

THE AVANT COURIER.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1877

J. V. BOGERT, Associate Editor.

The News.

The New North-West has entered upon its ninth year. Hoal agents have robbed the Deadwood coach of \$2000. The Queen received and dined Gen Grant on the 29th ulto. California has lost 1,000,000 sheep by starvation this season. Russia has purchased the Centennial Exhibition Krupp gun. The last of Table Rock, Niagara Falls, fell on the 24th of May. Seven hundred and thirty Mormons arrived at New York on the 7th. One hundred and eighty Cuban insurgents have been shot at Remediz. Three hundred Deadwood men are prospecting the Big Horn country. John H. Gear has been nominated for Governor by the Ohio Republicans. The New Hampshire Democrats approve the Southern policy of the President. Gen Hazen and Lieut. Greene of the Engineer Corps proceed to Europe to witness war operations. According to the list the Democrats will have 8 majority in the next House. Twelve seats will be contested. A grandson of Commodore Vanderbilt, having \$10,000 income, has been arrested for stealing a gold watch. A large lobby is at work at Washington attempting to manufacture a sentiment favorable to Mexican annexation. A member of the Cuban war-commission at New York asserts that never have Cuban hopes been so near realization as now. He desires to inform the United States of the fact, hoping for recognition. The Senator Spencer Black Hills prospect party telegraphed the War Department on the 21st, that troops only can save them, the miners and settlers from extermination by Indians. Assistance was promised the party. Hon. J. P. Willson, Government Director of the U. P. Railroad, was Chairman of the Iowa Republican Convention in violation of the order forbidding political participation of officials. "What will you do about it?" is now the question. Wasco county, Oregon, demands extension of N. P. R. R. time, but on condition that the land shall be sold by the Government to the settlers and the proceeds transferred to the company, to be used in the construction of the road. Dispatches of the 8th intimate serious reverses to the Russians in Asia Minor, while absence of advices from the Grand Duke Nicholas cause fear for the Russian cause. Their forces on the Danube are in a perilous situation, and it is said one gunboat could separate them from commissariat or assistance. The Deadwood Champion reports a terrible Indian fight with the white men near the south fork of the Little Missouri. Ninety-eight men and two women had started for the Big Horn country—were attacked and defended themselves behind breastworks. Fourteen miners and 116 Indians are reported killed. Some "gammon," we guess, in this. On the 3d, Secretary Everts submitted to the Cabinet the order of the Diaz Government that Gen. Travino resist by force of arms the invasion of the Mexican territory by United States troops. No action was taken. Gen. Matia has not yet had an interview with Secretary Everts on the question of his recognition as Minister of the Diaz Government. There is no indication that he will be recognized, or that Ord's orders will be changed or modified. The seizure of Kara was raised on the 1st, the Russians retreating toward the frontier. In the battle of Zemin the Russian loss was 400. British war preparations continue, with the evident intention of holding Gons' antipole against Russia. The British fleet had reached Besika Bay, and 20,000 troops had arrived at Malta. The Turks had driven 10,000 Russians from Karakissa. The bombardment along the Danube is reported as frightful. The German, French and Austrian consulates at Rutschuk were destroyed, and 3000 Turkish shells had fallen into Giurgievo. Russian losses have been exaggerated, and they are slowly gaining the advantage. Peace rumors continue. England has chartered the American White Star steamship line. The following items are from the Dubuque Times of June 20: "Mr. John Thompson returned from Chicago yesterday, where he had an interview with Gen. Sheridan about the new Indian business upon which he and his co-partners are about entering." "Mr. Thompson will start on his Indian mission in ten or twelve days. His field embraces the Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegan, Assinaboine, Sioux, Gros Ventres, River Crow, Upper Yankonians and Uncapapas—tributary to Fort Peck, Wolf Point and Blackfeet agencies. The Nez Perce gives the following version of the cause of the Idaho outbreak: One of the head men of the Nez Perce had long held back the turbulent spirits who were clamorous for war. He was at a trading post for the purpose of buying a gun, which the trader refused to sell him, saying that he was a bad Indian. The Indian said, pointing to the sun, "Before the sun goes down I will make you sell me a gun." The trader replied, "Before the sun goes down I will put you out of this store;" and he advanced toward him as if to put his threat into execution. As he was advancing the Indian shot him in the head, and his partner, hearing the disturbance and coming up, was also shot dead. The Indians then went to the rear of the store and clubbed the trader's wife to death. On the way to their camp they killed four other persons. The entire band then went on the war-path, killing indiscriminately. The runners say that an Indian was promoted, but was precipitated by this occurrence before any very large number was ready to join in. "The military force in the several departments is distributed as follows:—Gen. Howard, in the Department of Columbia, has seven companies of cavalry, five com-

