THE AVANT COURIER.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

FRIDAY, : : : APRIL 14, 1876.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD ACT.

The Election.

Full returns had not been received at the capital at the latest advices It will require an official count to determine the result of the election on the 3d inst., but so far as the vote is now known, it is unfavorable to the Act, The last Independent claims a majority against granting aid to the Northern Pacific of 250 It is probably not far wrong in its estimate. If such be the case, the true friends of Montana's interest—those who recognize the general prosperity of the Territory as paramount to local and selfish considerations—may bid farewell to every hope in securing a railroad until our Territory is sufficiently developed to bring a road here without Territorial aid. This election settles the subsidy question. The wire pullers of Helena, who have caused the defeat of the best railroad measure that will ever be presented to the people of Montana, need not "lay the flattering unction to their souls" that two years hence the people will favor subsidizing the Utah Northern, or any other project they may hatch out through the Legislature, whereby they expect to enrich themselves and filch the people.

Before the meeting of the last Legislature it was tacitly agreed that all local prejudices should be ignored, and that the best proposition, let the road come from whence it might, should receive the unanimous support of the press and people of the Territory. All then recognized the necessity of railroad communication, and those papers that opposed the late Act were the most clamorous for subsidy, and the loudest in condemning any local feeling in the matter, when the general prosperity of the Territory was at stake. But when the contest was narrowed down to aiding one road, the Northern Pacific, a howl of opposition came up from Helena, which, like an epidemic, spread over the West-Side, taking in Beaver Head, Meagher and Choteau on the side.

The New North-West done some tremendous figuring on the bill, and possibly made some persons think that if the bill passed, the people would have to pay over $20 000,000, and then they had no guarantee that the road would ever be built; that the Act was the greatest fraud, abounding in glaring defects, ever presented to an intelligent people to ratify. The Madisonian says its own defects killed the bill. Still both of these papers have said that the Legislature passing this defective bill was composed of men possessing more ability than any previous Assembly in the Territory.

The eyes of the people of Eastern Montana have been opened in regard to this railroad business. They have been taught that local prejudice is the governing principle in such matters, and cannot pay tribute to her—that the Ring there would subvert every interest in the Territory for its own aggrandizement. But we have the consolation of knowing that the people of Eastern Montana can "stand par, and halo How?" With the navigation of the Yellowstone river, and wagon roads opened from Bozeman to Cheyenne and Bismarck we are comparatively independent of a railroad. But the people of Gallatin county showed their enterprise in putting in a solid for the Railroad Act. If defeated on that measure, they are done with voting for any and all subsidies They will go to work and help themselves—ignoring the prosperity of other sections of the Territory as they have ignored that of ours. We have all the elements of wealth and prosperity at hand, and we shall utilize them for our own benefit. If every tub has to stand on its own bottom, we know of no other section of the Territory that has a more substantial footing than Eastern Montana.

On the 27th ult. a terrible snow storm swept over some portions of Missouri. At St. Joseph it fell to the depth of twelve inches. All the railroads leading to that place were blockaded.

The California Senate has passed two bills of an extraordinary nature in regard to the press. One requires that the signatures of writers shall be affixed to articles, and the other that a newspaper shall retract any statement proven to be libellous.

The majority of the Committee on Indian Affairs, which was charged with the inquiry into the expediency of "transferring the management and control of Indian affairs from the Interior to the War Department," have reported that such transfer should be made, and they present a bill accordingly. The minority of the committee say: "Our Indian affairs are a sad chapter in our annals. The past, however, is past and cannot be recalled; but to talk of any civilizing influence in the army, it seems to us, is preposterous. Divorce the bureau from the Interior Department, if you choose; but don't, in the name of justice and humanity, turn it over again to the War Department."

L. R. Freeman, editor of the Ogden Freeman, for defending himself against the murderous attack of a notorious Mormon hilk, who had swindled him out of some money, was dragged from a sick bed at midnight, and without allowing him a chance to give bail or to attend to his physical wants, was locked up in jail, and taking advantage of technicalities, the Mormon officials kept him confined forty-eight hours before giving him a hearing or a chance to give bail. The Freeman has been giving the Mormons some hard knocks since its establishment at Ogden, the hot-bed of Polygamy, and the Mormon authorities are glad to have the slightest pretext for revenge and an opportunity to cripple the Freeman. Their dastardly conduct on this occasion is a disgrace to our Government, and should not be tolerated in this country. The dark spot upon our civilization—Mormon medium, with Polygamy as its ground work—the last relic of barbarism in our social system, should be wiped out, uprooted, so that not a vestige should remain or could again sprout up and grow under the fostering care of such corrupt men as Brigham Young and his leading proselytes.

