

THE AVANT COURIER.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

J. V. BOGERT, Associate Editor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1877.

EDITORIAL.

With its present issue I formally assume the editorial charge of the AVANT COURIER.

Appreciating the responsibility of such a position, and not claiming requisite experience or ability, I, at the same time, by entire devotion of time and energy to the duties imposed, hope to produce a journal which must prove a necessity at least to the County.

The COURIER will be independent in politics and true to the interests of the Territory—fairly, squarely so. It is the desire of both proprietor and editors to publish a paper which must appeal to the respectful, earnest support of all, and with that end in view, a consistent, conscientious effort will be made, apart from any connection whatever with any except the general public interest.

As associate-editor, I ask the co-operation of any (which should be all) desiring the substantial establishment in Gallatin County of a journal devoted to the best interests of Montana in general and Eastern Montana in particular.

J. V. BOGERT.

THE COUNT.

Louisiana has been counted for Hayes and Wheeler. Also Minnesota, Nebraska, Maine, Massachusetts.

Mississippi and Maryland for Tilden and Hendricks.

Oregon was passed for Hayes and Wheeler—as per telegram.

CHICAGO, February 23.—A Washington special says: Thurman is sick and the Commission has gone to his house to hold the vote. An informal ballot just before starting, resulted in 7 to 6 in favor of counting the vote of Oregon for Hayes.

Edmunds, in courtesy to Thurman, refrained from voting.

LATER.—It is believed that the Commission has decided by a vote of 8 to 7 to count the vote of Oregon for Hayes.

NORTH AND SOUTH ROAD.

FORT ELLIS, MONT., February 21, 1877.

I have read all your editorials on the subject of railroads, as well as your comments on my letter to Mr. McAdow. Your expressed wish in the two last issues of the COURIER that I should write more about railroads, considering that it comes from an opponent to my views, is, certainly very complimentary, and I thank you for your courtesy.

You must not fall into the error of supposing, because I advocate the building of the North and South road from Franklin to Pipestone, that I am necessarily hostile to the Northern Pacific. No sir, on the contrary, I am a friend of the Pacific road, and most strongly in favor of its early completion.

What I wanted to say, and what I thought I did say, was that the people of Montana could not hasten the building of the Pacific line, but could secure a narrow gauge, and through it an outlet to the great East. The place to secure aid for the Northern Pacific, in my opinion, is not from the Legislature of a young, undeveloped and sparsely settled Territory, but from the Congress of the United States, representing 49,000,000 of people. The senseless cry raised against subsidizing railroads in the Great West is passing away, and a new era of railroad construction will soon begin that will completely develop every part of our country.

The nation never made a better investment than when it subsidized, and secured the building of the Union Pacific road. Even should it not receive back one cent of the principal or interest on its bonds, still the road is cheap. Does any one believe that Colorado, Wyoming or Utah would have been developed in the next fifty years if it had not been for the Union Pacific railroad? In counting the benefit of such an enterprise we must add together all the federal taxes gathered from ninety-seven cities and towns, two hundred mines, and more than a thousand farms along the line of this road. Does any one believe that these towns would have been built, mines opened, and farms tilled if the road had not been constructed? Certainly every one who is at all familiar with the history of the West knows better.

After all the hue and cry against the great middle trans-continental line, it has in ten years developed for the Government property on which the levied tax is equal to the interest of all its bonds. Nor is this all; the road, from a feeble beginning and a patronage not equal to its running expenses, has now a business revenue sufficient to pay all its expenses, and turn over from \$500,000 to \$750,000 per year—a sinking fund to take up and cancel its interest bonds. Every dollar of its indebtedness to the Government will ultimately be paid, principal and interest, and the time is not far distant when its stock will be sought after as an investment for profit from dividends.

A road that can increase its freight trade 25 per cent. per annum need not have any fears of the future. I sincerely believe that since the Louisiana purchase no such wise investment was ever made by the Government of the United States as when it subsidized a trans-continental line of railroad.

The history of the past gives me great hope for the future development of our land. We can have no better lamp to guide our feet than the lamp of experience, and, if it teaches anything, it tells us to go on and build, not one, but three lines of railroad across the continent. Ten years more and the Central, the Northern and Southern Pacific roads will be built, tied at the ends, and looped in the middle. Then throughout the length and breadth of the land that struggles in the grasp of two mighty oceans, there will be an interchange of products, and a union of interests, as well as of hearts and hands. This is the national network, and that it will be completed I have no doubt. Let us wait as patiently as we can for that good time.

