

SALUTATORY.

As announced in the issue of last week, with this number we assume the management and publication of the BOZEMAN AVANT COURIER. Had any one ventured the prediction when we first pitched our seven by nine tent, upwards of twelve years ago, on the very spot where the flourishing village of Bozeman now stands, that twelve years hence we would own and be running a new paper, we should have placed the "pilgrim" in the category with "ministers of the gospel, members of the Legislature, idiots, lunatics and other persons of unsound mind." But so it is often in life, the apparent improbabilities of yesterday become the realities of to-day. No one can with any certainty predict how far he may eventually be crowded up the ladder of fate, for "There is a Divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will."

Seriously, owing to a combination of circumstances, not least of which is the earnest solicitations of many friends, we find ourselves occupying the present position, and will take occasion here to say that we will endeavor so to meet the responsibilities and discharge the duties assumed as to merit the expressed confidence of friends and all reasonable expectations of subscribers and patrons of this paper.

In accordance with custom, we deem it proper to indicate in general terms the course proposed to be pursued—politically and otherwise. Politically, we intend it shall be an independent journal, giving both sides a candid and respectful hearing, that it will not be published in the interests of any political party, nor for the benefit of any faction or clique. To us, at least, it is apparent, there are other interests which are paramount to all political interests that can possibly concern us during our present circumstances.

The growth and prosperity of our beautiful village, situated in the very garden spot of the Territory; the further settlement and development, by an enterprising and industrious emigration, of the rich valley of the Gallatin and of the Yellowstone and its tributaries; the development of the rich and inexhaustible mines of Clark's Fork and other tributaries of the Yellowstone; the establishing of a mail route that shall give direct communication with the centers of commerce and swarming populations of the East; the improvement and navigation of the Yellowstone river; the subjugation and removal of the hostile Sioux from our Eastern border, and the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad, are some of the questions which vastly more concern a small and isolated community than any questions of party politics.

Having an abiding faith in the agricultural and grazing resources of Gallatin valley; in Bozeman as the future city of Eastern Montana; in the rich mineral deposits on the tributaries of the Yellowstone; in the incalculable pasture lands of our numerous valleys and foot-hills, we shall constantly endeavor to so reflect these facts from the columns of this paper as to contribute in some degree to the settlement and improvement of Eastern Montana.

In regard to other important questions which may and undoubtedly will interest us, we will briefly say that it will be our aim to be found always on the side of right, taking a decided stand in favor of educational and school interests; of law, order and good morals; of a rigid economy in the management of our country and Territorial finances, and of the best and most competent men for offices of public trust, without regard to political antecedents.

In entering this to us new and untried field of labor, we are not unmindful of the fact that our inexperience and possible incompetency may mitigate against our success. However, as we have assurances of competent help in the editorial department, which we will not hesitate to bring into requisition when necessary, and probably associate with us at no distant day, the public may rest assured that, in any event, we shall not fail to furnish a LIVE, NEWSY, readable and respectable paper, if energy, enterprise, honest talent and a decent respect for the rights, feelings, and reputations of others, can accomplish the work.

We trust that severe criticism by the people, but especially by the Territorial press, may be held somewhat in abeyance while we are new and inexperienced in the business. Like a certain dairy product, we hope the people may improve and get sharper with age, provided the vitality is not utterly crushed out of it by the press at a time when it is passing through a preparatory process for the "editor's table."

W. W. ALDERSON.

WIND RIVER.

The Claymont Leader states that Barney Hughes, one of the discoverers of Alder Gulch, and two others, "have found ten dollar diggings on the upper Big Wind River. 15 miles south of the United States government graded wagon road which leads from Camp Brown to the Yellowstone National Park. The diggings are 120 miles from Lander city, and about 150 from Franklin, Idaho, and the camp of the finders is about the southern boundary of the Park at the eastern base of the Two Ocean pass. The discoverers report an abundance of gold everywhere throughout a basin 30 miles in extent. The only drawback is the depth to bedrock. The formation of the country is granite, black slate and porphyry, with basins of washed deposit. There is abundance of water, grass, game and fish. Grizzlies are numerous, and the buffalo winter in that vicinity. The Wind River valley, just east of Ball Lake, is a fine agricultural country, and the river bottom is not simply fringed with trees like most western streams, but is heavily timbered. The camp is called "Hawcock."

