

AVANT COURIER.

JOSEPH WRIGHT, Editor.

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MONTANA POLITICS.

Just about now there appears to be no political situation in this Territory. There is no marked division between parties. True those holding Federal offices have to be Republicans, and endeavor to keep up the name. Political leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties as they existed some years ago, are now fraternizing and it is difficult to discern "which from father." The truth is, the same devotion to party does not exist in this Territory as formerly. Political distinctions are fast being wiped out, and we anticipate that the approaching August election will present some curious and interesting phases. There will be lots of candidates for the office of Delegate in Congress, and Conventions will fare badly. The system is a pernicious one and has resulted in no advantage to the interest of Montana. We anticipate a good old-fashioned free fight this summer and many candidates will be found fighting on their own hook. The same disruption of parties prevails in the States, and politics are really at sea everywhere. The Republican party are variously divided on the currency question. The Democrats are in the same fix, and it looks now that both of the old organizations are going to pieces. President Grant no longer has the confidence of the party that elected him. He appears to act independently on all questions, and certainly shows a disposition to act honestly and fairly in the administration of public affairs. His conduct in refusing to aid Governor Davis of Texas in holding to the office of Governor, after the people had defeated him and chosen another man, was worthy of the President of the United States. There will be a new and powerful party in the field at the Presidential election in 1876. Newton Booth, of California, stands out prominently as the leader of this new organization, and his views and policy appear to meet the demands of the country. Great changes will take place in political relations both in Montana and throughout the Union in the elections to be held this year and the result will show strange bed-fellows. Look out for the revolution and don't be crushed under its wheels.

THE CURRENCY.

If Congress shall increase the volume of legal tenders to four hundred millions great relief will be afforded to the country and more particularly the West. There is a fierce and determined opposition from holders of bonds and moneyed capitalists. The debtor class need additional circulation of money, and increased facilities for obtaining it at reasonable rates. The National banks have great advantages as matters now stand and it is possible they are not very friendly to the idea of the Government making its own money. The country has experienced a severe panic, and business has received a heavy blow. Something should be done by the present Congress to afford relief. The House of Representatives came forward very promptly and passed the bill to increase the issue of legal tenders and give all people relief. From the recent votes in the Senate, it looks as if that body will concur with the House. If this should be done there will be a decided improvement in business at once. Times will be much better, and farm products bear excellent prices.

A NEW UP-RIVER METROPOLIS.

There is to be another new town on the Upper Missouri, near the mouth of the Musselshell River, or what is better known to river men as Little Rocky. The embryo city has already been laid out and named Carroll. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the Diamond R. Freight Line of Montana are the proprietors of this new city in the wilderness. It is located about 300 miles East of Fort Benton, by the river, and is only 25 miles further from Helena, than from Benton. Carroll is surrounded by a most picturesque country. Standing in the center of the town you can see through a rift in the river bluffs the blue chains of the Rocky Mountains, fifty miles distant. The country in that vicinity is also heavily timbered. A trading post was formerly there and the buildings are still in excellent preservation. The Northern Pacific intends to run a weekly line of steamers between Bismarck and Carroll to connect with the overland Diamond R. Freight trains to all points in the Territory. This new town is already attracting considerable attention among up river men, and no doubt it will be a lively place during the coming season.—Sioux City Journal.

INCENDIARIES are destroying vast amounts of property on the plantations of Cuba. The government has 20,000 men patrolling to prevent further destruction.

THE YELLOWSTONE.

This region is attracting a great deal of attention at this time. Its beauties are beginning to be understood. It is a fruitful land, with rich valleys where corn, vegetables and fruits can be produced without any difficulty. The valleys of the Yellowstone are only some 200 feet in most places above the level of the sea, and are consequently warm and pleasant. In some respects the Yellowstone country resembles in point of climate and production Tennessee and Kentucky. We look for a very large settlement in that section this season, and if the Government should build the requisite forts along the line of the survey of the Northern Pacific Railroad this season, and a mail run regularly between Cheyenne and Bozeman, there is no question the country will fill up rapidly. It is the most desirable portion of Montana, and those who shall get in there early will secure good homes, and make their fortunes.

