

The New North-West.

MILLS & REBELS, PROPRIETORS

—Ino. H. McPherson is elected Senator from New Jersey.

—Lieutenant Doane and party of the Snake River Surveying Expedition were expected to reach Bozeman last Saturday evening.

—Sargent has presented a petition from California asking the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution enfranchising women. Sargent favored the proposition.

—Looking at it with our limited knowledge it does not seem to us that the proposed plan of counting the electoral vote is strictly constitutional. The question is to be whether it is better to violate it or obey it in this emergency.

—The Eastern Conference convened to adjust a basis for the settlement of the Turkish complication without a European war has dissolved without arriving at any basis. It looks now that a war cannot be deferred many months and it will probably embroil the greater portion of Europe.

—A Chicago dispatch of Wednesday says that although Grant is said to be favorable to the electoral compromise bill all the members of the Cabinet except Fish are opposed to it. The bill was being discussed in the Senate Wednesday. Only about 20 Senators, all told, were believed opposed to it. It will probably pass both Houses.

—Morton in opposing last Friday the compromise method of counting the electoral vote said a good thing. He was arguing that the Senate was intimidated beyond its better judgment in accepting the plan and that "Geologists tell us there was a "period in the earth's crust where there were "skullless men." Now we have "gone a period where there are vete-" "bruteless skulls."

—We present to-day a letter from a gentleman prominently identified with the subject he discusses on the "Revenue Reform." His views are set forth clearly, and they are the result of careful attention to the matter under consideration. His views differ from ours on some points involved, but we are free to commend the paper entire to our legislators as worthy their careful consideration. If taxation is at present unequal, and we believe it is, one of the most important duties devolving on the Legislature is to take hold of the subject faithfully and firmly and not cease until they have remedied the defects of the present laws to the best of their knowledge. Let it not be said the Legislature was afraid to touch the question. Get it up, investigate it, debate it, and then, whatever seems right and just, vote it clearly, and do without fear or favor. That our legislators are chosen for and the doing of which will redound to their honor and credit.

—We notice the Legislature is working on a bill disposing of funds received from the sale of lots. A general law should be enacted appropriating all moneys so received to the school district in which such lots are situated. Such a clause was inserted in a law enacted last winter, but by some error, the particulars of which we do not now recall, it was omitted in copying. The moneys from the sale of lots in this town went to the county at large, such of them as are accounted for, so we feel the more privileged to urge the Legislature to enact a general law devoting all moneys received from such sources now in the hands of the county Treasurers, or that may be hereafter received from the sale of lots, to any patented school district. We cannot now offer reasons, but the propriety of the measure will be the more apparent the more it is studied.

—There is a disposition on the part of the *Missionian* to urge the passage of a law prohibiting counties from incurring debt and diverting the Commissioners of all "discretionary power" in that respect, but in its argument it suggests some strong reasons why that discretionary power should be given. The question all turns on one thing—the character of the Commissioners. Deer Lodge county is safe with the kind of commissioners it elects to give them unlimited discretionary power. They have no disposition to incur debt and will not do so except under circumstances that would challenge disapproval. The people of this county feel perfectly safe in that condition. But if other counties distrust their ability to elect boards in whom they can place implicit reliance, and the Legislature deems it a matter of public safety to hedge the commissioners with restrictions, we do not presume the commissioners or the people of this county would make any exception from the general rule. If this is to be done, however, we do not see where the propriety will exist for the Legislature to pass mandatory acts compelling the commissioners to admit and pay no account of any indebtedness has been given to the Legislature in this emergency; or to incur debts at the best of the county as a body as is proposed to be done in the Benton Railroad Bill. The boards of commissioners in the several counties are certainly more competent to determine these matters than the representatives of other counties are. When the Legislature starts in on this principle of reform we shall ask it to be consistent.