THE BIG HORN COUNTRY.

The Helena Independent the past week has published several editorials in regard to the richness of the Big Horn country in the precious metals, and therefore claims that it was the first paper to direct attention to the rich mines in that section While we are glad to have the support of the Independent in properly setting forth to the world the undoubted richness and vast extent of the mines of Eastern Montana, we cannot but regard its assumption as being the first paper to direct attention to their existence, as a piece of arrogance and cheek characteristic of the Pilgrim editor. Through the persistent efforts of the Cheyenne papers and the Pick and Plow, published at this place, in directing attention to these mines, backed by indisputable evidence of the existence of gold in paying quantities in the Big Horn country, an expedition of over 200 men was organized in Wyoming in 1870 for the purpose of prospecting and developing the mines in that region. The expedition was so harrassed by Indians that the men had little chance to prospect, but they found gold on the Big Horn and all of its tributaries. Since 1871, this paper has almost every week alluded to these mines, and in 1873 an expedition of one hundred and fifty men was organized here and outfitted by our citizens to prospect the mines on Big Horn, Powder and Tongue Rivers and Goose Creek. Before reaching the diggings the expedition was confronted by a formidable army of Sioux Indians, and after sixteen days hard fighting returned to the settlements Since then the Pease expedition has left this place and built a fort at the mouth of the Big Horn, which was intended as headquarters for miners who intended prospecting the Big Horn and tributaries. Again the Indians interfered and caused the abandonment of the Fort.

We have given these facts for the information of the editor of the Independent, who at this late day, after writing two articles relative to the mines on the Big Horn, jumps upon his desk, flaps his wings and exclaims to the world that "the Independent was the first newspaper to direct attention to the rich mines on the Big Horn." The next thing we expect to hear from the verdant editor of the Independent is, that he has discovered that gold exists in Alder and Confederate gulches. However far behind the times, it is gratifying to have the Independent take an interest in the Big Horn country. From the evidence of Gen, Sheridan and a score of practical miners there is no doubt but that it is a richer country than the Black Hills, and we may reasonably expect that the bulk of the emigrants to latter will move on this way. The several military expeditions now moving against the Indians, operating in concert, will enable miners to thoroughly prospect and work the mines on Big Horn, Tongue and Powder rivers and their various tributaries without fear of molestation from hostile Indians. We think the fact will be demonstrated the coming season that Eastern Montana has as rich mines as have ever been discovered in this country or Australia.

It has been announced several times in our local columns that a number of the enterprising citizens of Bozeman had inaugurate a freight and passenger line on the Yellowstone, and that perhaps in less than a month goods would be delivered to Montana merchants from this new avenue of inland commerce. We regard this enterprise as by far the most important movement that has been undertaken by our citizens in their efforts to procure quick and reliable transportation. Besides supplying a present need comparatively indispesable to the residents of South Eastern Montana, it will contribute in an important degree to the development of a district of country that contains more gold than all the rest of Territory, and, indeed, for that matter, than any other portion of the continent. A variety of causes are conspiring to give to the enterprise a greater value than its most enthusiastic supporters ever thought of according it. The military operations now going forward will free it from the presence of hostile savages, and enable enterprising and industrious settlers to open its valleys to civilization and give its rich and luxurious grasses to the flocks and herds which will soon cover its hills. Won by the reputation of the golden resources in the Big Horn country, immigration will crowd to it and spread over the Territory augmenting the sources of industry and increasing capital and labor,

The country, free from Indians and settlements springing up in the valleys, will enable, in a few years, our people to demand these railroad facilities for which we have been almost ready to pledge all we have and mortgage the future to obtain There can be no question of the fact that the opening of the Yellowstone country is the most important event in the history of the Territory.

The navigation of the river, while incidental to, is yet indispensable to the successful prosecution of the undertaking. It renders it an accomplished fact. The influence which it will exert upon the rest of the Territory is bound to be beneficial and good. Our commercial facilities will increase commercial wealth Industry is always ready to take advantage of opportunity. For years the Missouri has been our only avenue to the East. In giving it a rival thoroughfare we do not limit its importance, but augment our resources of wealth and increase the demand which renders it an essential medium in furthering the development of the country and building it into a great and prosperous State.—Independent.