panies of artillery and one regiment of infantry. These troops are scattered throughout the department, and are not all near Lewiston, the scene of active hostilities, but are being concentrated for the purpose of pushing the Indians, and other troops have been ordered to reinforce General Howard from the Department of California, which has five companies of cavalry, six companies of artillery and seven companies of infantry. General Kautz, in the Department of Arizona, has one regiment of cavalry and one regiment of infantry. General Crook, in the Department of the Platte, has two regiments of cavalry—the Second and Third—besides fourteen companies of cavalry from various other regiments, and three regiments of infantry. General Terry, in the Department of Dakota, has one regiment and four companies of cavalry, seven regiments and six companies of infantry.

IDAHO.

The Indian news from Idaho is covered by the following condensation of press dispatches: Joseph's band is estimated at from 100 to 400 strong, reinforced by renegades from different bands. On the 27th, Gen Howard reported him overtaken at White Bird Creek, Chief White Bird in command, and Joseph the fighting Chief. The Lapwai Agent was confident a few treaty Indians would join him, but that the Indians north of Snake and Clearwater rivers would refuse his overtures. A later dispatch, however, asserts that Joseph decoyed Howard across the Salmon river and then escaped him, probably pushing for the buffalo country, intending to fight it out in the Walla Walla region. Much dissatisfaction exists with Howard, whose recall is demanded by the Utah and Idaho press. The Pituck, Bannacks and Shoshones avow their desire to join against the Nez Perces and have joined Captain Jim at Great Camas. Three companies 1st Cavalry and two of 12th Infantry had been ordered to the front, where Howard had 500 men, three howitzers and two Gatlings. No faith is felt in friendly professions of the various bands, and such dispositions of troops are making as will protect the scattered settlements. The disaffection of Looking Glass resulted in raids upon the Clearwater and general plunder, and a detachment had been sent after him. A pow-wow was held on the 29th at Walla Walla between the whites and Umatilla reserve Indians, who profess to be friendly, and General McDowell has notified Governor Potts that no danger need be apprehended by Montana at present. On the 4th, Col. Whipple's command attacked and scattered Looking Glass' band, burning his camp and capturing his supplies and 1000 ponies. The Idaho Rangers had also captured 115 head of Joseph's stock, reporting him now 900 strong. News had been received from General Sully, at Lewiston, that Col. Perry and thirty men had been attacked, losing Lieut. Raine and ten men; that the hostiles had been driven off, but that the fight was still raging. Father Mesplie declares that the Umatillas are dissatisfied over the inattention of the Government to their desire to live in the Wallowa valley, and that the war will be general and prolonged, as it is the result of a deliberate plan formed by at least 7000 disaffected Indians.

WESTERN MONTANA.

