

Fergus County Argus.

LEWISTOWN, THURSDAY, Dec. 30, '86.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY FELL & WOODMAN, Editors & Proprietors.

McQuade gets seven years' imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000.

Congress has adjourned to meet again the fourth of January.

It is rumored that Bros. Searles and Platt are to join the Sullivan combination.

Messrs. Lissner and Thieme were elected members of the Helena board of aldermen, last week.

Mr. Moonlight has been appointed governor of Wyoming. Daylight was knocked out of the other fellow.

Every county in Montana now has a prosecuting attorney—the district attorney system being abolished.

The Clark's Fork railroad scheme was killed in the house, through the influence and efforts of Sunset Cox.

Ex-Senator Thurman is making \$20,000 a year practicing law, and will never monkey with politics again. He is worth \$500,000.

Our new Governor was known in Kentucky as the "Cold-water Governor." He will be known in Montana as the "Cold-shoulder Governor."

The Christmas number of the St. Paul Globe is printed on pink-tinted paper, beautifully illustrated, and full of information regarding St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The jury in the Campbell divorce case find that neither Lord nor Lady committed adultery, but censured Gen. Butler. Divorce was not granted. The expense of the trial will be \$25,000.

Henry George will commence the publication of his paper the 8th of January. His peculiar views on social and political problems will then become more familiar to the public.

Delegate Toole has presented a bill in the house relative to the annexation of the Panhandle of Idaho to Montana. This would be in accordance with the wishes of the people of that region.

The resolutions offered by Granville Stuart before the National Cattle Growers' Association, in relation to the opening of Indian reservations to settlement, were placed before the Senate last week, by John Sherman.

It is said that Mrs. Cleveland has agreed to inaugurate in Washington city the practice of ladies removing their hats while in a theater. While Grover is taking heads Rose proposes to remove the hats.

Delegate Toole, assisted by Congressman Nelson, of Minnesota, succeeded in getting the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railroad bill through the house last week without a dissenting vote.

The last inspection of the flagship Tennessee took place at the navy yard last week, and the old ship will be put out of commission forever. The other boat now has a great responsibility resting upon it.

Gen. Sherman says he is not as old as he looks. There is good leather in the old man yet, but when he lost his shoulder straps his passport into the realm of osenatory pleasures was cancelled and the frisky old warrior might as well surrender.

Mr. Kiefer, territorial veterinarian, has been very active of late, and it is claimed that he has actually left the railroad and stage lines to examine cattle on the range. He was in the Judith Basin recently and found stock free from disease, and wintering in good shape.

They say the new Governor is a pillar in the Baptist church. When a man can't get water enough in Helena to furnish transportation for a glass of Kentucky whisky what will become of a Kentucky baptismal basin. Perhaps he will leave this symbol behind with his religion, as most people do who leave the land of bondage.

Mr. Powderly does not sanction the action of Knights of Labor assemblies in collecting money for condemned anarchists, and instructs that if any funds have been collected that such money be returned to the assemblies and persons who contributed it. Mr. Powderly knows a condemned anarchist will have no use for money in the "sweet bye and bye," and he objects to making millions out of poor Chicago lawyers.

A company has been formed at St. Paul for the transportation of cattle or dressed meat to Chicago and New York with feeding stations at Staten Island, Baltimore and St. Paul, under a most expensive three-story stone structure has been erected for feeding 3,000 on each floor. With all these plans for cheapening, and to be relieved of the necessity of going to Chicago for a market, the stock yards and

packers are about to get a serious black eye. Capital, energy and determination are found in these departments of the stockman to down the monopolies which have for so long dragged down the profits of the stock grower without a reduction to the consumer.—Stockgrower's Journal.

The late parliamentary election in England brought Lord Churchill to the front as the most prominent of the Tory leaders. His resignation from the cabinet at this time is regarded as a fatal blow to the Salisbury ministry and the Tory policy toward Ireland. Gladstone calmly watches the maneuvers of his political opponents, biding the time when he will again be called to the leadership. He has already won a moral victory, which will have weight in the near future. The good work goes bravely onward.