By living, as I do, I cannot see that it is the duty of your people to help build the

THE SIOUX.

Exciting News from Crow Agency.

Two Thousand Lodges Approaching It.

The following letter was received here on Tuesday from the Agency by special courier.

CROW AGENCY, Feb. 25, 1877.

MAJOR CARPENTER, Crow Agt.

This morning Bear Wolf brought word that 2000 lodges Sioux (actual count) are between the Big and the Little Horn, near Fort Smith, and coming this way. They are now about 110 miles from here. Bear Wolf's Crow camp is retreating to this point as rapidly as it can march, and the Crows now here are in a terrible state of excitement. Iron Bull's Crow camp will be in to-morrow. A dispatch will be sent by the courier who carries this, to Gen. Brislin, commanding Fort Ellis.

LATER.

The Sioux camp is 20 miles long. The Crows were following a party of Sioux for their horses, and they came upon the mentioned camp unexpectedly. This Crow party consists of Bear Wolf, Bear in the water, Evening Hawk and fifty hunters. I am writing as the interpreter delivers it from Bear Wolf, who thinks the remainder of his party were killed by the Sioux, as they have disappeared. Bear Wolf brought in Sioux horses captured at the time, and a white man who was with him substantiates his story.

The Crows are anxious to go with troops to attack the camp, and have sent to Gen. Brislin asking such aid.

Upon arrival of the above we visited the Post, and were favored with the following:

CROW AGENCY Feb. 25, 1877.

GEN. BRISLIN.

Stn: Reliable word reaches us to effect that the main Sioux camp is 15 to 20 miles from Fort Smith upon the old road, and extends 20 miles to the mountains. The Crow party captured about 100 Sioux ponies. The Crows who have not appeared here have not been seen since the party crossed Pryor's creek—probably killed.

This Agency is but 110 miles from the camp. Blackfoot thinks the report correct—the capture of ponies reports the meeting of the two tribes.

The Crows here wish to attack the Sioux on the Big Grass Lodge, where the main camp is located. The Sioux have no lodges; merely brush tents.

I am satisfied the camp is moving this way.

A party of River Crow Chiefs is now at the post, to urge immediate preparation for a movement.

Major Carpenter's telegraphed report asking stationing of a Cavalry Co. at the Agency, and Gen. Brislin has reported the matter as above given.

As we go to press the situation is being considered at the Post, and the Telegraph is in requisition.

The Library Bill Veto.

MONTANA TERRITORY, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Helia, February 9, 1877.

To the House of Representatives:—I have the honor to return to the House of Representatives, House Bill No. 10, entitled, "An Act relative to the Territorial Library," without my approval.

Section 6 of the bill provides that the Clerk of the Supreme Court shall receive for his services, under this bill, an annual salary of \$400; but I cannot find any provision in the bill authorizing the payment of the salary from any treasury.

I do not think that it can be seriously claimed that the Territorial Auditor, under the present law defining his duties, would be authorized to draw his warrant on the Territorial Treasury for the salary prescribed in the bill.

I do not suppose it was the intention of the Legislature to impose the duties of a Territorial officer upon the Clerk of the Supreme Court without compensation, but I cannot believe he can receive any compensation from the Territory under the bill, should it become a law. I also object to the bill because it attempts to give a Territorial officer in a manner not authorized by the Organic Act. The bill attempts to pay a salary of \$400 to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for his services in charge of the Territorial Library, as Librarian, he is required to give bond to the Territory. This officer is designated fifteen times in the bill as Librarian, and as Clerk of the Supreme Court, twice only.

The office of Librarian has, since its creation, been regarded as a Territorial office, and its duties were discharged by a Territorial officer, and as it is not a township, county or district office, it can only be legally filled by the appointment of the Governor and confirmation by the Legislative Council. The Territorial Auditor has been ex-officio Librarian ever since the office was created, and why a part of the duties of the Auditor should be imposed on another at a greater expense to the Territory, when the present incumbent is a gentleman in every way competent, I can not comprehend.

The Territorial Auditor or Treasurer can perform the duties of Librarian without an increase of salary, and the additional cost of lights, fuel, rent, etc., will be trifling. It is, especially capable of demonstration that if the Librarian is placed in charge of the Territorial Auditor or Treasurer, it will cost the Territory from \$300 to \$1,000 less than if it is placed in charge of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, if the designs of the framers of the bill are carried out.

