

FERGUS COUNTY DEMOCRAT

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LEWISTOWN, FERGUS COUNTY, MONTANA, JULY 22, 1915.

PRICE FIVE CENT

FERGUS VALUATION CONTINUES TO GROW

Assessor Riddick Completes the Task of Making assessment of Fergus County—Excellent Inc is Shown

The assessment roll of Fergus county is completed, ready for the county board of equalization, which met Monday morning, and shows the total valuation to be \$18,012,783, without taking into consideration the railroad property in the county which will be assessed by the state board of tax commissioners.

There are 319 miles of railroad in the county. Two years ago the railroad property of the county was assessed by the state board at a little over \$11,000 per mile. This same rate of assessment will add \$5,500,000 to the county assessor's figures, and give Fergus county a total valuation of over \$21,500,000, an increase of \$2,000,000 over last year.

Lewistown's Valuation.

The total valuation of Lewistown property is \$3,007,079, without taking into consideration the railroad property to be assessed by the state board. Last year it was \$2,915,934.

There are 1,858,609 acres of deeded land assessed in the county this year, as compared with 1,830,948 in 1914, an increase of 27,661 acres. The total assessed value of the land this year is \$8,564,377. Last year the value was placed at \$8,503,602. The value of the improvements on the land in the county is found to be \$1,042,355. Last year it was \$1,026,071.

The city and town lots in the county are assessed this year at \$1,262,559, and the improvements at \$1,863,842. Last year town lots were assessed at a total of \$1,093,817 and the improvements at \$1,658,925.

The total assessment on all personal property in the county this year is \$5,225,685, an increase of \$249,470 over last year.

General Review.

A careful analysis of the whole assessment shows that thousands of acres of farm lands in the county have been reduced, that material reductions have been made in horses, cattle, sheep and farm machinery, wagons, and farm buildings, that the assessment on town property has been made lower in the smaller towns of the county, that the values of Lewistown property as a whole has remained about as in the past, and that the saving in taxes to those who find reduced assessments, together with the large increase is made upon the better class of the raw, unimproved land of the county, upon railroad property, and by a closer accounting of the larger holdings of cattle, horses and sheep and by the natural increase in the wealth of the county.

Decrease in Sheep.

Fergus county is going out of the sheep business, as the homesteaders

DISAPPEARANCE IS MYSTERIOUS

HARRY DORNAN, WHO WAS EMPLOYED NEAR SUFFOLK, IS MISSING.

SOME PUZZLING FEATURES OF CASE

A case of mysterious disappearance is interesting the people in the Suffolk vicinity and while all sorts of explanations are advanced none of them seem satisfactory.

It seems that for some time prior to July 4 last Harry Dornan, a man Wickman Bros. on their farm near Suffolk. He was a good worker and everything ran along satisfactorily until July 3 when the Wickman brothers rode over from Suffolk to the farm and were surprised to find that the stock had been neglected and that the man was nowhere about. Three hogs had died in the pen for want of water and the other stock had suffered some. After a time Dornan was discerned lying down in a field and the Wickmans went out to him. He appeared to be in a stupor and all efforts to get him to answer questions failed. He was carried to the house and put to bed, while the men worked on him until midnight. There was some suspicion that the man was shamming, in order to excuse his negligence. In the morning, on July 4, he seemed to be restored and said he was unable to explain the stupor he was in the night before. He went out doors and laid in the shade of a building, coming in, to dinner. Along toward he evening he walked off in his shirt sleeves and has never been seen or heard of since. The man had five head of horses at the farm and had wages due him, while he left clothing and other effects at the place.

Dornan is 30 years of age, of rather light build, sandy hair and mustache and wore a soft white shirt, black felt hat and blue bib overalls.

Sheriff Firmin Tullock has been asked to give his assistance in trying to locate the man, and anyone having knowledge of Dornan's whereabouts should communicate with the sheriff's office.

BODY THAT OF HOMESTEADER

OFFICIALS CONDUCT INQUEST OVER REMAINS OF LATE JOHN THORNTON.