—We have been advised finally at the exception our friend Barbour of the *Missionian* takes to the statement in this paper that the Governor is in sympathy with the *Missionian* on the question of prohibiting the counties from incurring debt. Mr. E. indignantly disavowed our statement and says the correct thing for us to have said was that the *Missionian* was in sympathy with the Governor on the question. It is not often in later years that newspaper criticisms on our views have given us so much intense suffering and anxiety as the above. We gave it patient and almost perpetual thought; we examined reports, long primers, concordances, dictionaries, and Roger's Thesaurus; we read the Beecher trial and Ku Klux examination and had reached the twenty-third volume of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in the fruitless effort to ascertain the material point involved in the *Missionian's* exceptions when an idea came to us. We interviewed gentleman from Helena and ascertained the Governor was serene and comfortable, while friends from Missoula asserted that Mr. Barbour went about his daily duties as though his subscription list was increasing fifty copies per week. Then it dawned on us that Mr. Barbour had intended the whole thing for a joke, and we took up the *Missionian* again and laughed till a man came in with a bill. It was good, Barbour, superb! possessing that excellent virtue in humor of inscrutably concealing its ludicrous point until it finally bursts forth in all its resplendent and unexpected glory and throws one into convulsions. But don't commence your editorials that way again. Have a department especially for funny things, title it "Short Gists" or "Laughings," or something of the kind, and let our readers see how we can do the whole community as we do by having them burn a week for the humor they will never find.

THE RAILROAD BILLS.

When it was known there was to be a session of the Legislature this winter we believe it was the one primary wish of a large majority of our people that the session should not terminate without some definite action that would result in the immediate commencement and early completion of a railroad that will give us quick and constant communication by rail with the rest of the world. Coupled with this was the belief that a desirable road could be obtained for an amount of aid Montana could afford to give, and that all portions of the Territory might be harmonized on the best possible road for the least possible aid. This feeling we believe still prevails. To the project anti-subsidy men show a disposition to concede as the lesser of two evils, and to it even those who do not directly benefit must concede if we are to have a railroad speedily. Unfortunately, in one sense, Montana has too many avenues of approach; fortunately, in another sense, that very fact is our protection from extortion.

Bills are already before the legislature to aid three distinct roads. On one or the other of these general routes the construction of a road should begin this spring. Which shall it be? One is for a road from the head of navigation on the Missouri to Helena; one from the head of navigation on the Yellowstone to some point in the Jefferson valley; one from Franklin to some point in the Jefferson valley. On the first and last we have direct propositions by parties alleged to be able to build the road; the second is a proffer to a problematical somebody to build the road on the terms proposed. The first two would only put us in rail communication with rivers navigable to those points but a few months in a year. They do not contemplate the railroad communication that Montana really needs. The third would give us unbroken rail communication with New York and San Francisco. For the Missouri road, 160 miles long, \$700,000 aid is asked; for the Yellowstone road, 300 miles long, \$1,500,000 is asked; for the Franklin Road 300 miles long, \$1,500,000 is asked. Of the propositions as they stand, in view of all the circumstances, we believe it is better to accept the Franklin proposition. But we believe Montana can and should make better terms. If the Yellowstone standard gauge can be had for \$5,000 per mile aid why should we pay the same for a narrow gauge? If Mr. Coulson will build the Helena and Benton narrow gauge for \$4,345 per mile in 5-30 seven per cent. interest, county bonds, why should we pay Gould & Co. \$5,000 per mile for a narrow gauge? This little matter will make a difference of \$8,755 per annum on the amount of interest to be collected by taxation, or if we could get the road for \$4,000 per mile as provided in the Mitchell bill it would make a difference of \$3,000 annual interest. And that is what is going to bind when it comes to paying for the whistle.

There are other matters in the Franklin project our people will not like when it is thought over. It subjects us to the tariff of two companies—the Utah Northern and the Utah Northern Extension, and we have no guarantee of rates nor can it be afterwards controlled by our Legislature except on such portions of the road as are in Montana. The terms as to aid to Montana will be more equitable to all than at Big Hole, and we understand it would be accepted by Gould & Co. That would bring it within 35 or 40 miles of Butte and one branch would be brought over the Pipestone Pass.

Not one of the associates making the deal route. We are satisfied if they had their way they would modify the terms. Their connecting road, the Utah Northern, is an illy constructed, circuitous affair. It shortens up the distance to Corinne only 35 miles. California and the Central Pacific Company will not look complacently at the termination of the U. P. proposed bill and will insist upon competition that will make better terms. If not, we are satisfied a Montana company, able and so disposed, could and probably will organize and construct the road to Corinne or Ogden for less aid.

If the Legislature favors the North and South road, and no concessions can be had from Gould & Co., would it not be better to pass an act authorizing an issue of bonds not exceeding a certain amount to aid its construction, and turn the matter over to a commission to be appointed and confirmed by the Governor and Legislature to make the best terms they can. Then, if worst comes to worst, the proposal as made can be accepted. Something of this kind may be contained in the Mitchell bill, the text of which we have not seen.

We are satisfied our legislators are acting honestly in this matter and with an earnest desire to do the best they can for their constituents. And we have no doubt some bill that will secure us a railroad will be passed and approved by the people. It is the one important, overshadowing subject to be considered, and to it should be directed the best brains and energies of the body.