Secretary Mills under date of the 1st addresses to the Governor an exhaustive statement of the Indian situation up to that time—our want of space obliges condensation as follows: The Stevensville settlers had removed to Fort Owen, after packing up, removing and caching all moveable effects. The indications are ominous of early trouble—guns are scarce, and had the people been well armed no abandonment of their homes would have followed the alarm. Warned by a friendly Flathead, and a deposed Nez Perce chief intimating that his band would return to the Bitter Root after the end of the Idaho war, great alarm naturally followed. His own band had gone to Idaho, and at the same time Charles' Flatheads began to disappear (but as it eventually proved to Big Hole). The Idaho troubles were known to the Pen d'Oreilles, and it is claimed that an alliance against the whites has long been in progress. Incidental to this it is claimed the Crows have been tampered with, and would make peace with the Sioux. Mr. Mills concludes that a general rising in Idaho had been contemplated, but was precipitated—that the Indians have been surely since establishment of the Missouri post—that block-houses will be built in the passes—that Cavalry is needed, and advisable, but necessary. The Governor is forwarding guns as rapidly as possible, and the first alarm over, plans of defence have been studied. Looking Glass and Charles are probably hostile, but the dissatisfaction is mainly confined to the Nez Perces, who wish to force a Flathead combination. A Cavalry force has been asked for Missoula. The New North West has information that "the Indians are cutting out an old trail from Nevada creek on Big Blackfoot over to Sun river. While this is a somewhat unusual employment for them, we presume no significance would be attached to it in less excited times. There were recently some forty lodges camped on Camas prairie, near Yreka, and having obtained whiskey, were ugly. Yreka does not like the situation and has organized for protection." It also says regarding the militia: "There is no militia law in Montana. The Governor has no authority to call on volunteers other than that vested in him under the general authority of Command-in-Chief of the militia. There are no funds to transport arms, to mount, provision or pay troops. If circumstances arise requiring it, the Governor will call for volunteers, he will arm them, they will be requested to select their own officers, but he will be at the front with them in person and exert his best efforts for the physical work in the field and for the proper recognition of their services by the government. In the event that the necessity shall arise for volunteers, he relies upon the courage and patriotism of Montanians to respond promptly to a call, and we know they will grandly justify that reliance." The Independent of the 8th says: "Col. Bray, Sheriff of Beaverhead, tele-

graphs Gov. Potts, under date of July 7, for arms and ammunition. The Indians are in the county and are sullen and threatening. The citizens of Lemhi, Idaho, are massing and fortifying." "On the 10th, it says, Ten Doy, who is camped on Little Camas, sent word to Governor Potts that if advisable he will take his band to the Yellowstone in the interest of peace. The Governor advising it, this loyal chief will probably move his hot-headed young men from the temptations to rebel now surrounding them. It also says no news had yet been received from the mission to Charles and that the Flatheads on Warm Springs Creek are seeking ammunition although now well supplied.

THE SITUATION.

The Pioneer Press of the 16th ulto., says: Important Military movements are evidently in contemplation, but their special nature cannot now be foretold. A dispatch was received by the Pioneer Press from Chicago yesterday announcing that General Sheridan, commanding the Division of the Missouri, would in a few days make a tour of inspection of the army in the two departments comprised in his division. It is also reported in Chicago that several important changes are likely to occur, but what disposition of officers and troops is to be made is of course not yet known. General Sheridan will be joined by Gen. Sherman in the Yellowstone country, where an important conference is to be held. The foregoing facts derived from a Chicago source can be supplemented by a little further information picked up in St. Paul. Gen. Sheridan will make a tour of inspection among the posts in the department of the Platte, going out on the Union Pacific railroad, and after taking in the forts and stations among the Wind river and Big Horn mountains, will reach the lower Yellowstone post about the 20th of July, when accompanied by Gen. Terry and a party of other distinguished officers, he will leave for the upper post on the Yellowstone by way of the Northern Pacific railroad and the Missouri Transportation Company's steamer, arriving at that post about the time Gen. Sheridan reaches it. When the union is effected, a conference will be held, and the Generals will tell each other what they have seen and what they think of the military situation as far as they have got. After that they will be able to make up their minds as to what is best to be done, and then they will go on and do it.

COMPLICATIONS WITH CANADA.