A terrible calamity almost an earth quake was the explosion of four powder magazines in the ouskirts of Salt Lake City on the 5th inst. Besides several lives lost, it is said that the breakage of glass alone would amount to $50,000 The most probable explanation of the cause, is an act of wanton mischief on the part of two boys, who had been out hunting, and discharged their guns or rifles at the magazine to see the effects. Among other effects, there is scarcely enough left of either boy to be visible or justify a funeral.

The House Committee on Territories have decided to report adversely on the bill dividing Dakota, and making another Territory called Pembina.

U. S. GRAND JURY ADJOURNED.

A Tempest in a Tea-Pot.

The U. S. Grand Jury, after a session of twenty-two days, adjourned Tuesday without any indictments. A Virginia City special to the Independent says: "The evidence in regard to the Crow Agency was weak and watery, and didn't amount to anything at all." Eastern Montana was ransacked from one end to the other for witnesses, and a legion went over to testify The men our neighbor Wilkinson had his fingers on, who would swear to corruptions at the Crow Agency; that would startle the world, and consign Story and Clapp to a dungeon for life, were on hand and spoke their little pieces, The rip-snorting individuals who were in possession of knowledge that weighed upon their consciences, and sighed for an opportunity to emblazon themselves before a U. S. Grand Jury, relieved themselves before the late jury, and still all the evidence was "weak and watery—not amounting to anything."

The expense of this fruitless investigation, brought about by the groundless charges of unprincipled newspapers and false assertions made by discharged employees and personal enemies of the contractor and agent at the Crow Agency, will fall pretty heavily on the government. The Madisonian says the expense of the jury amounts to $2,500, and the witnesses fees will be at least that much.

The Madisonian and Times have made serious charges repeatedly against Gen. Clapp and Mr. Nelson Story, and claimed that all they said and much more could and would be proved before the late Grand Jury. They claimed that they based some of their assertions upon information obtained from certain individuals These knowing individuals have been before the U. S. Grand Jury and on their oaths have testified that these papers have wantonly lied, as well as the men who if they gave such information to the editors of the Madisonian and Times.

In view of the testimony adduced by the Grand Jury in regard to the charges of fraud perpetrated at the Crow Agency these newspapers are placed in a very unenviable position, a position that no honest man, and especially a journalist, who is supposed to shape public opinion to some extent would like to occupy. They have resorted to every means, low and contemptible, to sully the good name and blast the reputation of honest men and public spirited citizens, and have signally failed. The odium they would cast upon others has rebounded and covered the instigators with infamy They stand convicted by their own witness as public defamers and unworthy of public confidence. They cannot evade the infamy they have brought upon themselves, or in any manner justify themselves before the people. In endeavoring to ruin others they have destroyed themselves in the eyes of all honest men. "He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

It looks to outside people as if there was a great deal of bosh about this. We have been waiting for some weeks to hear the astounding disclosures of the Virginia City Grand Jury, and now it turns out that it hasn't any disclosures to make of any kind. The fact is, we are not surprised at Judge Blake being mad. The Judge thought he had a big thing, but it seems he hadn't, and the disappointment has come very near breaking his heart.—[Independent.

From the East to the Big Horn.

W. L. D. Morse, who has spent twenty-five years of his life in mining districts in all of the western States and Territories, including in his circuit Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, California, is organizing at Sioux City a company of one hundred picked men, with ample transportation and provisions to subsist the party four months, for the Big Horn country on a prospecting tour.

The Journal says:

"In 1865 this old miner, who was then delving in the diggings in Nevada organized a company of sixteen, exclusive of himself, and started out through the northwestern portion of Utah for the Big Horn Country The company succeeded in getting within about seventy-five or one hundred miles of where they designed to go, when the Indians drove them back and they gave up all hope at that time of getting into the mountains.