The Expedition that has gone in that direction from this place will be the pioneers, and by their energy and pluck are doing a noble work. They will, to a great extent, develop the country, and show that it is practicable to go into that country and live. The Secretary of the Interior seems to have apprehended trouble with the Indians on the part of the Expedition. Indians don't like to pitch into armed mountain men. Very often they have rather liked to see settlers and neighbors come in. In early days the Rocky Mountains teemed with the men employed by the large fur companies, and Indians never disturbed them. Indians do not fancy soldiers passing through their country. It excites warlike feelings, and for the mere fun and dash of the thing, they pitch into them. It is their passion for war to attack warriors. We do not think they have the same feeling for attacking expeditions whose business is peaceful. So far the Yellowstone Expedition has had no trouble with Indians, and we do not apprehend they will. After they shall reach their destination, and build block houses, the Expedition will divide and separate into small prospecting parties, and when so divided, will attract very little attention from the Indians. So that the Secretary of the Interior need entertain no fears on account of the formidable character of the Expedition. If the Indians are kept on their reservations, the expeditionists will not come in contact with them, and we hope this will be done, so that travel will be safe and uninterrupted between Montana and the East. It is the duty of the Government to afford an eastern outlet to Montana, and if they will take care of their Indians, and force them to regard treaties made with them, we shall have good roads very soon to Cheyenne and Bismarck.

TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS.

A dispatch from Cheyenne dated April 4th says: F. H. Smith, one of the Indian Commissioners, reached here to-day from Red Cloud Agency. The other three have returned to Spotted Tail Agency. He says the actual number of whites killed by the Indians is six. He reports the troops at both agencies unmolested, and that at Spotted Tail Agency, especially, friendly relations with the Indians exist. The Commissioners held several councils at both agencies, with hopeful results. About 6,000 Ogallallas, Sioux, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes have registered and remain at Red Cloud, and about 4,000 Brule Sioux are at Spotted Tail, and are expected to register next week. The Commissioners say that the situation has been critical, but that the published statements have been exaggerated. Reports from other sources say that the Commissioners have seen nothing but the old ration centers, and that as soon as the grass grows the Indians will resume hostilities.

The following is the amended finance bill now before the Senate:

- Section 1. That the maximum amount of United States notes is hereby fixed at \$400,000,000.
Section 2. That \$46,000,000 in notes for circulation now allowed by law be issued to the National Banking Association now organized and which may be organized hereafter, and such increased circulation be distributed among the several States as provided in section 1 of "an act entitled an act to provide for the redemption of the three per centum temporary loan certificates and for the increase of National bank notes," approved July 12, 1870.
Section 3. That the National Banking Association now organized or hereafter to be organized, shall keep and maintain as part of its reserve required by law, one-fourth part of the coin received by it as interest on bonds of the United States deposited, as security for circulating notes or government deposits, and that only one-fourth of the reserve now prescribed by law for the National Banking Association, shall consist of the balances due on the Association available for the redemption of its circulating notes from Associations in cities of redemption, and upon which balances no interest shall be paid.
Section 4. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any increase of the principal of the public debt of the United States.

Hon. G. M. Adams, from Kentucky, has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, instructing the Committee on Indian Affairs to investigate all frauds, unfairness and irregularities connected with the Indian administration in the fiscal year of 1873-4.

THE N. P. RAILROAD.