The Library will certainly be as safe and well managed by either of the officers above named, as by the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The duties of either of said officers, now enjoined upon them by law, are not such as to prevent either of them from discharging the duties of Librarian in the most efficient manner. In the present financial condition of the Territory, I cannot consent to an increase of expenditure, if it can be avoided. I respectfully ask that the Legislative Assembly reconsider its action on this bill.

Respectfully, E. F. POTTS.

Military matters.

Pay Master Stanton is on the way to the Crow Agency, to pay off the Crows who accompanied Major Randall to Jocko Creek.

It is rumored that the companies of the 7th Infantry now at Ellis will soon be replaced by Capt. Combs's company, of same regiment.

A reported report reaches us, that Capt. Browning's company, 7th Infantry, will relieve the 2d Cavalry detachment now at the Jocko Agency.

Major Randall rescued the Wolf Mountain prospectors at Fort Phil Kearney, where they had taken refuge after a starvation retreat of 120 miles from a body of warpath Sioux. They had camped in the heart of the mountains, prospecting when attacked, being their animals and men, but what they had upon them.

Military parades were forbidden by Presidential order at Columbus on the 22d. Hampton acquiesced, but protest

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY.

That Front Gate.

"Henry," said I, "Henry, why, in the name of thunder and lightning, don't you fix that infernal gate? I've spoken to you about it 1000 times!"

You see, I was mad. Month after month that gate had refused to open until you had kicked the toes off your boots in the attempt to get in; and month after month had it declined to let you out without causing an amount and variety of profanity disagreeable to a father and shocking to the neighbors. I'd spoken times untold to Henry, but that boy is as useless as a bump on a log. Thank Heaven he's only my step-son. I'll have a son of my own yet, and then I'll show you what a son should be.

"I hate'time, Pop," said he, as he pronounced "Pop" with a snarl.

"Don't call me Pop!" said I, as I jumped for him and he dodged into the kitchen. "Don't Pop me, you useless cur, but have that gate fixed by the time I come home, or you'll catch it, that's all!"

"No he won't, either, Venusius!" screamed Maria (Maria's my wife, you know)—"No he won't; he's not the person to fix the gate—fix it the gate you've spent half the time at the gate you've spent talking and swearing about it and disgusting everybody within reach of your voice, the gate would have been all right long ago!"

Now, what's the use jabbering with your wife, especially if she's got an alien son? No use at all—I gulped my dinner, wished to Heaven I had my life to live over, and slammed the door behind me just in time to grab that boy by the ear as he tried to dodge around the house.

"Henry!" I hissed, "You have that gate fixed by six o'clock, or I'll skin you—mark my words!"

It's my firm opinion that if I lived happier at home one or two saloons would shut up shop. But, when one is barged day in and day out and finds his wife siding against him and his orders ignored, he can enjoy home? Certainly not. So I cogitated as I turned the corner and stepped in at Smith's, and got something on my way to the store. And as I continued down street there hopped that boy with a crowd of others off for a bill match—the last of the gate, thought I, but if I don't wax him it'll be because that gate's fixed.

At six o'clock I set up and cut a club from the wood-pile as I neared that gate. It wouldn't open! I'm glad you didn't see me, as I tugged at that gate and braced myself against the post and worked the latch up and down and pulled and pushed and yanked and kicked and cursed and swore. I hope I may never see a steamboat if Maria didn't walk out and slam the storm-door without a word! The thing was bad enough without that; but when you have given explicit orders and have been at your business working your self to death for your family, only to return worn out to find yours if defied, who wouldn't swear?

Of course I wouldn't care to say here just what I said there; but I stick to what I said. I consider it justifiable, and the old gentleman next door, who came out and said a father should be ashamed to swear in that way, and he'd pay me to move off, for he was tired of it, never was tried as I am tried.

"Attend to your own affairs," I shrieked as I planted my back to that gate and gave the post, and not the gate, a tremendous lunge with my heel and me rily paralyzed my right side.

"Go in the house, you meddling old fool! This is my place, and I'll do as I please!" I wish I dared to add all I said—and then his son came out and made for me, and just as I gave a final lunge at the gate and delivered it one desperate kick with both feet at the same time they caught between the cursed palings and over I went backward in the mud.

I don't think I'll tell what occurred between me and that young man from next door—it isn't relevant to the subject. But I wasn't well when he threw me over the gate, and I didn't feel right when I picked myself off the latch and left the seat of my pants on the palings.