During all the years Mr. Morse was mining in the country round about the Big Horn Mountains, he says the old Californians always had an eye on that country, and much as they desired to enter it and prospect for gold, they never found an opportunity on account of the Indians, who appeared to be ever present to turn back all parties that started that way. No company of miners has ever been in the Big Horn Mountains to thoroughly prospect for gold, though a few individuals have, at intervals, succeeded in getting in for a few days at a time, and these always reported very favorably as regards prospects

Whil Mr. Morse does not run down the Black Hills country, he nevertheless gives it as his opinion that three ounces of gold may be found in the Big Horn Mountains to every ounce found in the Black Hills, labor in attaining it being equal. The former country is further west, to people contemplating a trip from the East, but the difference is more than made up, he thinks, by the advantages it possesses over the Hills in the matter of mining prospects.

The "Great Divide" is the title of a new work just out. It treats more particularly of the National Park and surrounding country. We will give at some future time an extended notice of this work The author is the Earl of Dunraven, who it will be remembered paid this country a visit, accompanied by Dr Henry Kingsley, brother of the late Canon of Westminster, and piloted by Texas Jack, of dime novel fame.—[Herald.

Freight Rates

CHICAGO, April 8

The fight in progress between the Iowa pool and the Chicago and Alton railroad over the California business, has been discontinued, and the rates of freight from New York to San Francisco were advanced yesterday.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Special Correspondence of Courier.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1876.

The experience of ages has demonstrated the fact that certain periods of time demand a special or peculiar cognomen to distinguish them, governed in its selection by some trait or feature which renders them remarkable. Thus we have the age of Iron, the age of Bronze, the age of Brass, and many other ages equally deserving of distinctive appellations. So also there are shorter periods marked by the presence of certain events which render them observable. Disastrous floods, frightful conflagrations and direful epidemics have their periods of obtrusion And now among them with almost defiant air stalks in unbridled knavery, clearly marking this as the predominant age of Dishonesty. The student of history, in coming generations, will pause in astonishment when he reaches the pages that record the story of to-day. He will stop to marvel at the multitude of cases involving base degradation in private life, unmitigated dishonesty in high official position and proved hypocrisy in religion. Now while admitting, with deep regret our inability to wholly prevent the recurrence of many of the events alluded to as imparting their characteristics and giving their names to certain periods, still it would appear that to some of them at least a corrective influence might be applied sufficiently powerful to prevent their frequent repetition.

In view of this state of facts the question presents itself whether or not a complete remodeling and reconstruction of the administration of our criminal laws is not only urgently needed but emphatically demanded? The result of numerous criminal trials of paramount importance which in the past few years already demonstrate the fact that our even-handed justice the verdict of a jury is not to be relied upon. A variety of causes may be assigned for the existence of such fact, but a recital of some of the most prominent may suffice for the present. As chief among these the manner in which juries are drawn and impanneled, involving in very many cases the summoning of talesmen, affords fearful opportunities for flagrant wrongs to public justice by open and apparent partiality to the party accused; for it is a fact which no one will deny, that recently numerous verdicts have been rendered whose foundation rested more upon the plethoric purse of the accused than upon any justification he could offer for a violated law The manner in which such results may be readily accomplished may be easily explained, but would require more space than the present article can demand. A few thousand of dollars placed in the hands of a sheriff or his deputy authorized to summon talesmen has often been known to have had a magical and omnipotent effect in the formation of a verdict The existence of a doubt, however remote, is a powerful weapon in the hands of an astute barrister. And juries instead of confining themselves to reasonable, rational, doubt, such as would govern one in the transaction of business of high importance to humanity, but too frequently fly around like to seize a straw that would do no discredit to the imagination of the most accomplished novelist. Again, the tender sympathies of jurymen is frequently but too successfully appealed to when unmindful of the remorseless brutality of the prisoner at the bar oblivious of the deep and unremedial wrongs of his victim and totally ignoring the majesty of the law he has dared to violate, the simple justice of their verdict (sometimes truthfully arrived at) is frequently tempered by a recommendation to mercy. But how are these wrongs to be remedied? May it not be by the entire abolishment of the jury system? Or at least not requiring their verdict to be unanimous, but let it be found by the opinion of the majority. 'Tis true that our Constitution, founded upon Magna Charta and the ballads of Runnymede, expressly provides that every one accused of crime shall be tried by a jury of his peers. To this it may be answered that the Constitution has been more than once altered or amended for purposes of far more questionable propriety. And as for the air of antiquity so urgently claimed for the jury system we may with equal propriety refuse to patronize a railroad, to burn gas or use matches because our forefathers were happy in the use of stage coaches tallow candles and tinder boxes.