A correspondence, which has taken place between Governor Fotts and Mr. Jay Cooke, in regard to Northern Pacific Railroad matters, almost conclusively settles the route of the road through Montana, or at least indicates the route which had been settled upon before the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. The Governor, writing for information, explained to Mr. Cooke how unprofitable and what a great disadvantage it was to the people of Montana to be still kept in doubt as to the exact location of the road through the Territory; that if it had been determined to locate the route to the North of Helena that we would be compelled to seek a connection with the Union or Central Pacific for convenience, as a line so far north would not benefit the agricultural and mining districts to any considerable extent; that if Northern Pacific was to be constructed over the line at first talked of up the Yellowstone, through the Gallatin, Jefferson and Big Hole valleys and over the Deer Lodge Pass, it would not only accommodate the people of the Territory to a greater extent, but would give the Company a greater area of arable lands. He urged the Company to push the construction of the road from Bismarck this way as rapidly as possible, as long before it had reached our eastern settlements the immense shipments of beef cattle and the precious ores to the east over the line would lead a greater influence toward the rapid sale of the Company's bonds than any other item that could be brought to bear. Mr. Cooke, in reply, agreed with the Governor that the route last mentioned would be the most favorable, and said it was more than probable that the line would be thus definitely located some time during the coming summer. Altogether, it may be inferred that, notwithstanding the financial embarrassments of the Company, Mr. Cooke takes a hopeful view of the early completion of the road, and that he has by no means lost heart in the enterprise. There is no doubt in our minds that the Company will bend every nerve to pushing the road as far toward settled Montana this summer as possible, as upon their success in attracting Montana freight and travel over their line, depends to a great extent the profits of the road already built and in operation. We sincerely hope that Government aid will be further extended to complete the road to a point where it will do somebody some good; for as it is now it cannot hope to divert any amount of Montana travel or freights, or receive the benefits that are so surely awaiting it by the shipment of beef and ore.

Ho, FOR THE BLACK HILLS.—We learn by a letter of recent date from Montana, that the Bozeman Expedition is already well advanced into the Yellowstone Valley. The expedition consists of about 200 men, well armed. There are yet a large number of men who will follow the expedition and join it before it reaches Tongue River. The weather is beautiful, no snow, and the roads are dusty. The objective point of this expedition has never been definitely stated, but it is reported at Bismarck by those who intend to join it, that the Black Hills country is the Mecca of its pilgrimage. A number of the Black Hills agitators in this city are talking of joining the Bismarck arm of the expedition, which leaves there in about one month.—Sioux City Journal.

THE news from Washington is to the effect that a vote will probably be reached in the Senate, on the currency question, within a few days, and that the probabilities are in favor of an expansion of currency, instead of any step in the direction of specie payments. We learn that Hon. Rufus Ariek, of Helena, a member of the recent Legislature, a gentleman of brains and one of the live boys, who is now visiting California, has concluded to locate in San Francisco.

THE appropriation bills already reported in Congress show a reduction of from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 from the revised estimates. The Committee expected to aggregate \$25,000,000 reduction in the total appropriation this year as compared with last.

THE Diamond R. Company sent out a train yesterday morning for Musselshell, carrying out a large lot of freight for Murphy, Neel & Co. and for H. M. Patches & Co. In addition to this, they loaded sixty-two tons of ore from the Legal Tender mine. This is the first shipment of ore by this route, but will be speedily followed by large lots, now in the vaults in this city, and on the dumps of the various mines in the vicinity. There was a lot of one hundred tons ready for shipment but the owner could not get trucks. The shipments of all ore this season will be more than double that of last, and its increase from year to year will probably be in much greater proportion for some years to come.—Independent.

Geo. S. Kinsman, writing from New York under date of March 20th, to Chas. G. Reynolds of this city, says: "Mr. Richardson, General Manager of the Utah Northern Railroad, and one of the Directors of the Union Pacific, will be in Helena some time in June. He has all the Directors of the Utah Pacific interested in the Utah Northern and they have pledged themselves to do all in their power to see the great enterprise successfully carried out. They will build it to Carpenter's Station (in Marsh Valley) on the stage route. They have abandoned the Salt Springs route, so as to tap the Montana road as soon as possible."—Herald.

THE ROUND-UP LAW.

Notice to Stock Raisers.

