

# Fergus County Argus.

Vol. XVII. No. 25.

LEWISTOWN, FERGUS COUNTY, MONT., WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17, 1900.

Price 5 Cents.

REPUBLICAN IN POLITICS, AND DEVOTED TO THE MINERAL, AGRICULTURAL, STOCK AND WOOL INTERESTS OF THE GREAT JUDITH COUNTRY.

## FOR CASH

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## CLIMAX FLOUR

For \$3.00 per cwt.

Climax is the very best grade of Dakota flour and is put up by the Missouri Valley Milling Company of Mandan, North Dakota. Every sack is guaranteed equal to any flour in the market. Don't miss this chance, as flour will advance very soon.

We Handle Everything



## CURRY GANG IS SUSPECTED

Of Complicity in the Union Pacific Train Robbery in June of Last Year.

## OFFICERS ARE AFTER THEM

They Have Suddenly Disappeared From Harlem After Passing Some Stolen Money.

Fort Benton, Jan. 12.—The sudden disappearance of Louis, generally known as "Loney," and Robert E. Curry from their home at Harlem makes public much of the mystery which has surrounded the robbery of a Union Pacific mail train between Wilcox and Rock Creek, Wyo., on June 2, 1899. The circumstances of the robbery will be remembered by all. The train was held up at night, the express safe blown open and an amount estimated at from \$20,000 to \$80,000 taken. The hurried flight of the six robbers through Wyoming for the "Hole in the Wall" in the Big Horn basin, their desperate encounters with sheriff's posses and railroad detectives, the death of one sheriff at their hands, and their final escape are familiar to all.

## AN IMPORTANT FOOD LAW.

Heavy Penalties for Selling Articles of Food Containing Unhealthy Ingredients. The following law was passed at the last session of the Missouri legislature, taking effect Aug. 29, 1899: Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person or corporation doing business in this state to manufacture, sell or offer to sell any article, compound or preparation for the purpose of being used or which is intended to be used in the preparation of food, in which article, compound or preparation there is any arsenic, calomel, bismuth, ammonia or alum.

The operation of this law will be mainly against alum baking powder. But the manufacture or sale of any article of food or article intended to be used in food which contains any of the substances classed by the law as unwholesome—from arsenic to alum—is absolutely prohibited. I want to let the people who suffer from rheumatism and sciatica know that Chamberlain's Pain Balm relieved me after a number of other medicines and a doctor had failed. It is the best I have ever known of.—J. A. Dodge, Alpharetta, Ga. Thousands have been cured of rheumatism by this remedy. One application relieves the pain. For sale by all druggists.

## LOOKS BAD FOR CLARK

The Prosecution Offers New and Startling Testimony in the Noted Case.

## THE ROLL OF \$30,000 IN EVIDENCE

Clark Wrote Letters to a Missoula Dentist Assuring Him a Settlement Would Be Made.

The senate investigation into the bribery practiced in securing the election of W. A. Clark to the senate progresses slowly, the admission of testimony damaging to Clark being bitterly fought by Clark's attorneys. Senators Whiteside and Clark and Representatives Meyers, Garr and others, besides a number of people from various parts of the state, have been on the stand during the past week, and without question a very strong case is being made out by the memorialists, so strong, in fact, that it hardly seems possible Clark can save himself from expulsion.

From the mass of testimony offered we quote a few paragraphs, taken from the report of proceedings on consecutive days. Senator Whiteside being on the stand and under cross-examination, the following passed: Q. What do you know about attempts to bribe W. J. Hannah? A. All I know was that Neill said \$2,000 had been sent to bring him from the Philippines. Q. Have you not declared yourself that you meant to destroy William A. Clark? A. I said I would stake my life that Wellcome would be convicted of bribery and that Clark would never retain his seat in the senate. Q. Do you claim that there was an attempt to bribe Hobson? A. Only upon information. It was stated by Neill to me, when Hobson was spoken of, that some one had said: "How do you expect to get such men as Hobson?" And Neill pulled out several large bills and said: "That's what we do the business with."