Mr. Etton, in last week's communication, made reference to the existing road law in operation in this territory. While the law is faulty in many particulars, we will only refer to some features of it at this time. There is scarcely a state in the Union, we believe, but what gives the taxpayer his choice of working out his poll tax or paying it in cash. If this is found the most practical and satisfactory method in the states why would it not operate in the territories? As Mr. Etton says: "most of our people can better afford to spend a few days time than to pay the money."

The old law, which gave road supervisors the power to collect poll tax or to see that the tax was worked out has many commendable features. The supervisor being a permanent resident of the township, knows every man subject to the tax, and if one refuses to comply with the law, either with money or labor, the supervisor can have him arrested. Under the present law the duty of collecting the poll tax devolves upon the county assessor, who knows but a small portion of those subject to the tax, and is compelled to rely upon the person, company, or corporation by whom a great many persons are employed for a correct list of those from whom the tax should be collected. There are a number of men in every township who are in the employ of no one, yet are liable to the tax; this class will find it much easier to evade the assessor on his travels than they would the permanently located supervisor.

It is claimed this county is out five or six thousand dollars under the law requiring the assessor to collect poll tax, how it has worked in other counties we are unable to state.

The awarding of contracts for keeping roads in repair will probably be given a test in this county the coming spring, and it will be soon enough to find fault with that portion of the law after its merits have been thoroughly tested.

PAY YOUR 1886 TAXES.

All property holders of Fergus county who have neglected to pay their taxes for 1886, to the treasurer of Meagher county, should attend to the matter at once. It is the intention of Treasurer Folsom to commence suits against all delinquents after January 15th. The amount of taxes now overdue from the citizens of Fergus and Meagher counties aggregates several thousand dollars. When collected one per cent. as per settlement, (45.8) will be paid into the treasury of Fergus county.

THE SETTLEMENT.

In another column will be observed a full report of the proceedings of the adjourned joint session of the Fergus and Meagher county commissioners, held, as required by the statutes, to adjust the indebtedness between said counties.

It will be seen by referring to the proceedings of the Fourteenth session of the Legislative Assembly, page 78, an act entitled "An act to create the County of Fergus," that the section (2) relating to the indebtedness of Meagher county, has been followed to the letter; that is that after the indebtedness, up to the 1st day of December, 1886, was established, the cash on hand in all funds was deducted from said indebtedness, then the original cost of all Meagher county property deducted from the result, which left the debt to be divided between the counties \$17,529.91. This sum, according to the law and section above cited was divided between Meagher and Fergus counties in proportion to the assessed wealth of each, taking as a basis of operation the assessment made for 1886, which demonstrated the per cent. of indebtedness to be assumed by Meagher 54.132, and by Fergus 45.868; or of the total debt, \$17,529.91, Meagher county assumes \$9,484.29 and Fergus \$8,045.62.

Thus far, it must be conceded, the most desirable conclusions were reached, and full justice done to both counties. But at this point the joint board encountered a problem, one which caused no little discussion, and upon which legal advice was sought, obtained and acted upon: the question of the Fergus county jail and where the cost thereof should figure in the adjustment. The law authorizing the construction of said jail by the Meagher county board of commissioners, in reference to the payment therefor by Fergus county, says: "In the settlement provided by law

to take place between the board of county commissioners of the county of Meagher and the county of Fergus, when the same shall be organized, the cost of said jail shall be added in a sum of money which, upon the settlement, shall be found to be due from the said County of Fergus to the said County of Meagher."

In other words, after Fergus county's proportion of the indebtedness was ascertained in the manner prescribed by the law creating this county, then, and not till then, was the cost of the jail to be taken into consideration, and then said cost "added in a sum of money which shall be found to be due from said County of Fergus." In consequence of this law it looks very much as though Fergus county was paying rather dearly for her jail, yet we can see no way in which the matter could be settled, according to the letter of the law, other than as it has been, by adding the cost of the jail, \$5,115.95, to our proportion of the indebtedness, making our total debt to Meagher county \$13,150.57, for which sum warrants have been drawn payable in December, 1887.