Deputy Sheriff Slocum, County Attorney Frank Wright and Judge Edward Bracey, acting coroner, came on the train Saturday from Grass Range, having gone out there Friday by auto to make an investigation regarding the death of the man whose body was found on the prairie that morning near the northeast corner of War House lake. An inquest was conducted early yesterday morning at the Reed home and all the facts material to the matter were brought out.

Due to Natural Causes.

The decedent was John Thornton, aged about 50 years, who had a homestead and desert entry in that section. He had been wandering around there for some days, his mind apparently being affected. Thursday night he was at the wagon of the sheep camp and acted in a very peculiar manner. He was offered food, but declined to eat anything. The following morning the body was found about 150 yards from the wagon.

Thornton worked one time on the Winnett irrigation project. He had no relatives in this section, but is said to have a sister in Canada. The officials found that the body had not been disturbed and it was quite clear that death resulted from natural causes.

The only article of value found on the man's person was a watch.

TOOK THE TABLETS ACCIDENTALLY

That is the Finding of the Jury in Case of the Death of Nellie Coleman.

The reports regarding the death of Mrs. Nellie Coleman at Kendall on July 8, stated, that death resulted from bichloride of mercury poisoning. Inasmuch as the decedent administered the antiseptic tablets herself, it was assumed that she took them with suicidal intent, but as nothing regarding this phase of the matter had developed, the printed accounts did not go beyond the statement of the known facts. Owing to the absence of Coroner George Creel in the east it was uncertain for a time as to whether an inquest would be held, but it appears the official investigation was decided upon. The delay in reporting the result was due to Mr. Creel's absence.

The inquest was conducted by Justice of the Peace Kelly and it was developed that Mrs. Coleman intended to take some tablets to induce sleep and accidentally took the antiseptic tablets instead with fatal results. Upon this showing the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The facts were given to the Democrat-News Saturday by Barnier Bernier, of Kendall, the administrator of the estate, all the property being left to Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, mother of the decedent.

NEW NOTE TO GERMANY

Note is Intended to Be the Last Word of United States to Berlin.

UNFRIENDLY ACTS

Note is About 1,200 Words Long, and While Nowhere in it is There Direct Intimation of the Course Which the United States Will Pursue in Event of Another Disaster, There Are Emphatic Statements Throughout the Communication That Friendly Relations Will Depend Upon Future Conduct of Submarine Commanders.

WASHINGTON, July 21.—President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, conferring at the White House tonight, completed the new note to Germany, warning her that the repetition of a disaster such as that visited upon the Lusitania, or any violation of American rights on the high seas resulting in loss of American lives, will be regarded as "unfriendly." It will be dispatched tomorrow.

The note is in the nature of a final statement by the United States of the interpretation that will be placed by its government on future transgressions of American rights and repeats that the American government will leave nothing undone to stand by the position it has previously declared.

Among the points in the new note are: One—The assumption by the United States that Germany, by declaring her submarine warfare to be a retaliatory measure against the alleged unlawful acts of her enemies, has admitted that the destruction of the unsuspecting merchantmen without warning is illegal.

Two—German submarine commanders already have proved that they can save the passengers and crews of vessels and can act in conformity with the laws of humanity in making war on enemy ships.

Three—The United States cannot allow the relations between the belligerents to operate in any way as an abbreviation of the rights of neutrals, and therefore, any violation of the principles for which the American government contends, resulting in a loss of American lives, will be viewed as "unfriendly."

Four—The representations which the American government has made in previous notes for disavowal of the intention to sink the Lusitania with Americans aboard and the request for reparation are reiterated with renewed insistence.

Five—The American government realizes the unusual and abnormal conditions which the present conflict has created in the conduct of maritime war and is willing to act as an intermediary as between the belligerents to arrange a modus vivendi or any other temporary arrangements which do not involve a surrender by the United States of its rights.

Six—The proposals made by Germany to give immunity to American ships not carrying contraband and transfer belligerent ships under the American flag, are rejected with the emphatic assertion that to accept such a suggestion would be to admit Germany's right to set aside the American contention, based on fundamental principles of international law—that neutrals may travel anywhere on the high seas on ships of any nationality, even if carrying contraband.