The same line of cross examination was continued in reference to Messrs. Mitchell, Tierney, Riddle, Mahon, Black, Bywater and others, the efforts of the counsel for the defense being mainly directed toward attempting to show that the witness had not testified to all he claims to know when a witness before the several Montana tribunals. State Senator Clark of Madison county was next called. He stated that he was a Democrat and that he was going to vote for Clark as long as he could get a better candidate for the senate, but that he had changed his opinion after he had investigated the methods of his namesake. Clark testified that he had received \$10,000 in 1,000-dollar bills from United States Senator Clark's manager, Mr. Wellcome, in January, 1898, and that the money was given to him on the express condition that he was to vote for Clark as long as his vote was wanted. He detailed the preliminary talk with Mr. Wellcome, saying Wellcome said to him: "We want you with us and we want you had," adding: "Now, we are going to get the votes necessary to elect our man, and if we don't get them one way we will get them another."

"I asked Wellcome what was in it," the witness continued, "and he replied: 'There is \$10,000 for you, provided you comply with conditions,' the conditions being that I vote for Clark as long as required." The money, \$10,000 in \$1,000 bills, was given to him by Wellcome that night. After counting it he had placed it in an envelope, marked the envelope and handed it to Mr. Whiteside for safe-keeping. He said that when Wellcome gave him the money he had called him over into the corner of his room, and holding the bills up, said he had fine engravings he wanted to show him.

E. L. Ector, dentist at Missoula, was the first witness. He had participated in the campaign in Ravalli county in the interest of E. P. Wood, who was the Democratic candidate for the legislature in the last campaign, and who was a friend of Clark. Ector said he had acted at the instance of Bickford, one of Clark's managers. Letters from Bickford were exhibited and in one of these, written after the legislative election, Bickford referred to the presence of "our friend" in Hamilton, and asked Ector to ascertain his financial condition. Ector said "our friend" was Wood, and that he replied to this letter saying that his indebtedness was \$6,500 and that \$1,000 would probably be necessary to settle all his debts. Afterward Bickford had given him \$1,000 to give to Wood. He had then refused the money, telling Bickford it was "all off," as Wood had told him that he could not afford to sell himself. Witness said that Bickford had promised to pay him for his services, but that no specific sum had been mentioned.

"He asked me how much I expected," said the witness. "Then I told him I wanted all I could get out of it. I continued by saying, 'No doubt you will make a stake out of it.' He asked me how 10 per cent would do, and I said: 'That would be satisfactory, as I have no doubt you will get \$20,000 out of it.'"

It appeared that no settlement was made with him by Bickford, and that Ector wrote to Senator Clark about the matter. Correspondence with that gentleman began in December, 1898, and closed Nov. 8, 1899. These letters were read to show that Bickford had been the agent of Clark in the senatorial race. In the first letter Clark said that the matter concerning which Ector had written him had been left "entirely in the hands of Bickford," and that he was to confer with that gentleman concerning the matter. In the second letter, dated Jan. 28, 1899, Clark spoke of the fact that he had just been elected, saying Bickford was wild with joy, adding that, while he had no personal knowledge as to what he had done, he "never disappointed any one who had helped him," and the last statement was practically repeated from Paris in April, and in another letter written from New York in November last. In the New York letter Clark said he would refer the Ector matter to Bickford, and in the Paris letter he said it was his desire that "any one who served him should be amply remunerated."

the sitting of the legislature at the instance of W. H. Bickford, who asked him to secure for Clark the support of Speaker Stiff of the Montana house of representatives. The witness testified that Mr. Bickford had said that up to that time, the 14th of January last, they had been unable to secure Speaker Stiff's support for Mr. Clark, and that they were willing to pay \$15,000 for that support. The witness had suggested that as Stiff was committed to Conrad the offer should be made to him simply to stay away when the vote was reached, not casting any vote for United States senator. Mr. Bickford had asked for some time to see Mr. Clark, and when they had next met told him that \$15,000 would be paid if Mr. Stiff refrained from voting, and that \$1,000 would be given to him for his services. Later Mr. Bickford had said that Mr. Clark had become apprehensive that Mr. Stiff would not stand by the bargain and had called the deal off. Mr. Cowan said later he had never mentioned the proposition to Stiff. He was to have talked to Stiff on the train going to Missoula, but the proposition was withdrawn before the opportunity was presented. On cross-examination Mr. Cowan said no promises had ever been made to him for making his revelation in this case.