Another prolific source of evil, and one that is clearly remediable by legislative action, is the fine drawn distinctions in the rules of evidence, used more frequently by the crafty advocate, to shield the guilty than to protect the innocent. It will not be denied that in both civil and criminal trials evidence is frequently offered which, standing as an independent fact, has overwhelming relation to the case at Bar that its introduction would clear up everything and enable a jury to arrive unerringly at a just and correct conclusion; but the rules of evidence must be obeyed, and the facts offered not being a part of the "res gestae," cannot be admitted. Now, it must seem clear to every candid inquirer that where it is desired to arrive at the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, that all the circumstances and surroundings of the case however remote would simply assist in the accomplishment of such desirable result.

Time and experience has demonstrated the necessity for frequent modifications of the rules of evidence and the works upon that now in use, emanating as they do from such erudite jurists demand the highest respect. But the difficulty seems to be that they have only striven to simplify and reduce what their predecessors had established as indisputable rules of law and the old legal maxim "Debilitat dimentum fatis opus." In conclusion, it seems to be a self-evident proposition that if by a judicious reorganization of our judiciary system punishment certain and speedy must follow the commission of crime, and the ruffian and burglar be taught to know that neither time nor opportunity will be afforded him to call to the aid of friends or accomplices to assist him in evading the consequences of his crime; that legal quibbles are among the things of the past; That juries must and will render a just and conscientious verdict, and that no new trial upon new trial is longer heard of, he will be much less likely than at present to commit an act that is almost certain to consign him to long punishment or other by long incarceration, or the point of the executioner

Congress is now at work upon a bill intended to reform some of the evils spoken of, but the States should also move in this matter.

SAXON.

General Items.

Barley at Mediato, California, is heading out, and will be ready for harvest by May 1st.

By contributing $10 apiece the inhabitants of Greely, Colorado, have a $30,000 school house.

A man in Salem, several days ago, destroyed $30,000 of mortgages which he held against poor people.

At the Mardi Gras pageant in Dallas, Texas, there was a team of 100 Texas oxen drawing a small pine forest on wheels.

Seven Palms, seven miles beyond White Water, is now the terminal station of the Southern Pacific Railroad toward the Colorado.

A banking firm in the City of Mexico has sent to the Centennial a block of pure silver, a foot in diameter and three feet long. It weighs 4,000, and is worth $64,000 in gold.

A man fell down a shaft 150 feet deep at Gold Run, Cal., the other day, and was washed through the big tunnel, a distance of 2,000 feet, yet had life enough to crawl out upon the bank, where he was found dead.

A San Francisco dispatch says: The statement is authorized on semi-official authority that the frauds on the customs amounting to from $5,000,000 to $7,000,000 per year have been perpetrated here.

Additional telegrams from Fort Fetterman state that General Crook's victory over Crazy Horse was complete and that many of the Indians who escaped must starve, as all their provisions, ammunition, etc., was destroyed.

A miner named Munson recently found in the Globe mining district, Arizona, a solid mass of metalic silver ore lying on the surface of the ground and weighing 2,200 pounds. A careful and low assay of it showed it to be almost a mass of pure silver, and worth $20,000 at least.

Black Hills Items.

There are five thousand men in the Hills.

Two are three practical journalists have gone in to the Black Hills with printing material.

Twenty seven females were recently counted on the road from Laramie to Custer City.

Custer City correspondence: "This is the devil's own country. If you have a grain of charity in your soul, send me $25.

A freighter attached a odometer to his wagon wheel before leaving the Black Hills, and the instrument recorded 24½ miles, as the shortest distance between Custer City and Cheyenne.

The Hills are mainly occupied by old miners, who are working very hard They have to thaw out the ground by burning logs, and then gather up the dirt and carry it to water, where they wash it out.

The Black Hills creeks that are paying the largest present are Spring, Rapid, Castle, Dead Wood, White Wood, Sand and Iron Creek. All these creeks are [illegible] and yielding handsome returns. Spring Creek is the "boss."

Omaha Bee, 25: "A very healthy and numerous family arrived at the transfer yesterday en route to the Black Hills The domestic outfit numbers seventeen—father and mother and fifteen children The oldest daughter, an infant of eighteen summers, weighed 211 pounds."

Democratic Delegate for Montana.