This report would appear to support the theory of our own prospectors and many army officers regarding the superior future of the Wind River region; and, if true, can but result in benefit to Eastern Montana.

RAILROADS.

Our legislative solons must be driving about the "last spike," as they have been working industriously on railroads for several weeks past. We suggest a rest—a holiday vacation, or even a lunatic asylum for a change, and let it be located at Bozeman, by all means. We have several suitable subjects already and anticipate a large increase (to our population) next season.

The Territorial Legislature is very much mistaken in the temper of the people of Montana if it acts on the presumption that they will submit to an oppressive tax for the subsidizing of any narrow gauge road 400 to 500 miles in length, constructed in great part outside of the Territorial limits, over the highest ranges on the continent, and where it would be impossible to operate it more than six to seven months in the year. If compelled to relinquish the Northern Pacific, and we must have railroad connection with the Union Pacific, let it be with the most sensible, practical and natural route. With a liberal subsidy we can obtain a branch, broad gauge road from Cheyenne to the center of the Territory, which would be worth more to us than half a dozen narrow gauge roads from any or all directions. Let us not act as the foolish man, who, discovering that a powerful horse was indispensable in his business, but lacking the means to purchase, determined to compromise with himself by buying a dog. Would it not be well to interview a few of the citizens and business men on the line and at the present terminus of the Utah Northern. They regard the road as almost an intolerable nuisance, and wish a thousand times the "dog were dead."

SUNDAY CLOSING.

A petition to the Legislature asking enactment of a law obligating the closing of all places where spirituous liquors are sold or given away upon Sunday, has lately been in circulation for signature.

While not personally opposed to the closing of saloons upon Sunday, nor opposed to the sacred claims of the day, we at the same time counsel care over any steps looking toward special legislation of any kind.

All men need one day in seven for rest, for home duties, for mental recreation, for religious interests. The master needs it, the clerk needs it, it is the actual right of all classes. On this account it is not necessary to place the matter upon a religious basis; the moment that is done the difficulties begin. The subject once approached upon sanitary grounds it would seem possible to gain, in time, unanimous support for the proposition.

The fact is, common sense demands a law closing all business houses upon the Sabbath, not wholly because it is the Sabbath, but because it is the day of rest adopted by a majority of our people, and consequently, the day most available to the law. If the Jew object, because the Sabbath is not his Sabbath, he is at liberty to observe the sixth day; so with the 7th day Baptists, or any dissenters, and while we admit the selection of Sunday by the law would cause a business loss of two days to a portion of the population, yet it would prove so to a small portion and would result in less revolution in custom than the selection of any other day.

But to the case particularly in point: It is proposed to close all places that sell or give away intoxicating drinks.

Now apply this to Bozeman, for example: The law would close Ellis & Davis, who do sell liquors, and open J. B. & J. V. Bogert, who do not sell liquors. Would that be right? Surely not. It would close Straesberger & Spurling and Binnett, and give a special charter to Rich & Wilson and Lumme & Co., and May and Basinski. Would that be right? Surely not. It should, then, be plain to us all that if one place of business is to be closed by law, all places should be, and in justice must be.

We may admit that order and quiet demand the suspension on Sunday of all saloons—the prejudices (if you please) and the religious belief of most of us demand it—but saloons are licensed by law and an enactment which discriminates against saloons (which pursue a legal calling) would be unjust until brought to bear against business of each and every kind.

HAYS' BILL.

Hon. W. C. P. Hays has introduced "An act to encourage the construction of a Railroad from the head of navigation on the Yellowstone river to the Eastern boundary of Deer Lodge County"—which we are unable to re-produce in full, but the salient features of which are:

1st. That for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from the head of navigation on the Yellowstone river, thence westerly in the direction of the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad survey, a distance of three hundred miles, the sum of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars is hereby contributed by the Territory of Montana, to be paid in the coupon bonds of said Territory, in the manner and on the terms provided in this Act.