At the present writing we are not permitted to divulge the object of the at attempted visit of Lieut. Jerome to Sitting Bull, or the reasons given for refusal of the Canadian authorities to permit it. However, it is fair to conclude that the negotiations pending between the two governments regarding Sitting Bull influenced the course of the Police, and were probably unknown to Gen. Miles when he ordered the interview. It is understood that the Governor General, fearing trouble must result from the chief's presence, not only between the two governments, but with his own Indians, has represented the matter at Washington. Sitting Bull has before now attempted to ally the Canada Blackfeet, and its failure raised the ire of the arch-enemy—the Blackfeet now requesting his enforced return to this side of the line. Associated press dispatches assert that the United States are asked to effect this return, "as it is felt our hostilities should not be allowed to invade British Territory;" but as there is no treaty provision affecting such a case a dilemma may arise. This being the situation, Mr. Plunkett of the British embassy was visiting Lord Dufferin at the time of Lieut. Jerome's attempt, suggested question causing his interview with the Governor General. It is also stated that our Government has the matter under advisement, and as it believes Sitting Bull was influential in "inciting the Nez Perce outbreak," a case may be built upon that fact which will excuse Canada in assent to the proposition our Government may make in the premises. A late dispatch states that a consultation was to be held at Montreal, in which Commissioner Smith would participate, and that this Government may urge "that the British government should cause the arrest and confinement of all the Sioux chiefs lately hostile and surrender them to the United States for punishment as outlaws and murderers, or, otherwise, allow our troops to follow and capture them. If the British authorities suffer them to be amicably received and to remain it is no affair of the United States, because we should be glad to get rid permanently of the Indians on such terms. At the State Department the view is held that if the Indians have gone into Canada territory as emigrants, singly or in small groups, the United States has no authority to interfere, because it recognizes the right of self-expatriation; but should it appear that the Indians have gone over in a body armed, and for the purpose of invasion, then interference would be necessary and imperative. In the present condition of things the Secretary of State is not called on to apply any exercise of authority, because no such violation as an armed invasion of Canadian soil is claimed." We may not be done with Sitting Bull yet. True, his whereabouts and plans are uncertain, but should the anticipated trouble arise over the coming attempt to transfer the Sioux to the Missouri, that chief may yet be reinforced by such surrenders as Crazy Horse and other influential hostiles. Therefore, the fear expressed in the following dispatch is not unreasonable: "Should any intractability on the part of the Sioux manifest itself there is serious apprehension in official quarters that, in view of the depleted and, therefore, inefficient strength of the army on the frontier, the whole Indian business in the northwest may be involved in grave and dangerous complications. In cases of discontent among the tribes it is thought encouragement to rebellion will be given them by the 'savage men,' or renegades—whites, acting as interpreters and telling them of the weak condition of the army as published in the newspapers."

A Gem.

The Benton Record says: The Yellowstone waterspout made the "Courser" man blink like a deluged owl. A whisky spout would not have staggered him half so much.

THOSE "STARS" AND ORBS.

The Virago of last week admits it bore false witness regarding our publication of Gen. Miles' report. It says it hunted all over town to find a copy of the COURIER—but couldn't find one. If it wasn't sure of the truth of its statement why did it make it? As to its "corrections" and "justice"—if so just and correct why hasn't it been manly enough to give our side as well as the Tyler-Hoffman side of the controversy? Its course having been disgraceful, and its statements manifestly and wilfully false, its one "correction" condemns it on every point concerned. Before it read us further lessons upon what it calls "journalism" it had best learn a little decency and some respect for the rights of the true journalism it has in this case seen fit to ignore, in order to gratify its personal spleen.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 27 1877. I saw an interesting statement recently made up in the Treasury Department, concerning certain expenses for the conveyance of the votes cast at elections of President and Vice President to the seat of Government. It appears that no compilation has ever been made excepting at the election of George Washington and the last of General Grant. The cost of conveying the votes of the different States to the Capital in the former case was \$1,491 and in the latter \$18,108. In the absence of better employment, gossip-mongers busy themselves these days with the President's doings, and make the most of all his movements by means of additions and imaginings of their own invention. For instance, Geo. Jones, proprietor of the New York Times, dined with President Hayes the other day and the two afterwards took a long drive together. The next day it was announced in many circles that something extraordinary was about to happen; that the President was contemplating some prodigious leap and had been sounding some of the leading Republican journalists as a preliminary step.