As to the school moneys which had been apportioned, of 1885, (as well as amount on hand for 1886,) it was decided, after an extended argument, should remain as apportioned, and the amount on hand for 1886 be divided according to the assessed valuation of each county, although the law states that all moneys in the hands of the treasurer at the time of settlement shall be deducted from the indebtedness of Meagher county as said debt should be found on December 1, 1886. This adjustment places a nice sum in Fergus county's school fund which is a matter of congratulation.

Viewed from all points the settlement is one in which but little, if any, injustice is done to either county. We are satisfied our commissioners will make a satisfactory explanation of all seemingly obscure points in the settlement.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Joint Session—Settlement Between the Two Counties—Fergus County Debt.

The adjourned joint session of the Boards of Commissioners of Meagher and Fergus Counties commenced Dec. 15th, 1886, and ended Dec. 18th, 1886.

December 15.—The two boards were called to order by J. V. Stafford, chairman of the Meagher County board. Present, Meagher County board: J. V. Stafford, chairman; Thomas A. Wall, A. J. Stephens, present; Fergus County board: Wm. Berkley, chairman; John P. Baras, E. P. Chandler.

The joint board proceeded to investigate the affairs of the county of Meagher, and the hour of adjournment having arrived the board adjourned to Dec. 16th, at 9 a. m.

December 16.—Board called to order by the chairman at 9 a. m. All present as the day before.

The board proceeded to examine the delinquent tax list and abated the following amounts of taxes for the years named:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1879... \$27.54, 1880... 772.03, 1881... 2542.40, 1882... 2880.41, 1883... 3784.11, 1884... 2681.66, 1885... 1065.35. Total tax abated... \$14,183.70.

Board adjourned to December 17th, 1886, at 9 a. m.

December 17.—Board called to order at 9 a. m. All present as the day before. The examination of the county finances was continued. Adjourned to December 18th, at 9 a. m.

December 18.—Board called to order at 9 a. m. All present as the day before. After due deliberation and discussion the following settlement was agreed upon by both boards:

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Warrants on all funds... \$31,924.24, Bonds... 44,000.00, Interest on bonds... 1,283.33, Loss expense of December session... 327.20, Less cash on hand in all funds... \$19,439.98, Less income collected since Dec. 1st... 132.20, Less invoice of Meagher county property... \$18,778.28, Debt to be assumed by Meagher County... \$ 9,484.29, Debt to be assumed by Fergus County \$8,045.62, Cost of Fergus Co. Jail... 5,115.95, Per cent. of debt assumed by Meagher County... 54.132, Per cent. of debt assumed by Fergus County... 45.868, Warrants were ordered drawn on Treasurer of Fergus County in favor of Meagher County for \$13,150.56, Board adjourned sine die.

Chairman of Joint Session, In Defense of "Mont."

MADISON, December 27th, 1886.

Editors Argus—I was much disappointed after reading two issues of your paper following the scurrilous attack of Mr. Stuart on your correspondent "Mont," to find that "Mont" had not deemed it worthy of a reply. It may be that he felt somewhat as Bob Toombs did, when asked by a friend why he did not reply to a certain speech aimed at him, and full of frothy vaporings. "What? reply to that speech? I would as soon think of answering a hog-born, a Chinese gong, or a bad snail; no, sir, that speech is unanswerable."

Whatever may be "Mont's" reasons for

dismissing many others think that Mr. Stuart's letter merits some notice; not on account of the unavailing epithets thickly strewn through it, (there are few who envy him his proficiency in that line), but that some should not make his venomous attack for a vigorous argument, we should like to show how very thin are the claims, that "settlements are public benefactors, enriching themselves, the communities in which they live and the general government, and this without injury to any one." That they enrich themselves, I will not for a moment question, and right here let me say that I do not blame them for doing so. I would willingly enrich myself in the same way had I the "money and brains," (especially the brains, the money could be dispensed with on entering the business perhaps, but it is indispensably necessary to have a Websterian intellect before one is able to brand a self property), but I should not have the gall to pass as a public benefactor, while thus enriching myself.