2d. Such railroad shall be built from any point on the Yellowstone river above the mouth of Big Horn river, selected as the head of navigation, from thence on the shortest and most practical route in a westerly direction as far as the eastern boundary of Deer Lodge county, or a distance of three hundred miles—of a gauge not more nor less than that of the Northern Pacific railroad—an engine and cars shall pass over the entire distance of three hundred miles within three years from the first day of July, A. D. 1877.

3d. Said railroad shall be constructed by the company, in three sections of one hundred miles each, and extend westerly on the most practical route for a through route to the Columbia river.

4th. The bonds secured shall be 20 per cent on a \$1,000 coupon bond of the Territory of Montana, payable at the city of New York, twenty-five years from date of issue, and redeemable at any time after ten years from date, at the pleasure of said Territory.

5th. No bonds shall be issued until there shall have been constructed and equipped twenty miles of said railroad beginning at said point on the Yellowstone river, when the Governor shall designate three commissioners, citizens of the Territory who shall go, at expense of

RAILROADS.

said company, and examine and measure said section and report result.

6th. Bonds shall then issue to the amount of three thousand dollars per mile for said twenty miles.

7th. And thereafter upon completion of a division of twenty miles bonds shall issue, and upon completion of one hundred miles bonds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars shall issue, and so on until completion of the agreement.

8th. The County commissioners of the several counties shall from time to time levy a special tax, as other taxes are now levied, to pay the annual interest to accrue upon the bonds and to provide for the final payment of said bonds, unless hereafter otherwise provided for.

9th. That the Northern Pacific railroad company shall have preference over any other company, corporation or association of persons, in the benefits proposed if it files its acceptance on or before the fifteenth day of April next—it to have until the fifteenth day of June next to commence the work. If it fail to accept of said terms, or if accepting, fail to commence said work, then any other responsible company may accept the terms of this Act, in case any other company accept, they shall commence said work on or before the fifteenth day of August next, otherwise their acceptance and this Act shall be null and void.

10th. The Territory shall have the right to levy ad valorem taxes upon the property of such railroad company within said Territory, as taxes are levied upon other property and for the same purposes, but as Territorial taxes only.

Latest News.

[Reported expressly for the AVANT COURIER.]

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1876.—Electoral Commission, which met this morning at 10 o'clock, is still in secret session.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7, 1877, 3 p. m.—Electoral Commission by vote of eight to seven decided that the Commission cannot go behind the returns, but can inquire into ineligibility of Presidential electors.

MILITARY MATTERS.

Maj. Bonham has gone to the Crow Agency to inspect the flour lately purchased for Indian issue.

An order has been received at Ellis detailing an additional officer to the Flathead Agency. Lt. Schofield has been selected and left on Tuesday.

On Friday last the vanguard of the Snake River survey party reached the Post, via Virginia City.

Target practice is now the daily order at Ellis, in preparation for the spring campaign into the Sioux country.

Chas. W. Hoffman, lately appointed Post Trader, has received his appointment.

It is rumored that the cavalry will soon be recalled from Flathead Agency, and Capt. Browning's company of the 7th Infantry sent there from Fort Shaw.

It is rumored that the Fort Ellis command will be encamped as low down as the New Agency within six weeks—it may be as the result of Gen. Brisson's late rumored request for permission to commence an offensive movement by March 15th, or of Gen. Miles' reported wish for presence at Tongue River of the Montana Cavalry.

The strength of the organized militia force of the United States, says the Dakotaian, according to the latest returns received at the Adjutant General's office, is 60,447, consisting of 115 general officers, 895 general staff officers, 1,175 regimental field and staff officers, 4,356 company officers, and 82,833 non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates. The number of men available for military duty is returned at 2,875,469, being 826,508 less than the number reported last year.