W. A. Clark, Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, publishes the following in regard to calling a Territorial Convention:

After consultation with the leading members of the Democratic party, I am persuaded that in view of the uncertainty of obtaining representation for Montana at the St. Louis Convention, that it would be unwise to call a Convention for the purpose of selecting a Delegate. The Territorial Central Committee will make the selection and in due time I will call the members of the Committee together for the purpose. W. A. CLARK.

Ch'n Terr. Dem Cen. Com.

Bayard Taylor is on the editorial staff of the New York Tribune.

There will be thirty-two of the Governments of the world represented at the Centennial, besides our own.

Twenty six persons in Santa Clara county, Cal., own together over one million acres of the best farming land, and 122 persons throughout the State control 6,500 000 acres.

The directory for St. Louis just published shows a population for that city of four hundred and eighty nine thousand, one hundred and eighty two.

Despite the opposition of the Madisonian, Madison county gave a handsome majority for the Railroad Act. That same paper, two years ago chided the Courier with a lack of influence because Gallatin county went in opposition to its views on the capital question.

A Nevada sheepman, who had tried and succeeded with sheep, said: "Sheep are better than a government bond, you can clip off a coupon every six months half as big as the bond, and the bond is left as big as it was."

Wm. Hyde, editor-in-chief of the St. Louis Republican is mentioned in connection with the office of Governor of Missouri. It is hardly probable that he will accept. He is too good an editor and journalistic strategist to throw himself away by diving into the dirty pool of politics.

The St. Joseph Herald has been purchased by a company composed of Col. John Severance, ex-Mayor of St. Joseph, Maj. Jno. T. Clements, W. D. O'Toole, Christ. Mast and Joseph Thompson.

The Herald has held the position as one of the leading newspapers of the Missouri Valley, and will no doubt maintain its position under the new management.

A bill is before Congress to elect postmasters by popular vote instead of appointing them for their competency and fitness. Men with large families, or even of misfortune, would have the best show in such case.

CROOK'S CAMPAIGN.

RETURN OF BIG HORN EXPEDITION.

OVER ONE HUNDRED INDIANS KILLED—CROOK LOSES FOUR MEN.

[Special Telegram to the Leader]

FORT RENO, March 22.
Via FORT, FETTERMAN, March 25.

We arrived here to-day after one of the hardest campaigns ever experienced in the West. We succeeded in breaking up Crazy Horses' band of Cheyenne and Minneconjox; killing more than one hundred Indians, and burning their village, on Little Powder river. An immense amount of ammunition, arms and supplies were stored in the Indian village. Our casualities were as follows: Four men killed and eight wounded. Snow has fallen every day during the campaign and the weather has been intensely cold. The next move will be to strike Sitting Bull, who is supposed to be camped at the mouth of Powder river. Col. Stanton chief of scouts, leaves for Fort Fetterman to-day and will reach there Sunday.

The Times says the Madisonian has sold out to the Indian Ring. We don't believe it. If our information is correct, it has always been in the market, and not finding a purchaser, its editor tried the blackmailing process, which also failed, consequently the Madisonian soured on the Ring, and has indulged its vindictive appetite in scurrillous, lying charges against every one connected with the management of Indian affairs. We cannot imagine what use the Indian Ring could have for the Madisonian. If it had an unlimited amount of hard lying to let out on contract, and scurrillous abuse that common decency would shun to direct against any one, in that event the Ring might throw a few crumbs to the Madisonian to do the dirty work.

We are gratified to note, even at this late day, the interest taken by the Independent in the matter of navigating the Yellowstone. It has suddenly become enthusiastic in the enterprise, and says it "will do more for the prosperity of Montana than all the subsidies we can vote from now to Christmas." In that light the people of Eastern and Southern Montana will regard it in the future, and if some isolated inland towns want a railroad they can build it.

The Times produces a card published by Gen Clapp in the Helena Herald, defending himself against the groundless charges and chronic bickerings of an unreliable newspaper, and takes occasion to apply ugly names and inelegant language to Gen. Clapp. When a newspaper transcends all the bounds of decency, and the editor shows all the instincts of an accomplised blackguard, throwing his dirty epithets, without regard for truth or reason, he is pretty certain to be recognized as a liar on general principles by all respectable people, and if he should accidentally stumble on the truth, no one would believe him. We imagine that Clapp from experience will suffer very little from the vituperative [illegible] of him.