The first regular witness for the day was M. L. Hewitt, a miner, who was in Helena during the session of the legislature in 1899. He said that Charley Clark had asked him to see Senator Meyers and offer him \$10,000 for his vote for Clark for senator. He had accordingly talked with Meyers and testified that the gentleman had told him after first declining the proposition, to say to Clark that if he was disposed to do so, he could put \$10,000 in the hands of Whiteside to be paid to him in case he (Meyers) voted for Clark. Witness stated that the senator's son had told him this arrangement was satisfactory and had afterwards told him that the money had been given to Whiteside and that his vote was assured. Hewitt said that during the senatorial contest he had talked frequently with Senator Clark.

## F. E. WRIGHT INTERVIEWED.

To a Helena Herald Reporter the Fergus County Banker Predicts Twenty-Five Cents For Wool.

(Helena Herald.) "I know of two cases where eastern wool houses have tried to contract for 1900 clips of Montana wool at 20 cents per pound. What is more, I believe that a better price than 20 cents will be paid for some Fergus county clips. In fact, I think as high as 25 cents will be paid at Great Falls during the coming wool season."

The speaker was F. E. Wright, cashier of the Bank of Fergus County, who is stopping at the Helena. He made this statement to a Herald reporter today in no idle manner, but with the deliberation of a man of business who knows whereof he speaks. Mr. Wright is not the sort of a man to give vent to idle or wild expressions, neither does he seek newspaper prominence. He speaks ex cathedra, as it were, when talking of wool prices, for he makes his home and has all of his interests in the banner wool producing county of the state. His connection with one of the leading financial institutions of Montana places him in a position to know the foundation upon which are founded any statements he may make respecting business conditions in Fergus county.

Mr. Wright said it was an absolute fact that wool houses were seeking already to contract for Montana wool at the prices named. What was more, he would not, so far as he was concerned, recommend to any one of his acquaintances engaged in the wool business that they contract to sell their clip for the year 1900 at even the advanced price.

He bases his belief upon the increased price to be paid for this year's clip on the fact that the manufacturers are rapidly eating up the visible supply of the fleecy product and that the winter bids fair to be mild. He said that at the best the sheepmen need not have to feed their flocks to exceed forty days, while everyone had hay sufficient for two months and dry feed. So far, none of them here had to feed a pound of hay. The mildness of the winter will result in long, heavy fleeces, assuring an increased price. Last year the fleeces were light, but even then better prices were received. Mr. Wright said that the average price received for Fergus county wool last year was about 16 6-10 cents per pound. He looked for an average price this year for that county's wool of 20 cents, with some clips selling, as stated, as high as 25 cents.

Besides the good times for the sheepmen, Mr. Wright said the mining interests of the county were looking up. The operations of the extensive cyanide mining plant at Gilt Edge had proved very successful. The near future would see the erection of another cyanide mill in the same vicinity for the treatment of ores to be extracted from a group of claims in the locality from which the Gilt Edge company is taking its share. The new mill would be put up by a company that had bonded the New Era mine in the same range of mountains, and had recently closed negotiations for a group near Gilt Edge.

All of these good times were not confined to Fergus county. He believed the whole state had cause to rejoice from business improvements and that the probabilities of Republican success in Montana were bright.

Fred W. Cowan, a railroad conductor of Missoula, testified to going to Helena during the sitting of the legislature at the instance of W. H. Bickford, who asked him to secure for Clark the support of Speaker Stiff of the Montana house of representatives.

## There is a Great Deal Here To Interest Buyers Right Now.

We have started January selling with a swing that's businesslike—very convincing of the leadership of this store. The public appreciate the fact that we sell at the prices we advertise—that we sell good merchandise at same prices as other merchants sell shoddy goods at—that we are friends of the consumer because we keep up the quality of our goods.