Ford's resolution providing against subsidy for railroads built outside the Territory received 5 ayes and 8 noes—Hays and McAdow voting for the resolution.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Tilden's friends say he never reads the ugly things said about him—ditto Grant. But it is stated Hendricks and Wheeler read all such things and sat up nights cogitating revenge.

5000 New York ladies agreed not to offer wine to callers on New Year's Day, but somebody caught at least 5000 fashionable young men clinging to lamp-posts before noon.

The nation thinks it "unwise to bring in so many judges when the Chief Justice might by casting a vote do all that Congress cannot do." But it is not establishing a dangerous precedent when the court handles the matter at all? Will not one half the people revise the court, no matter how honest it may act in a political affair?

Precious Metals Hauled In Omaha.

[From The Omaha Republican.] There was received of the precious metals at Omaha, during 1876, over \$60,000,000 in value of gold and silver. Of this vast aggregate, \$27,000,000 was silver bullion hauled by express, besides a large quantity sent by freight. The gold product hauled here was \$35,000,000, an increase of twelve per cent. over 1875. The product of \$60,000,000 includes that of the Omaha smelting works, which was over \$5,000,000. The \$27,000,000 of silver includes \$10,000,000 of coin, and of this about \$5,000,000 returned from the East for our trans-Missouri country and the Pacific coast region. The Black Hills gold dust product amounted to \$2,000,000.

Bennett Jr., manages the business of the New York Herald, and does so with tact, enterprise and skill. Each evening the net proceeds of the day's business are locked in the safe, and Bennett goes to bed, knowing first how much better off he is at night than he was in the morning.

Recent revolutions are lessening the old idea of Europe regarding the power of Russia. Her expansion has been obtained at a cost, it is stated, which threatens her with bankruptcy, and her interference would seem only to associate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Deadwood City, is about the size of the Virginia City of 1866; when Adobetown, Central and Virginia proper were connected with a continuous line of houses and stores. Deadwood City proper, at the mouth of the gulch, in reality includes Gayville, Central City, Golden Gate and Anchor City, the last named being 44 miles above the mouth of the gulch.

Golden Gate is the scene of intense excitement on account of the discovery of remarkably rich placer mines. On the 30th of December "town lots" in any quantity could be taken up by the mere payment of a recording fee, but on the 10th inst. all were taken up and selling at from \$150 to \$300, while one 30x50 lot with a shell of a house, but centrally located, sold for \$600 in bankable dust. Bed-rock in the vicinity of Golden Gate is very deep, and the claims had not been prospected until winter set in, and bed rock was not struck until the 21st of January, when "big paying dirt" was found. All the claims from Anchor City to Gayville are supposed to contain good paying dirt, and all will be worked in the Spring.

Two quartz mills are running at Golden Gate, and one of these cleaned up on the 12th inst. after a 30 days' run, obtaining \$43,000. Though the mine from which this ore was obtained is but slightly developed, an offer of \$300,000 cash, from a Chicago company of capitalists, was refused for it on the 10th inst.

Within a mile and a half of Golden Gate the richest quartz mines yet discovered in the Hills have been found, and in consequence Golden Gate looks into importance.

If one half of the leads which have been found within a radius of 12 miles from Deadwood prove one third as rich as experts have pronounced them, there is not the slightest doubt in the world that within a circle 75 miles in circumference lies the richest gold country on the globe.

About four miles from Deadwood is another little town recently organized called Lead City, the site of which is honey combed and surrounded by veins of quartz, many very rich and others of ordinary and poor quality. Two large mines are between Deadwood and Cheyenne bound for this camp, and on their arrival will be set up and work commenced.

The writer of the letter from which your correspondent obtained the substance of the above, expresses his belief that the placer mines will produce during the coming season full twice as much gold as they did last. It is his impression that the pay streak in Deadwood gulch is narrower than those in the other gulches, and that it will be pretty well worked out during the next season.

White wood gulch extends Deadwood gulch at Deadwood City, is full of "good wash" diggings and contains some very rich ground.