Now, you know, there are times when a man forgets himself. I don't think I often do; but when Maria wouldn't speak to me, and that boy stunk out as I sneaked in, and there was nothing to indicate even an attempt to fix that gate, I got mad and rushed out and I swore I'd open that gate if I had to fight the whole street.

It wouldn't open—it didn't open. I yanked it to the left, to the right, and crosswise—I hauled and screwed and shook—I sat on it, hung to it, lay by it—first slow, then fast; and easy and hard; and then I hit it with the club and rushed at it, and smashed in the palings and knocked off the hinges and was whacked in the nose by the flying latch as I retreated in a shower of demoralized nails, and splinters enough to stock a match factory.

That gate cost \$12, but I felt better. You may not understand it, but I do. I gathered up that gate, and I'll take my solemn oath that house was red-hot while that gate made soap-shoes.

The thing did good. Maria slinks about without saying a word about a new gate, and, thanks to boarding schools, that boy, Henry, couldn't fix the gate now if he wanted to.

VEVUUS.

The Indian.

The Indian bill as reported from the Senate committee is increased \$633,000 over the total sanctioned by the house, which was \$4,432,000. The principal items of increase are as follows: Two hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars for the Sioux Indians, various tribes, \$25,000 for Sioux at Fort Peck agency; \$43,000 for the Osages, \$15,000 for the support of schools.

A Deadwood special of the 17th says: Last night the Indians ran off about 200 head of cattle from Spearfish, belonging to Boughton of Chayenne. An armed force of 20 men left here about midnight to try to recapture them. Two men came in this morning, and reported the Indians drove them from their work about a mile from Deadwood. To meet the emergency General Crook has ordered from Camp Robinson two more companies of cavalry in addition to the one already on the way here.

A Deadwood despatch of the 21st says: Co. C, of the 4th United States cavalry, under command of Lieutenant J. P. Cummings, arrived here this evening. Two other companies are on the way. The of Congress will be necessary.

party that went in pursuit of the Indians who ran off the stock in the vicinity of Spearfish, returned having recaptured about 150 head of the stolen stock. They report an Indian village of thirty lodges located on the Belle Fourche river. Lieut. Cummings expects to leave here early tomorrow morning to attack this village.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor COURIER:

While on a business trip to Willow Creek last week your correspondent tried his hand at canyassing. The enclosed list of subscriptions must either testify to your, or his success. It was his persistence, or your ability to spread ink that accomplished the work. Credit of course must be given to the highest order of talent. Suffice it to say, that every where the COURIER was kindly spoken of in its new character and management. One farmer remarked that the last number contained more information than the entire numbers for three months previous; and that he should continue to take it. We only met with one gentle, out and out rebuff. That was from a fire-proof Republican. He would have nothing to do with an institution that hadn't principles—or having them wouldn't declare them. We honor a man's honest convictions; and we have nothing to say derogatory of that zeal and fidelity that make heroic standard bearers to any cause or principle, providing always, it be righteous. God bless everywhere such men. They are the hope of a nation. But on the other hand, do not mistake often party partisanship for principle? Are not the party newspapers, loaded with the so-called principles, oftentimes, in the very exercise of them, totally devoid of principle. If such papers are "for party," right or wrong, it can not be otherwise. And that such papers there are none will deny! To be sure, we must have parties, and parties must have organs. Let us all take one, by all means, if we be intelligent men. But so long as human nature is frail, weak, and wicked, so long will human nature prove imperfect and untrue. If, then, men do mistake party for principle, if party newspapers do often throw away principle for party, it is good for such men and such papers that their weakness be pointed out. If, on the other hand, the independent organ becomes narrow and faltering in its course, it is good that it should be rebuked. It is by the clashing of steel that it is kept bright. By criticism and counter-criticism this imperfection in human effort becomes perfect, the truth becomes truth—or approximates to it. It is evident, then, there is other work for other hands to do. Thank God, there is one institution that claims my exalted respect, "the possesser" neither Republican nor Democrat—"principles." That's my breakfast. The coast may have crowded for a Democrat or a Republican victory. It is all the same. He makes a most delicious fit case.

The paper that possesses the highest authority in politics to-day, disclaims allegiance to either party. It is read and studied by men of both parties alike. I refer to the New York Nation. Its independent position enables it to judge fairly and calmly upon party questions; and its views are dispassionately considered by wise men of all shades of opinions. No political prejudice is attached to such a paper, if true to its aim, and hence its influence. It has its own peculiar work. My monthly magazine comes to me without party preference, but if I am an intelligent, honest-thinking man it is none the less welcome. It has its work. My Sunday paper I likewise.