## Our Shoe Sale.

Is still on and the quantity of shoes we are selling these days is a surprise to us. If you have not already seen our bargain table in this line make it a point to do so at once. Ladies' fine shoes, former prices \$1.50 to \$2.50 per pair, now they go at \$1.00. Ladies' fine French vici kid shoe, were \$3.00 to \$6.00 per pr, now \$2. Children's fine shoes, former prices \$1.75 to \$2.25, now your choice for \$1.25. These are a few good shoe offerings. We have more.

## Muslin Underwear.

The Customary January Sale. Our muslin underwear sale is now on. We wish to say that our stock is composed of well made, full sized garments, greatly superior to the muslin underwear ordinarily offered at special sales. We ask you to call and examine our line and get prices so you can compare it with stocks offered by other stores.

## Men's Shoes.

We are getting ready for a special sale of men's shoes. Prices and goods will interest you. Come and see what we have. You will not be able to buy goods as cheap again until there is a big drop in leather.

## Grocery Specials.

Our holiday trade seems to indicate that people have learned where to buy good groceries cheap. Here is an interesting list of prices: Chicken Tamale, per can..... 15c 2-lb. can Corned Beef..... 20c 3-lb. can White Label Soup..... 25c Mackerel (large, fat) per lb..... 20c 2-lb. Brick Codfish..... 25c 1-lb. can Lunch Tongue..... 30c 1-lb. can Chip Beef..... 30c

## See Our Stock of Carpets and Rugs. HAVE A FEW BBLs. OF GOOD APPLES LEFT

## Power Mercantile Company

## PRESIDENT RANTOUL TALKS.

The New Officer Tells Some of the Intentions of the Montana Railroad People.

(Billings Gazette.) Robert Rantoul of St. Paul, division freight agent of the Northern Pacific, who, on the first of February, will take the position of general manager of the Montana railroad, spent Sunday in Billings introducing his successor on the Northern Pacific, Henry Blakely. Approached by a Gazette representative for news concerning the destination of the Montana railroad, Mr. Rantoul laughingly said that the newspapers seemed to have all the news now, but in the course of the conversation that followed talked freely about the line that is now being built from Martinsdale to Merino.

The substance of his remarks was that the Montana railroad is independent of any railroad corporation; that it is not the intention of its projectors at present to extend the road beyond Merino; that it is being built with a view to securing the trade of the Judith basin and, if that object is not attained by building the road

to Merino, then it will be extended northward to the Judith gap. All the wool business of that section, Mr. Rantoul says, is to be brought to Billings via Lombard and the Northern Pacific, which will give this city fully two million pounds of wool that now goes to Big Timber by freight trains, as well as a large quantity that now goes to Great Falls and is shipped over the Great Northern.

"Great Falls," continued Mr. Rantoul, "has never handled more than six and a half million pounds of wool, but Billings will handle much more than that the coming season. The Montana railroad will be completed to Merino in time to handle this season's clip from that section, which, added to the five million pounds that Billings handled last year, will make your city the largest wool market in the state, or in the entire northwest, for that matter.

"Your people need have no fear of the Montana railroad being extended to connect with the Northern Pacific at a point east of Billings," he said, when told that some folks here thought such a move was probable. "The men behind the move have no

such intention, at present, as I have said before, and as manager of the road I would advise against it if it was contemplated. It would involve the building of many miles of road, through a practically barren country east of Billings, and is only a possibility of the distant future." When asked if it was probable that the Montana road would be extended to Billings and then purchased by the Northern Pacific or Burlington, Mr. Rantoul said positively that the Montana was not for sale, reiterating that it was not the present purpose of the projectors of the line to build east of Merino. When reminded of the fact that the new road was equipped with Northern Pacific iron and rolling stock, he said the former was paid for and that the latter is being rented.

"The Gazette is satisfied, from what Mr. Rantoul said, that the Montana railroad is going to be a great benefit to Billings by reason of the new wool crop it will bring to this city and other northern freight that now goes to Great Falls. And if the new road is extended eastward from Merino, it will come to Billings, which this newspaper still regards as a probability. Not that we doubt Mr. Rantoul's word, but railroad managers do not always tell newspaper reporters ALL they know, and we believe the projectors of the Montana railroad will shortly see that it is to their advantage to extend their line to this city.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

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