and share together the profits and losses in an equitable proportion. No permanent and satisfactory conclusion will ever be reached by studying one side of this problem by itself. Capital must consider the interests of labor and labor must regard the interests of capital as the first condition of a settlement that will permanently favor either.

THE *Independent* malignants elect to keep up their pursuit of the Commissioners. The hounding of these officials has now been in progress for several months, and the community will probably not be spared a rest until the court house, by its completion, ceases to incite the baffled speculators to persevere in their campaign of detraction and obstruction.

WE trust it is is untrue that an effigic figure of the "old silurian" was suspended on our public square, as obscurely hinted at by the "organ" this morning. Of course, our contemporary has made itself intensely odious in efforts to "blast the characters" of various public officers and worthy fellow citizens, but that circumstance should hardly merit the effigy indignity alluded to. The "old silurian" will hang himself if the people will but practice a little patience.

A MISSISSIPPI MASSACRE.

In any other country in the world pretending to be civilized, such an occurrence as that at Carrollton, Mississippi, in which fifty white men, armed with Winchester rifles, rode up to a court house and shot down a dozen men assembled at a trial, without provocation, would be regarded as a crime of the first magnitude and would convulse the public mind to the exclusion of all other questions. But in this country and in the State where it occurred it seems to be regarded as only an ordinary, natural event, hardly worthy of attention. We must remember that the accounts of the affair come to us only through channels inclined to give the white men's side of the case. If the other side could be known, it would, beyond all doubt, show the crime in much worse light that it now appears. It is said the trouble grew out of the action of two bad negroes, who were becoming bold and saucy. It was considered time to teach them another lesson as in the Chisholm incident. So a dozen or more negroes, against whom no charge whatever is made or pretended except, that they were going to secure a fair hearing in court, must be shot down in the very sanctuary of justice, to teach the rest not to be bad or insolent and to be content to take the measure and kind of justice that white men choose to allow. Compared with the worst crimes charged against the negroes that of the white ruffians who murdered them is a thousand times more aggravated and detestable.

Perhaps this is the way to civilize negroes and establish amicable relations between the races, but in the name of law, liberty, justice and Christian civilization, we assert that these Mississippi regulators are no better than the murderous Apaches; that they have committed even a greater crime under less provocation. No one expects that these Mississippi murderers will ever be punished or even brought to trial. If the Chinese in their own country should thus shoot down American citizens, no matter how humble, our government would declare war with that nation inside of twenty-four hours. But we have become callous by the frequent recurrence of such crimes on our own soil. A day of judgment will surely come, though we cannot say when or how.

THE thirteenth National Conference of Charities and Correction will meet at St. Paul, Minn., on Thursday, July 15, 1886, and remain in session until Wednesday, the 21st. The object of the conference is to obtain and to diffuse information respecting benevolent, charitable, penal and reformatory work, embracing the care and cure of insane; the saving and the protection and reformation of children and youth; the whole subject of prison management and reform; the education and the care of the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the feeble-minded; the prevention and cure of pauperism; the management of work houses and poor houses; in fact every means devised for ameliorating the condition of the defective, dependent and delinquent classes of our fellow beings. Papers on the different topics will be presented by distingued men, supposed to be best informed in the country on the subjects discussed. Practical men will be present in large numbers, who have devoted years, perhaps a lifetime, to the study of a specialty. Theories will be tested by the light of experience. The best methods are thus discovered; and every advantage is given to those desirous of improving existing institutions or founding new ones.

THE hostile spirit between France and Germany seems to have awakened from its troubled sleep and threatens to involve Europe again in the horrors of war. Some think that France has been engaged these late years in foreign expeditions and campaigns merely as a pretext to get military experience and accumulate armaments with which to seek revenge on Germany, to win back her lost provinces, recover her ransom money and wash out in blood the disgrace of her humiliating defeats. Germany has acted all the time as if this was the certain purpose of France. Her armies are ready to move at a moment's notice. If war begins it will be a life and death struggle, more terrible than any the world has ever seen. We doubt if there would be any truce. We believe a large part of the French people would prefer extermination and national extinction to another humiliating defeat. Yet it does look to us as if there were no chance for French success. France is without allies, without able statesmanship and without able leaders in the field to compete with the perfect discipline, equipment and leadership of the Germans. The only hope of France is to disarm and give up utterly and in earnest all purpose and study of revenge. War now would probably result in national extinction for France or in being reduced to a poor third rate nation, saddled with a debt that it could never pay and left without a hope of ever regaining her rank among the leading nations of the world.

THE recommendation in the late grand jury's report concerning double taxation in the case of mortgages, we believe to be a good one and in the line of reason and justice. The statement of the case in short is about the only argument possible. The man who has built a house wholly or in part with borrowed money should not pay tax on the full value, while the money lender pays on the same money so invested. Some say that the house owner should pay on the full value and others that the lender should pay the whole. The money and the property do not coexist; one is meregd in the other. No one pretends otherwise, but the difficulty is to determine who should pay the tax. The general compromise has been to make both pay the full tax. Possibly the question will have to be settled sometime on the more natural theory that the loan is a common benefit to the borrower and lender and on this basis divide the tax equally between them.