If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before, is a public benefactor, can he who makes but one to grow where a hundred grew before, be considered such? And yet the latter is what the great cattle companies accomplish in a very few years, an experience has shown on the wagon out ranges, where a few years ago the grass was abundant, and where now there is not enough of this "waste product of nature" left to nourish a goose. We concede the fact that "large numbers of cattlemen do not own an acre of land" nor do we place it to their credit, for they own immense herds that they drive on the ranges, where the poor settler's little band could have subsisted in plenty summer and winter, and not have impoverished the land; but these migratory herds graze the range as bare as a pile road and then are driven to pastures new and to enrich (?) some other county. But "pastures new" are getting scarce and the thrifty cattleman turns his longing eyes on poor "Lo's" domains. And right here I differ with Mont. The cattlemen have no interest in keeping the settler out of the reservations, provided said cattlemen have first secured good locations there. The Indians, who are the cattlemen's worst foe, can only be driven out by the advent of the settler, and this they well know, so they zealously advocate the settler's cause, by memorials to congress and in other ways. The settler does not replenish his herds by a raid on the range stock as the Indian does, but proceed to raise a few head of his own, takes care of them in a humane manner, feeding hay during severe winters, but as the cattle interests have managed to get laws passed to hamper his action in the matter of branding, some of his calves are liable to stray away among the range stock to recruit the unwearying crop of the round up association, or to be branded by them for the owner at the very moderate price of three dollars per head. What some cattlemen would object to settlers on such terms? Mr. Tavernier's very pertinent letter in the last Argus shows, that although, as claimed by Mr. Stuart, the cattle interest "pays vast taxes" it does not pay its share when compared with other industries. Does anyone for a moment suppose that it is the small band of the settler that occupies the vigilance of the assessor? Mont's statement that the cattlemen "for our behoof and give no compensating returns" being but a figure of speech is true for the taxes they pay does not compensate in the one thousandth part for the denuding of the ranges. The whole question may be summed up as follows: it seems to me: The cattlemen having plenty of money to invest in stock, and seeing that it is a short cut to much greater wealth, they crowd the ranges with their property, and realizing that their industry must be short lived, they endeavor to get as much out of it in that short time as possible, regardless of the injury inflicted upon the permanent settlers of the country. These settlers being without the means to take the same advantage of circumstances as their more fortunate neighbors, one of them raises a faint protest in the Argus against these fortunate ones being granted any further undue advantages in other sections, when an irate cattle man turns his gaiting on him, loaded to the muzzle with epithets and oaths, driving the poor fellow out of sight and hearing.

Now Mr. Editor, it may be fair to allow "Mont" to make his protest in the Argus under a non de plume and then deny him the privilege of answering an attack unless accompanied by his real name, but I think you will admit that an anonymous article always stands the best chance of being judged upon its merits alone. The public is more concerned about the facts contained in a communication than about the motives that prompt it.

Respectfully, L. W. ROBERTS.

A Man Who Likes the Chestnut Bell.

"The chestnut bell is an unmitigated nuisance," remarked a man on the train as he heard the tinkle of one of the machines.

"Indeed, I must differ from you," replied his neighbor.

"You don't mean to say you like the noisy thing?"

"Well, you see, I'm a lecturer by profession, and I must say the chestnut bell is an improvement on rotten eggs."—Etc.

Notice of Final Entry.

LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, M. T. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Probate Judge of Fergus County, M. T., at Lewistown, M. T., on February 10th, 1887, viz:

Felix McGinnis, who made Homestead Application No. 1618, for the SW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 27, Tp. 15 North, Range 17 East.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: William McDaniel, Daniel Berenson, William Berkin and Herman Ciancin, all of Cottonwood, M. T. W. LANGHORNE Register.

Notice of Final Entry.

LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, M. T. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Probate Judge of Fergus County, M. T., at Lewistown, M. T., on February 10th, 1887, viz:

John J. McDonnell, who made pre-emption declaratory statement No. 1028, for the SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 25, T. 15 N., R. 17 E., Sec. 26, Tp. 15 North, Range 17 East.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: William McDaniel, Daniel Berenson, Nicholas M. Erickson and John Toombs, all of Lewistown, Mont.

F. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

A GRAND

New Years' Eve Ball

Will be given at the residence of MR. and MRS. J. L. CLUGG—old Carroll Crossing—

Friday Evening, Dec. 31, '86.

Music by

Lewistown String Band

TICKETS, (Including Supper) \$2.50.

EVERYBODY INVITED.