I was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners Supervisor for the Third District under the Round-Up Law. It seems to me that the intention of the Legislature in passing this law was more for safety than for beneficial purpose. It is long and complicated, and embraces so many points that it should be taken care of on one provision, and that should be taken care of the stray stock. This law requires that within six days after each "round-up" a correct description of all unclaimed and stray stock shall be given to the several clerks of the stock district. Then a man must watch the tails of the wild strays for ninety days before he can slap the county brand on them. The same remains in his charge until after the next "round-up" before he can declare them stray. Then before he can get rid of them, he must advertise the strays by posting notices in three of the most public places in the District, but how long (forever I presume) should they be kept on that point, for it here be a limited time I have not seen in the law as published in the newspapers. A very accommodating law indeed, for those favorable to raising stock in a loose manner, and who care not for the improvement of that kind of property. They would get their stock gathered for them in a certain place, under the charge of a responsible man, and would have ninety days and more at their own leisure to take their stock away from the stray herd. If the reasonable compensation suited them, or if better satisfied not to pay anything, they would be very apt to take their stock away without thanking anybody for their trouble. The unfortunate herder could not account for every head of stock which he had given the description of to the clerk, he would be very apt to get a reasonable compensation with the wrong side up.

Another good idea seemed to come into minds of our legislators on the same subject, in section 10, regarding contagious diseases among stock. It is a pity they did not think about such a precaution a few years sooner, when big speculators were packing away the money of Montana to Texas, bringing among us lots of nuisance property which monopolized our most profitable business, killing prices and impoverishing the country by driving into the Territory large bands of Texas cattle, that we all know have in their blood a natural contagious disease, well established by the testimony of Eastern farmers, who have been victims of a great mortality among their own stock caused by infection from Texas cattle driven through their section. Our legislators have never cared for the exposure of our own stock to the same danger. Providence having favored our section with such pure air contagious diseases have not injured us as yet, but we are exposed to it in the future, and ample opportunity to catch it on its first appearance, for the Texas cattle speculators always had the privilege of pasturing their stock just as near our fences as they pleased, eating the grass which should belong to our dairy cows and which farm stock, and our children in constant danger of being killed by these wild beasts in going in and from school. Of this last fact I could furnish some proof. And the hundreds of scrub bulls that run loose in the country, knocking down farmers' fences, and mixing with breeds of fine cows and heifers that they have paid large prices for in order to improve the stock of Montana. These same scrub animals rush into a man's herd with their heavy horns, cutting many cattle to pieces, driving the blooded bulls out and taking possession, causing damage to improved stock from the beginning of the season to the end. Our legislators never touch these abuses for fear of offending the monopolists and injuring their business.

I am certainly not to be blamed for expressing myself in this way, for I am a stock raiser and know of which I write. I am opposed to any principle that takes its foundation from the example of the communists. I am in favor of improving the stock of Montana, which is not only a benefit to stock raisers, but also to the interest of the entire country, and those who are taking the most pains to improve their stock should enjoy the benefit of their labor and industry. But where is the chance? Can a farmer raise a good crop and of fair quality, if his fields are full of bad weeds? The same comparison can be applied to stock. I am also in favor of raising fine stock that would cost no more for keeping than scrubs do, having the same privileges to use the rich grass that grows so wonderfully and naturally in Montana, being, in my opinion, the most important resources of the country. And when we would come to dispose of our stock, it would bring twice as many green-backs as scrubs would. From this time on we will have to drive the best beef cattle to Eastern markets, and we will be compelled to compete with Eastern beef raisers. The people of the East like to eat a good piece of beef down there, and are paying four cents a pound more for the best quality of beef for the sole reason that the scrubs are in the way. The scrubs will be our beef here for many years, as it has been for several years past. There is no inducement to ship them, for if they should need some of that kind in the States to feed their penitentiary prisoners on they can get it from Texas.

By the law of our Legislature, if the farmer should have a sick brute, it would be noticed for his stock are generally under the eyes of the public, he would be compelled to take it six miles behind the Texas cattle ranches, while the proprietor of a big herd, who only cares to see his stock to brand the calves, would not be subjected to the same inconvenience. For (I speak and abandoned stock that dies in the different gulches under the care of nobody, it would be very hard for any delinquent inspector to order those away during their diseased condition. All they could order off them, would be their carcasses, and it is a big chance that such a job would not yet fall on some poor devil of a farmer. In fact everything is done to load the horse that pulls the manure and give the advantage to the man; put in jail the innocent and let the guilty go without punishment.