You have established in Eastern Montana a family newspaper for the education and encouragement of its settlers, devoted to all their material interests. If questions of a political nature arise, by which these other interests are affected, as is often the case, for weal or for woe, you are in position, unhampered by party or clique, to attach yours if to one or the other, or oppose both, as the best interest of the community you serve may require. That these are interests far superior to mere party demands, is one will deny; that these interests, of a local nature, have often been crushed out by party strife, has often been our misfortune to experience. If true to the aims set forth in your salutatory, then we say a thrice hearty welcome! You have your work.

XXX.

[Many thanks. We must be judged by our course.]

We cannot, consistently with the interests of Eastern Montana or Gallatin county attempt publication of a party organ. It could not, in the nature of things, receive proper support, and the county, at least, needs, so many say, a paper devoted, not to politics, but to the other material interests of the Territory. We shall work hard to produce a journal acceptable to men of all shades of opinion, and hope to succeed in gaining general support.

[Ed. COURIER.]

News Items.

Gen. Eaton died on the 21st. Aged 71. Rear Admiral Davis died at Washington on the 18th.

A \$200,000 fire occurred at Sag Harbor, L. I. on the 18th.

A British fishing fleet of 25 vessels with 150 men were lost in a recent gale.

Rumania will disband its troops in March. Russia only demands the right of transit.

John O'Mahony, the well known Fenian leader died at his residence in New York on the 7th.

Don Platt of the Washington Capitol was indicted by the Grand Jury on the 20th, for advocating defiance of law and the Electoral College.

Travel westward to the Black Hills and California has set in earlier than usual, and is increasing daily. Letters from various parts of the country indicate a very large number of gold-hunters and California emigrants coming West in the early spring.

The Army Appropriation bill will be reported soon. It will provide for a reduction of the military force to 20,000. A section will be added forbidding the use of troops in any State election. The Republican accept the reduction, but oppose the latter. Thus, a compromise will probably be effected, and an extra session of Congress will be necessary.

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JULIUS BASINSKI,

BOZEMAN, M. T.,

Invites attention of the public in general to his large and elegant stock of

FASHIONABLE CLOTHING,

Gent's Furnishing Goods,

Hats, Caps, Trunks, Valises, Stationery, Candles, Nuts, Cigars and Tobacco.

On all of which prices have been greatly reduced.

Dress-Making

Mrs. R. J. Mills, [Late of Helena.]

At the residence of Mr. D. F. McMillen, (in the Pease place) Bozeman. [14 1m]

Metropolitan Hotel.

Louis Kruger, Proprietor,

Main Street, Bozeman, M. T.

Having taken charge of this elegant Hotel, the finest in the Territory, I am prepared to entertain the traveling public and regular boarders with

First-Class Fare AND Accommodations.

The building is constructed of brick, is comparatively new and the rooms are furnished throughout with all modern improvements, affording guests

Comfort and Pleasure.

The kitchen and dining room are under the supervision of

EXPERIENCED COOKS AND ATTENTIVE WAITERS.

The tables are supplied with everything the market affords.

CHARGES REASONABLE. The coaches stop at the Metropolitan. LOUIS KRUGER.

FRED. MAJOR, FRANK CANNIS. BOZEMAN MARKET.

Our shop is in Maagy's brick building, and we shall at all times be enabled to supply our customers with the very

CHOICEST CUTS OF BEEF, PORK, VEAL, VENISON, &c., &c.

SAUSAGE CONSTANTLY ON HAND. GAME IN ITS SEASON.

Also keep all kinds of VEGETABLES.

In fact, we have what we say, a MARKET. Prices lower than the lowest. MAJOR & CANNIS.

J. H. TAYLOR Stationery,

Keeps constantly on hand a full line of Stationery, full line of

at reduced prices, School and Miscellaneous Books, Frang's American Chromos, Picture Frames and Engraving, Picture and Cornice Mouldings, Prior Brackets, Wall Pockets, Towel Racks, Candles and Nuts, Tobaccoes and Cigars, Fancy Goods.

Notions, &c. PICTURE FRAMES MADE TO ORDER. Subscriptions received for all newspapers and periodicals.

At the Post-Office, MAIN STREET. Bozeman, M. T., Jan. 1, 1877.

Watches and Jewellery.