Trades are very dull everywhere and some articles of food are very high; potatoes for example, are 20 cents per pound. Most of those who made big money last summer, when winter came, went home to spend the winter, and those who remained who raised their "spend" as more than sufficient for " grub."

For the three weeks preceding January 12, it snowed regularly every night, and on the 12th the snow was 32 inches on a level and the thermometer at 5 a. m., indicated 40° below zero.

Jim. Whitaker's going to the Hills in the spring with the intention of operating in quartz.

Sol Star has an immense stock of goods, and the other Deadwood merchants all have large stocks on hand.

The sentence of McCall, Wild Bill's murderer, has cooled down the desperate portion of the population, and the city is quiet and orderly. WATCHMAN.

[Our correspondent may be correct in his Deadwood anticipations—but we by no means feel encouraged to emigrate to Black Hills is not (if so conclusive that one can rightfully advise another even to "go and see."—ED. COURIER.]

News Items.

The New York Chamber of Commerce favors silver coin as the legal standard of the United States.

Over \$1,000,000 of counterfeit currency were lately destroyed in Washington.

The Nez Perce Chief Joseph has been ordered to the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho, or force will be employed to that end.

The late dispatch asserting the exhaustion of the Comstock mines are pronounced bogus. They indicate an attempt to freeze out.

Changes in location of troops are rumored with reference to the Spring Indian campaign.

A suit has been commenced against Tilden for \$15,000, unpaid income taxes.

California capitalists have transferred \$20,000,000 to Wall St. operations.

Alexander Stephens is reported dying.

The London Times reports the whole region from Dan to Bessarabia crowded with immigrant Jews from all parts of the world. A Jewish republic in Palestine is fore-adopted.

McDonald, of whisky fraud fame, is pardoned.

Artillery has been ordered to fortress Monroe.

Numerous petitions favoring female suffrage have been presented to Congress.

Judge Carpenter decides that neither Chamberlain or Hampton were legally inaugurated—thus Chamberlain holds over.

Garfield and Hoar are the Republican members of the Electoral Commission on the House branch. Evaris, Matthews and Stoughton act as Republican Counsel, and Black, Carpenter and Stoughton as Democratic. Edwards, Morton and Frelinghuysen are the Republican members of the S. State branch, and Thurman and Bayard represent the Democrats.

The President approved the Bill on the 29th ult.

Judge Bradley is the Chief Justice selected upon the reading of the certificates, Arkansas, Alabama, Connecticut and Delaware were passed for Tilden and Hendricks, and California and Colorado for Hayes and Wheeler—Florida was rejected, when the Democrats objected.

Directory of Federal and Territorial Officers of Montana.

Delegates in Congress, Hon. MARTIN MAGNIN, Helena. Office. Name. Residence. Governor.....J. F. POITTS.....Helena Secretary.....J. E. CALLAWAY.....Helena Chief Justice.....D. S. WADE.....Helena Associate Justices.....H. N. BLAKE, Va. City HENRY KNOWLES, Deer Lodge U. S. Dist. Atty.....M. C. PAGE.....Helena U. S. Marshal.....W. F. WHEELER.....Helena

Territorial District Officers. 1st Dist., J. G. SPRATT.....Virginia City 2d Dist., J. K. TOOLE.....Helena 3d Dist., A. H. MAYHEW.....Deer Lodge Clerk 1st Dist. Court, T. MUFFLY, Virginia City Clerk 2d Dist. Court, O. B. O'BANNON, Deer Lodge Clerk 3d Dist. Court, A. H. BEATTIE, Helena

Surveyor General, A. J. SMITH.....Helena Register Land Office, J. H. MOE.....Helena Receiver Land Office, F. P. STERLING, Helena Collector Internal Revenue, T. P. FULLER, Helena Collector Customs, T. A. CUMMINGS, Helena

Bozeman Land District. Register, D. WILSON.....Bozeman Receiver, J. V. BOGERT.....Bozeman

United States Assay Office. Superintendent of Construction United States Assay Office, M. A. MEYER, DORFF, Helena; Disbursing Agent, T. P. FULLER, Helena; Clerk, R. C. WALKER, Helena.