The note is about 1,200 words long. While nowhere in it is there any direct intimation of the course which the United States will pursue in the event of another disaster similar to the Lusitania tragedy, there are emphatic statements throughout the communication pointing out that the discussion of principles involved has been virtually concluded and that future conduct of German submarine commanders will determine the responsibility for the friendly relations between the two countries.

The statement that future transgressions will be regarded as "unfriendly" is taken in diplomatic usage to prestage a break of friendly relations unless reparation and disavowal is forthcoming.

President Wilson, it is understood, has considered fully and at length the construction which may be placed on the implications of the note and is prepared to deal with any new situation that may arise. He is hopeful and confident, however, it is said, that Germany, having already modified to a great extent the practice of her submarine commanders, will now take such precautions as seem necessary to prevent any action that would endanger friendly relations with the United States.

From 6 o'clock this morning until late tonight, the president, with the exception of a few hours spent in recreation, was at work on a copy of the note. Secretary Lansing, who had drafted it, worked on the original and took it to the president tonight with several changes. The president agreed with Mr. Lansing's suggestions and tomorrow the document will be finally revised in phraseology before starting on its way to Berlin.

ALFALFA MILLS TO BE ERRECTED

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNDICATE HAS COMPLETED PLANS FOR INSTALLING FIRST MILL.

LOCATION IS TO BE NEAR STRAW

Fergus county will have an alfalfa mill. The first mill of this kind will soon be erected near Straw and Buffalo by a syndicate of South Dakota men. M. R. Wise, of this city, is looking after the general arrangements, and states that the only matter now holding back the erection of the mill is the delay over deciding on what kind of power will be used to operate the plant. If electric power arrangements can be made, this will be done, but otherwise it will be a steam power plant.

There is an abundance of good alfalfa land in that region and the new mill will be close to both the Milwaukee and the Great Northern, thus permitting of good shipping facilities. The plant will cost about \$15,000, but if a flour mill is also erected, as seems probable, the cost will be greater.

This will be an important factor in the alfalfa business of the Judith basin, as it will provide a good cash market. The alfalfa meal manufactured will be shipped to the southern states and even Cuba, where there is a demand for this fodder.

NEW MILL FOR THE SPOTTED HORSE

Malden is looking up. The pioneer central Montana gold mining camp has an era of activity ahead of it, according to the residents who are now clinging to the famous old town. W. S. Smith, the local furniture dealer, returned Saturday from Malden, where he went on business.

Mr. Smith has a good word for the camp. He says that the Spotted Horse is buying a new mill erected on the property, and that mining conditions are excellent in the properties near Malden.

The residents are all elated over the outlook and Malden seems likely to enjoy somewhat of a boom.

GOLD ACRES CO. INCORPORATED

A. S. WRIGHT IS PRINCIPAL STOCK HOLDER WHILE HAZEN AND HANSEN ARE DIRECTORS.

Articles of incorporation of the Gold Acres Development company were filed Thursday with Clerk and Recorder Cunningham. A. S. Wright of Chicago being the principal stockholder of the new mining company, which will develop property near New Year, Frank J. Hazen and J. M. Hansen, both of this city, are other incorporators and are named with Mr. Wright as the board of directors for the period of three months.

Lewistown will be the principal place of business for the company, which is authorized to engage in prospecting, mining and milling activities, in quartz and placer propositions. The capitalization is \$1,000, divided into 1,000 shares of \$1 each. Mr. Wright is the subscriber of 998 shares, each of the other men having one share each.

Driving the Tunnel.

Mr. Wright, who is in the city today from the Gold Acres mine, says that work is going steadily ahead on driving the big working tunnel through the mountain and into the body. The tunnel is now in a distance of 200 feet, with 1,600 feet more to go. By means of this big tunnel the old tramway to the New Year mill can be used. It is planned to have the mill in operation by fall, this year. Mr. Wright is in active charge of the work now being done, and has 20 men employed.