An important amendment to the mining law in regard to obtaining patents for mineral land is before Congress, where it was introduced by Durham of Kentucky, from the Committe on Mines and Mining. As the law now stands, before a person can make entry for mining lands, he must perform $500 worth of labor on the claim, have a surveyor lay off the boundaries, and then do $100 worth of work annually until his patent issues. This new bill proposes to do away with the necessity of expending the $100 a year after the patent has been applied for, all the other provisions of the law having been regularly complied with.—Pioche Journal.

A diabolical attempt was made a few days ago to burn the Sun River House at the crossing. A portion of the rear of the house was saturated with kerosene oil and ignited with matches, but the fire was fortunately discovered by Mr. J. Lemon before it had done any material damage, And it was soon extinguished. The following morning, John Devine, who keeps a brewery at that place, was arrested on suspicion, and after a hearing before Judge Dean, was held to answer in the sum of two thousand dollars. So says a correspondent of the Record.

There is some poetry in farm life after all, what though bad crops, biting and untimely frosts and storms, cut worms and grasshoppers, and hundreds of other hindrances too frequently come to knock the poetry part into fits. There's poetry in the green fields and running waters, the waving grain and growing corn, the plowman's lo hum, as he "drives his team a-field." the upturned sod, the cattle and the sheep, and in the barns well filled when Autumn, the ripened season comes.

A party of Denver men with more time than money are going to walk to the Centennial Exhibition. They expect to do the distance within 90 days.

P. B. Clark's

STAGE AND EXPRESS LINE,

CARRYING THE U. S. MAIL.

Coaches leave Bozeman for Helena daily except Sundays) at 7 a. m.

Coaches leave Bozeman for Virginia Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7 a. m.

Passengers and Freight carried at reasonable rates.

OFFICES.

RICH & WILLSON . Bozeman
DAVIS & WALLACE . Helena
RAYMOND BROS . Virginia

LEA. F. MARSTON,

MANUFACTURING JEWELLER

And Repairer of

Watches and Clocks,

Has permanently located on Main street, in the building formerly used as the Saxerac Saloon, Bozeman, M. T., where he is prepared to do everything in his line and

WARRANTS SATISFACTON.

Special attention given to the manufacture of all kinds of Jewelery from native gold

WATCH WORK A SPECIALTY.

NOTICE.

U. S. INT'L REVENUE

Special Taxes.

MAY 1, 1876, TO APRIL 30, 1877.

The Revised Statutes of the United States, Sections 3232, 3237, 3238 and 3239, require every person engaged in any business, avocation, or employment which renders him liable to a Special Tax TO PROCURE AND PLACE CONSPICUOUSLY IN HIS ESTABLISHMENT OR PLACE OF BUSINESS A STAMP denoting the payment of said Special Tax for the Special Tax Year beginning May 1, 1876, before commencing or continuing business after April 30, 1876. The taxes embraced within the provisions of the law above quoted are the following, viz:

Rectifiers	$200 00
Dealers, retail liquor	25 00
Dealers, wholesale liquor	100 00
Dealers in malt liquors, wholesale	50 00
Dealers in malt liquors, retail	20 00
Dealers in leaf tobacco	25 00
Retail dealers in leaf tobacco, and on sales of over $1,000, fifty cents for every dollar in excess of $1,000.	500 00
Dealers in manufactured tobacco	5 00
Manufacturers of stills	50 00
And for each still manufactured	20 00
And for each worm manufact'd	20 00
Manufacturers of tobacco	10 00
Manufacturers of cigars	10 00
Peddlers of tobacco, first class (more than two horses or other animals)	50 00
Peddlers of tobacco, second class (two horses or other animals)	25 00
Peddlers of tobacco, third class (one horse or other animal)	15 00
Peddlers of tobacco, fourth class (on foot or public conveyance)	10 00
Brewers of less than 500 barrels	50 00
Brewers of 500 barrels or more	100 00

Any person, so liable, who shall fail to comply with the foregoing requirements will be subject to severe penalties.

Persons or firms liable to pay any of the Special Taxes named above must apply to THOMAS P. FULLER, Collector of Internal Revenue at Helena, Montana, and pay for and procure the Special Tax Stamp or Stamps they need, prior to May 1, 1876, and without further notice.

D. D. PRATT,
Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Office of Internal Revenue,
Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1876.

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