United States Commissioners. GEORGE CLENDENIN, Jr., Carroll. JAMES M. ARNOUX, Benton. ISAAC R. ALDEN, Helena. JOSEPH J. WILLIAMS, Helena. T. MUFFLY, Virginia City. W. P. BURCHER, San River. GEORGE F. COWAN, Lead. RABURG. JOHN POTTER, Hamilton. GEORGE W. IRVING, 3d. Deer Lodge. FRANK H. O'BANNON, Deer Lodge. FRANK H. WOODY, Missoula.

Territorial Officers. Auditor, D. H. CUTHBERT.....Helena Treasurer, D. H. WESTON.....Helena Warden of Penitentiary, J. M. FISHER, Deer Lodge. Sup't Pub. Schools, C. HEDGES, Helena. Supreme Court Reporter, C. HEDGES, Helena. Clerk Supreme Court, ISAAC R. ALDEN, Helena

United States Examining Surgeon. THOMAS REECE.....Helena

Registers in Bankruptcy. CLARENCE EWING, 31 Dist., Helena. THEOPHILUS MUFFLY, Va. City.

Bozeman, M. T., February 8, 1877.

JULIUS BASINSKI,

BOZEMAN, M. T., Invites attention of the public in general to his large and elegant stock of

Fashionable Clothing. Great Furnishing Goods. Hats, Caps. Trunks, Valises. Stationery. Candles. Nuts. Cigars and Tobacco.

Musical Instruments, Strings, Chromas, Mouldings, Frames, Field Glasses, Cutlery, Pistols, Ammunition, School Books, Novels.

On all of which prices have been greatly reduced.

REPORT

Of the Condition of the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOZEMAN.

At Bozeman, in the Territory of Montana, at the Close of Business, January 20, 1877.

RESOURCES. Loans and discounts.....\$38,832 47 Overdrafts.....6,077 19 U. S. Bonds to secure circulation 50,000 00 U. S. Bonds to secure deposits.....50,000 00 Other stocks, bonds and mortgages.....5,145 12

Due from approved reserve agents 998 60 Due from other National Banks 2181 32 Real estate, furniture, & fixtures 6,550 00 Current expenses and taxes paid 413 87 Premiums paid.....14,000 00 Checks and other cash items 189 95 Bills of other Banks.....1,635 00 Fractional currency (including nickel).....70 27 Specie (including gold Treasury certificates).....16 00 Legal-tender notes.....10,000 00 Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent. of circulation).....2,350 00

TOTAL.....\$201,949 79

LIABILITIES. Capital stock paid in.....\$ 50,000 00 Surplus fund.....0 00 Undivided profits.....1,051 87 National Bank notes outstanding 45,000 00 Dividends unpaid.....100 00 Individual deposits subject to check.....\$31,659 09 Demand certificates of deposit.....2,360 00 Time certificates of deposit.....34,172 34 57,534 43 United States deposits.....21,138 40 Deposits of U. S. disbursing officers.....31,145 00

TOTAL.....\$201,949 79

Territory of Montana, County of Gallatin, ss. I, JAMES G. DOW, Cashier of the above named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JAMES G. DOW, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of February, 1877.

A. D. McPHERSON, Probate Judge.

CORRECT—Attest: J. S. MENDENHALL, W. W. ALDERSON, W. H. MARTIN, Directors.

\$5 TO \$20 Per Day at Home. New York for Pamphlet 100 pages containing lists of 8,000 newspapers, and estimates showing the cost of advertising.

12 DOLLARS A DAY at home. Agents wanted. Outfit and terms free. TREE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

DEALERS IN FANCY DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES, GROCERIES, LIQUORS, TIN-WARE, &C.

All of which will be sold at the Lowest Market Prices. Cash Paid for all kinds of Hides and Furs. All kinds of Produce Taken in Exchange.

Agents for Singer and Howe Sewing Machines.

Bozeman, M. T., February 8, 1877.

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