MR. CHARLES ASBURY, the postmaster at Lula, La., has four daughters named Pearl, Diamond Ruby and Garnet.

TO-DAY an indictment by the recent Grand Jury against the County Commissioners was reported to the court, charging neglect of duty in failing to appoint a suitable architect to supervise and direct the construction of the court house. Without knowing the character of the "bill" or what it alleged, it was generally inferred from intimations thrown out by the "organ" of the 19th that an indictment of some kind had been found and was to supplement the jury's demand for the resignation of the Board. The *Independent* of yesterday said:

"When the entire work of the grand jury is made public, the interest in their work will doubtless be much increased."

The *Independent* speaks a day in advance of the indictment being reported to the court. Will it indulge the public by giving the name of its informant? What juryman or juryman's confidant disclosed the doings of the jury room? It is a matter of some curiosity to the public—and to the District Attorney is not wholly indifferent. That officer would doubtless make it rather lively for the informer could he fix his identity. Of the indictment itself the public can easily form an opinion. Neglect of duty is alleged. Fraud, collusion, conspiracy or any one of the innumerable crimes or offenses bandied and bruited about do not appear in the bill. Strange, passing strange! Those naughty, naughty Commissioners! Step right up to the court and plead to the charge of—neglect of duty. These monsters of public officers must be made to suffer!

NOW we will venture the assertion there are not five men in Lewis and Clarke county outside of the HERALD office, who believe that all the members of that jury would vote for a resolution *blasting the characters of their fellow citizens* without due consideration; and much less without understanding its purport.—*Independent.*

From interviews with individual members we think it safe to assert that at least five men can be found who agree with the HERALD without canvassing for names outside of the jury itself. Indeed, we prefer to believe that, with possibly a single exception, the entire jury would disclaim and disown the resolution if the construction placed upon it by the *Independent* is a just one. Did the jury adopt that resolution with the understanding that it would "*blast the characters of their fellow citizens*," the Commissioners? We seriously doubt that a single member of that jury—not even the very notable one whose intrigues and enmities against the Board have figured as the prime factors in all the obstructions placed in the way of the new court house—could be coaked to a confession of that kind. Should we be mistaken on this point, we shall be only too glad to be corrected. What gentleman of the jury will kindly step out and tell the public that the interpretation of the *Independent* is his? Did any gentleman vote for that resolution with the understanding, as the *Independent* asserts, that he voted to "blast the characters" of the Commissioners? Come, now. Who speaks first?

AS stated by the HERALD no document from or finding by the grand jury is public property until the same is formally reported to the court, and the *Independent* simply falsifies in asserting the contrary. The Commissioner indictment nor any information concerning it was obtainable from court or clerk until it was reported in due form, the day after the *Independent*, from some other source advised in the matter, gave the public to understand that an after-clap was in waiting. We were amply justified in inquiring the name of the juryman making the disclosure.

THE *Independent* is gratified with small things. It is pleased, for instance, that jury-room compliments did not extend as far as the District Judge and District Attorney. To the lasting credit of those officers it should be said that they have never suffered the indignity of a compliment from the "old silurian."

COMMISSIONER SPARKS has formulated a new system of adjusting the land grants to the roads entitled to them by which he claims to have reached more accurate results and to have saved 600 acres per mile on an average, which he says the roads have heretofore acquired in excess of their legal claims. The President and Secretary Lamar are said to have given full approval to the new scheme of adjustment, and it is promised that it will be introduced by an executive order. It will have to be tested in the courts before it becomes a settled law.

THE Custer county bar has endorsed Pollard, and the resolution giving him a character is hurrying on to Washington with the purpose of influencing his case in the Senate. His conduct and ability are approved, and on and off the bench his gentlemanly qualities are vouched for. A copy of the "resolve" should also be sped on its mission to Indiana. A character of a different sort is given him in the Wabash valley. Let the enemies of Hoosierdom be confounded and rebuked by this testimonial from the Yellowstone lawyers. We can understand that the peculiar surroundings of Pollard have put him upon his good behavior, and the working up of this endorsement at Miles City was one of those things of comparative easy accomplishment. The Indiana record is the one that most needs to be patched up.

CHIEF ENGINEER ANDERSON states that the Northern Pacific will this year confine the building of branches to the two lateral surveyed lines leading from Garrison and Spokane Falls. One will reach the great mineral district of Butte and the other an important agricultural region of Washington Territory and Oregon.

SEVENTY-FIVE additional teams are *en route* to work on Montana Central railroad contracts.

RAILROAD BUILDING is the order of the day.

GOV. HAUSER yesterday left Washington, homeward bound.

EX-DELEGATE MAGINNIS is making a brief visit at the National Capital.