If there is a man in the third district who would be disposed to take the responsibility of handling the county brand and taking charge of the stray cow he can step forward. For my part I decline. I will take no action under such a law, and advise my friends to remain in peace in the same fix, as we have been up to this day, with the hope that by the next election we may be able to send some of our own men to the Legislature that would see our interest in a different view. If not, some of our legislative gentlemen might cut before them some of our dun-headed fellows and get an explanation of the way we desire our stock law. The Legislature of Montana has always been compact of the

some class of people, men trafficking for the nomination, which has always been the case in an election. They never did a thing that would give encouragement to the permanent settlers of this Territory—have shown no disposition or desire to take into consideration the interest of those who are, in every sense, considered to be employed in the most important branch of business—the ranching—the life and soul of every country, unless this class can be made to prosper to commence with, none of the other branches of business can be made successful. CHARLES ANGENCY.

TERRITORIAL ITEMS.

From the New North-West: Mining has already been commenced by Tapp & Co. and Hagan & Co., near Blackfoot, and by Kenary & Co. further down Ophir. Mason & Davis last week purchased Mr. S. W. Ryerson's valuable mining tract on Nelson Hill, in lower Ophir; for three thousand seven hundred dollars, and they will get to work next week if the weather holds good. A considerable number of the miners who have been away have returned and everything betokens an early general resumption of work.

Rhod D. Leggat, Esq., was in town on business during the past week and has returned to Whitehall near which place he has a force engaged in developing quartz. Rhod has made money in Montana and is expanding a good deal of it in developing mines. With his experience and judgment there is little doubt this in return will repay him many fold, and he deserves it.

Col. L. J. Sharp and wife and Mr. John Gerber and wife arrived from Corinne on Tuesday. They were handsomely received by their many friends and serenaded by the Brass Band. Col. S. and wife have been visiting several months in Missouri, Kentucky and Alabama. Mr. Gerber has been a like season in California, and set a good example in bringing home a fair, young California bride, who will be a blessing to his life and an ornament to our social circle.

Mr. W. B. Harlan, of Arns, Missoula Co., was up the last week of March, a load of bacon to Pioneer and disposed of it at 12 1/2 cents per pound. His teams were ten days on the road from Missoula, the ascent of the Flint Creek hills requiring two days' hard work. He says the acreage of grain sown in the Bitter Root this year will be light. Mr. H. will sow about one hundred acres. He feeds his grain to hogs, finding bacon more marketable than flour, and has 300 hogs to start in with this season.

The Louisville Library Lottery. The Library drawing took place at Louisville March 31. The following prizes were drawn: No. 55,204 drew the first prize of \$187,500; No. 31,101, \$75,000; No. 964, \$19,700. The following numbers drew \$3,750 each: 26,877, 48,333, 33,198, 9,507, 37,893, 16,241, 1,288, 37,530, 46,295, 9,077, 51,378, 49,429, 6,423, and 8,504. No. 3,571 drew \$7,500; No. 18,171 drew \$13,500, and No. 49,383 drew \$7,500; 32,333 drew \$3,750. The following drew \$2,750: 1,980, 53,936. The following drew \$1,750: 49,333, 27,454, 58,732, and 38,574. This completes the report of all prizes over \$1,000 drawn.

The holders of the Capital Prize ticket reside in Memphis. It was owned by several persons.

MAJOR FORBES has already sowed some grain and commenced planting potatoes on his ranch on Prickly Pear. The ground is said to be in good condition for planting in the Ten Mile and Prickly Pear Valleys, and the farmers are taking advantage of the present delightful weather to get their crops into the ground.—Independent.

THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO FORTUNE. \$450,000 GIVEN AWAY!! A Legal Grand Gift Concert, Endorsed by Government and State Officials. DRAWING POSITIVE. Thursday, April 30th, 1874. FOR THE BENEFIT OF A JUVENILE REFORM SCHOOL, AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

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First Class Hotel. In all its appointments. No expense will be spared to make our guests comfortable. The house is comparatively new, and furnished throughout in the best style.

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