Postmaster General Key is experiencing no little annoyance from the presentation of the 1833 3ct. silver pieces to Postmasters in all sections. This coin is receivable on deposit only from public officers, and the public, therefore, thrust them in large numbers on the Postmasters. The Postmaster General has called the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury to the fact, and recommended that Postmasters be allowed to exchange these coins for greenbacks, or that they be withdrawn from circulation.

The work of reform is still going on in the Treasury. Investigations are showing up many things that ought to have been brought to light long ago—or rather, that ought never to have existed. A most singular state of maladministration and extravagance has existed in some of the bureaus of this Department for a good many years—a state brought about by the great influence of members of Congress and Government officers. Hundreds of female clerks have been kept on the pay rolls when there was absolutely nothing for them to do, simply because some Congressman recommended them. Congressmen are very human, and many are unprincipled; and it is certain that as long as their influence is absolute regarding Government appointments, so long disreputable people will become employees.

Secretary Sherman appears determined to carry the work through, and several little incidents, trifling in themselves, go to show that the committee, appointed to do the weeding out in his Department, are working according to their conviction of right. For instance: when a large number of dismissals was recently decided upon in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the committee examined into the special qualifications and circumstances of each of those comprising the list, marking the ones whose services could be dispensed with. One of the first names reached was that of a sixteen-hundred-dollar-clerk who occupied a prominent position, but who could easily be spared and his work done by other operators. E. A. Chapman, of Iowa, a member of the committee, remarked at once that this man must go. "Find out who he is," said another of the committee, "see who appointed him first." "I can tell you all about that," said Chapman, "he is my brother-in-law, but we have got five hundred people to discharge out of this Bureau, and we had better begin with our own relatives." So off went the brother-in-law's official head.

The Territory.

Missoula. Missoulian.—Major McCormick generously tenders the use of Fort Owen to the people of the Bitter Root valley, until the Indian excitement subsides. W. R. Logan and Theodore Shied have been appointed post-traders at the Missoula Post. Mr. Shied will arrive in a few days from Helena. Mr. Logan has secured the contract for furnishing the post with fresh beef. He receives 33 1/2 cents per pound. Missoulian.—Work on the post proceeds vigorously—lumber contracts have been let and Holter & Co. are making the doors and sashes. Captain Raw is fully sensible of the gravity of the situation in this locality. He recognizes the importance of having videttes posted along the Lo Lo and Elk City trails, but he has no horses with his command, and he has not a sufficient force at his disposal to detach for this service and have work proceed on the post. He is in constant communication with his superior officers, and holds himself in readiness to act promptly in case we are menaced with an invasion from the west. Deer Lodge. Miner.—Mr. S. Bergman, agent for Kiesel & Co., Corinne, Utah, for the purchase of wool, hides, etc., paid our town a visit last week, and was very favorably impressed with our outlook. Mr. Bergman has a serious thought of returning to Butte at an early day and opening an agency for the purchase of our rich manganese ore. He was convinced while here that a lucrative business in this line can be built up. There is an abundance of such ores here that will assay from one hundred dollars up. These ores can be bought at such a figure, and shipped to

the smelters in Utah, as would guarantee a fair profit. Lewis & Clarke. Herald.—A. G. Clark will drive 1000 head of cattle to Chicago, via Soda Spring and Chryenne.

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From now until the 1st of January next I shall close out, without reserve, my entire stock of Clothing only

Strictly at Cost!

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Notions, &c.

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MAIN STREET, BOZEMAN, M. T., Jan. 1, 1877.

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AGENTS FOR P. B. Clark's Express and Stage Lines; The Diamond R Forwarding Line; Coan & Ten Brock's Carriages and Buggy (the only reliable carriage for the mountains); and for T. C. Power & Co.'s Agricultural Implements.

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Lester S. Willson, Bozeman, M. T., February 8, 1877.

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