AN AUTO ACCIDENT THIS MORNING

Well Known Roy Men Have Unpleasant Experience Near the Great Northern.

About 1 o'clock this morning, C. E. McCarty, F. C. Marshall and Earl Martin, all of Roy, and an agent of the Aetna Life Insurance company, coming to Lewistown by auto from Roy, met with a bad accident about 100 feet beyond the Great Northern depot, where there is a very dangerous place. Mr. Marshall was driving and turned from the Kendall road into First avenue when he struck the culvert and the car went over. Mr. McCarty was hurled against the edge of the sidewalk, standing some feet above the scene, and received some minor wounds about the head and face. Mr. Marshall was caught under the car, sustaining no more serious injuries than some bad bruises. While he was imprisoned, however, the overturned car caught fire and with visions of being burned to death he yelled lustily and the others lifted the car up sufficiently for him to get out. The other two occupants of the auto escaped unharmed.

Make a Protest.

The members of the party visited the Democrat-News office directly after the accident, to make a protest against this very dangerous place being allowed to exist.

SERIES OF BATTLES CLOSE TO WARSAW

Russians Turn and Fight Desperately to Stem Teuton Onslaught—Sent for Empress so Sure are Germans of Fall of Warsaw

LONDON, July 21 (10:15 p. m.)—A series of great battles to decide the fate of Warsaw is being fought to the northwest and south of that city. Having successfully retired to positions on the rivers, and being well flanked by fortresses, the Russians have turned and are fighting desperately to stem the Austro-German onslaught.

To the north on the river Narw, they delivered yesterday three fierce counter attacks from the fortresses of Rozan, Pultusk and Novo Georgievsk. The Germans, who had taken over one counter-work of Rozan, repulsed these counter attacks, according to the official report received from Berlin tonight, but apparently have been unable to make any further progress southward.

Immediately to the west of Warsaw, on what is known as the Bloude Grojec line, the Russians have suffered a reverse and are retreating toward the Vistula. Further south, the army of General von Woyrsch is making progress toward the same river, which has been reached at one point.

To the south of Ivangorod, Field Marshal von Mackensen, who is directing the offensive between the Vistula, and the Bug, has reached the Russian lines and here the greatest of all the battles is being fought—for the possession of the Lublin-Cholm railway.

On the resistance the Russians are able to offer along this front, where the Austro-Germans are making their biggest effort, probably depends on the success or failure of the Austro-German operations. Apparently the Austro-Germans feel pretty certain of the outcome, for it is said that Emperor William, who is at Posen, has sent for the empress in order to make the entry into the Polish capital in state when it falls.

Things are moving a little more quickly in Courland, where the Germans claim to have met with successes all along the line, bringing them within striking distance of Riga and the roads which supply that town from the south.

There is another battle in progress along the borders of Bessarabia, but how this is going the official communications do not say.

The French have made another bid for the valley of the Fecht in the Vosges. They have delivered several attacks which have been partially successful and have captured the heights dominating that valley from the east.

About the same time French airmen dropped bombs on Colmar. Beyond this and a German attack in the Argentine, which the German claim met with success, and another German attack in the forest of Apremont, which the French assert was repulsed, only engagements have occurred along the western front.

The Italian offensive along the Inozzo continues and Rome reports further progress, particularly on the Carso plateau.

When the South Wales miners learned of the settlement of the strike, thousands of them returned to work.

IN LEWISTOWN AFTER VISITING BATTLEFIELDS

F. W. DECKER, MILWAUKEE ENGINEER, COMES FROM TRIP THROUGH FRANCE.

F. W. Decker, a well known engineer, who, with his associate, Mr. Schwaderer, was employed on the Milwaukee survey through this section, is in the city, having come direct from the Orient. Mr. Decker said from China, through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean to Marseilles, France. From that point he journeyed to Paris, where he spent several days and then went on to Boulogne and across the channel to Folkestone, England. Mr. Decker took the White Star liner Strabon from Liverpool, arriving safely at New York a few days ago.