Bailey & Billings

GENERAL

BANKERS,

BILLINGS, MONTANA.

TRANSACT A GENERAL

BANKING BUSINESS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO ACCOUNTS OF STOCKMEN.

Correspondence Invited.

W. W. DeWitt,

DEALER IN

General

MERCHANDISE

Lewistown, - - Montana.

Having opened out at the above point with a fine line of Dry Goods, Laces and Embroideries, Dress Trimmings, Ladies' and Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Tobacco and Cigars, Wall Paper, Candles, Nuts, Stationery, Drugs, Medicines, Etc.

I would invite inspection of stock as to prices and quality. Having bought my stock at very low figures I am selling at correspondingly low prices.

Main St., opposite Lewistown Hotel.

Staple and Fancy Groceries, Tobacco, Cigars, Patent Medicines and Druggists' Sundries, Jewelry, Etc.

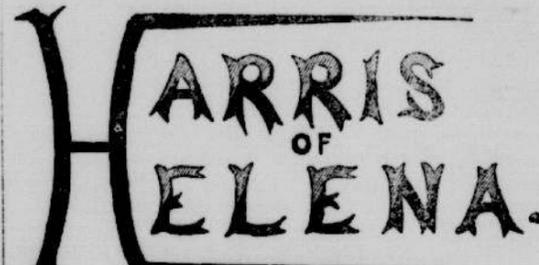
C. BOISSONNEAULT,

DEALER IN

Staple and Fancy Groceries, Tobacco, Cigars, Patent Medicines and Druggists' Sundries, Jewelry, Etc.

California Buck Cloves, CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, FANCY GOODS, GREEN FRUIT, NUTS AND CANDIES.

Main Street, Maiden, Fergus County, Montana.



Montana's Leading Clothier.

LARGEST STOCK. LOWEST PRICES. LATEST STYLES. BEST ASSORTMENT.

The only Clothing Store in Montana in which the Price is Marked in Plain Figures from which there is no Deviation.

ONE PRICE. SQUARE DEALING.

St. Louis Block, Main Street, HELENA, Mont.

SEND FOR PRICES. MAIL ORDERS SOLICITED.

Maiden Brewery,

LANDT & CO., Proprietors.

BEER

BY THE KEG OR CASE

Our Brewery is now in perfect working order, and we are prepared to furnish any quantity—Bottle, Case or Keg—a First-Class article of Beer.

In Connection we have a

BEER HALL,

Where will be found all kinds of Liquors, Cigars, etc., together with Sandwiches and Cheese Sandwiches.

Drop in and try the Maiden Brewery Beer.

Maiden, : M. T.

BOSTON PHARMACY,

Lewistown, Montana.

DR. W. F. HANSON, - - Proprietor.

We invite the attention of the people through the JUDITH BASIN to our new and complete stock of Drugs and Chemicals, recently purchased in Boston, consisting of

Pure Chemicals, Fluid and Solid Extracts,

Roots, Herbs, Seeds, Flowers, &c., &c.

—AND A WELL SELECTED STOCK OF— Patent Medicines and Fancy Goods.

Custer Forwarding

COMPANY.

Custer Station, - Montana.

Goods Received, Railroad Charges Advanced, and Consignments Forwarded to all Points North and South, at Lowest Possible Rates, by Responsible Carriers.

PAUL McCORMICK & CO., Agents.

FRASER & CHALMERS,

Chicago, Ill.

Manufacturers of Steam Mills and Machinery for Working Gold, Silver and Copper Ores

Concentrating MACHINERY, Sigs, Trommels, Crushing Rollers, BALLING STOPS, TRAMWAY, ROASTING FURNACES, (Hot Air & Gas).

Carlin Engines, Slide-Valve Engines, BOILERS, Pumps, Halls & Combs (see circulars), AMALGAMATING PANS, SETTLERS, Refractors and Station Furnaces, Water Jacket Furnaces, For Galena and Copper Ores, FINE VAMERS, Relating & Pumping Engines.

CHICAGO

New York Office, Walter McDermott, 1000 Broadway, No. 2 Wall Street.

Denver Office and Store—J. C. TAYLOR, Manager, 233 Blake Street.