While he was engaged in this section with Mr. Schwaderer they purchased a 400-acre tract of land on Alaska bench and Mr. Schwaderer has been looking after this of late. Mr. Decker came on to look after his farm interests.

He left Shanghai on April 19, and proceeded slowly on his entire homeward journey being very interesting. The shadow of the great war rests heavily over all Europe, he found, and in France "all the men are in uniform and all the women in mourning."

WINIFRED MAN STRUCK BY ENGINE

A. H. Purnell Approaches to Close to Edge of Platform at Depot and is Injured.

A. H. Purnell, a young man who resided at Winifred, was struck by the pilot of the engine of train No. 17 at the passenger station of the Milwaukee Saturday morning about 8 o'clock. A number of people gathered at the station at the time witnessed the accident, and there were several versions as to how it happened. However, the actual occurrence seems to be that Mr. Purnell, who was waiting to meet a friend on the arriving train, was walking down the platform in the same direction with the locomotive. He was very near the track edge of the platform and, being somewhat hard of hearing, did not realize that the train was approaching. A project of the engine's pilot struck him and threw him with some violence upon the cement walk. Dr. Attix was summoned, and he found that the young man had sustained several cuts and bruises about the face as well as internal injuries in his chest. He was taken to St. Joseph's hospital for attention. While somewhat serious, it is not considered that his hurts are dangerous. Mr. Purnell's parents reside near Deerfield.

MANY WITNESSES FROM KENDALL

Were in the City Yesterday Attending Contest Case of Stewart Against Clegg.

About twenty people from the Kendall country were in the city yesterday and witnesses in the contest case of Stewart vs. Clegg, which involves 320 acres in sections 13 and 14, township 18 north, range 17 east. This is covered by a desert entry, but it is alleged by contestant that the claimant has failed to reclaim the land, and that the yearly proofs were false. Edward Bracey represents the claimant and J. W. Barker the contestant.

Other Cases.

Three other contest cases have just been filed. Mary Klauda of Kelly, Mont., contests the homestead entry of J. P. Harris, the tract being situated in section 8, township 12, range 28. Abandonment is alleged.

Gustav Schulz has filed a contest against the desert entry of Lars Tafjord, whose address is unknown. He alleges failure to reclaim.

Marion Laseock of Franklyn has filed a case against Hartzell Ball of this city for land located near Franklyn, alleging entry was not made for himself, but for another.

NO JURY TERM OF COURT UNTIL FALL

CLERK CUNNINGHAM RECEIVES NEW FORMS WHICH MUST BE CALLED FOR BY NOTARIES.

THE COMMISSIONERS IN SESSION

The local offices has transcribed all the names of qualified electors who are still registered to the new card system, but all new registrations are required on the new forms. It is thus necessary for the notaries and justices of the peace who are not already supplied with the new forms to call for them, or to write to Mr. Cunningham to send same to them. They are all urged to do this.

The notaries and justices hereafter can only register voters in their own precinct.

Some increases. The county commissioners sitting as a board of equalization have declared their intention of raising some assessments, and dates for hearings are being set.

Jury in September.

After consulting with all the members of the bar, Judge Ayers has definitely decided that there will be no necessity for calling the jurors back until September 1.

Ejectment Suit.

Ellida Boe has brought suit against C. B. Fiscus to bring about his ejectment from land to which she claims the rights. The plaintiff alleges that in May, 1912, she located upon a 120-acre tract of land near the old Mauland postoffice, and has since complied with all the rules, regulations and laws relating to public lands; that she has enclosed the tract with a substantial fence and in good faith commenced the work of reclamation; that on June 20 last the defendant entered upon the land and began the erection of a residence. She asks for an order of ejectment and for \$500 damages. Attorney J. W. Barker represents the plaintiff.

Council Improving.

W. W. Council, the restaurant man, who was formerly in business here and who was brought in from Moccasin Wednesday on an insanity charge, is rapidly improving and will be given his liberty. It seems that his mental infirmity was the result of indulging in liquor.

Citations were issued Monday

(Continued on page eight)