THE PRINTING LAW.

Several of the Territorial papers have recently alluded to the Printing Law enacted last winter. Opinion is divided. On the one hand there is demand for its repeal; on the other it is asserted it should stand. It is alleged by some it has increased the expense of counties, and again covered by others that it has materially decreased them. The *Madisonian*, of all, suggests amendments and says that so amended it would be one of the best laws on our statute books.

It may not be out of place to make here a few general remarks about the law. We had intended to fight the first printing bill passed last winter. It was a great swindle. We do not think the Legislature knew it or intended to pass such an act, as they promptly killed it after the Governor vetoed it. Therein was in enacting hastily a measure they did not understand. The present law was then enacted. It is faulty in some respects, but a very great improvement on its predecessor. The objection is made to it that it does not permit competition and that litigants should be permitted to take their publications where they will be printed cheapest. If there were any such thing really as open competition in printing the argument would have more force. But as it is, the Legislature, printing of all descriptions is usually controlled by political considerations which are as exclusive as the Printing Law, and no paper in Montana can afford to publish legal advertisements as they come for less than the law now establishes. If the law were repealed and no maximum rate established competition would not be best combination and rates would exceed those now charged. It may also be said in its favor that persons interested know in what paper of a county, if two or more are published, summons, sales, etc. will be found, and it should be the object with the Board to make the contract with a well established paper of general circulation.

Referring to the site of the law as a matter of course to counties and litigants it depends upon what the charges were before this bill passed. The rates allowed by law for legal advertisements before the present printing law was established were strictly prohibitory. The present law allows. In other words, practically, it just costs one-half as much now to publish a summons or sheriff's sale or like advertisement as it did one year ago. Litigants are therefore benefited to that extent by the law, as it is fair to infer no paper charged less than the law allowed before. The question is whether the Legislature has any right to put a price upon our work for litigants any more than it has to put a price upon flour, unless we contract to do it at that price. It is an individual matter. The Printing Law has no effect materially on us. We cannot speak for others. The rates established for everything except advertising are so near the prices we charged the county for years that we doubt if it made \$25 difference either way during the year 1876. If the expenses of Gallatin county have been increased under this act the Bozeman publishers did work very low before. We were shown bills from other counties last winter the prices in which were largely in excess of the rates now allowed and in these counties it was necessarily a bare saving. We are not particular whether the law remains or is repealed. We have deemed it proper to state the above facts as of possible interest to our delegations in the Legislature. In connection therewith we respectfully ask that if the law is to remain it shall be amended in two respects.

In counting folios the present law allows each figure to count as one word; it should be amended that every two figures shall count as one word. Again, there are advertisements come to the printer, as for instance the statement of receipts and expenditures, required to be put in type in a specified form, a portion of which is necessarily blank space. As the Printing Law is interpreted in the courts, this is all dead loss to the publisher, although it costs him just as much for composition and the insertion of such space as if there were solid copy. We are sure we are not in the least just. No typographical association or publishing house in the world would take to accept the Franklin proposition. But we believe Montana can and should make better terms. If the Yellowstone standard gauge can be had for \$5,000 per mile aid why should we pay the same for a narrow gauge? If Mr. Coulson will build the Helena and Benton narrow gauge for \$4,345 per mile in 5-30 seven per cent. interest, county bonds, why should we pay Gould & Co. \$5,000 per mile for a narrow gauge? This little matter will make a difference of \$8,755 per annum on the amount of interest to be collected by taxation, or if we could get the road for \$4,000 per mile as provided in the Mitchell bill it would make a difference of \$3,000 annual interest. And that is what is going to bind when it comes to paying for the whistle.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

The population of Berlin has doubled in 17 years.

The population of Wyoming Territory has doubled in six years.

White horses only are now used at the funerals of children or young married people in Paris.

The once flourishing town of Pioche, Nev., is almost deserted and the Record is to be removed to Ward District.

George Elliot was a pupil of Herbert Spencer, who, thirty years ago, asked her in marriage. She is now 57, and has made \$500,000 by her writings.

Hon. John Delano, of Washington, is on the point to Denver, accompanied by his family. He expects to take up his residence in Colorado and engage in the stock business.

A woman only stabs her toe once to a man's six, but when she does she goes down like a tipped over chump and out a postage stamp out of both elbows.—*Atlanta Constitutionalist*.

Next to that repose, which is the blessed privilege of a man who lies six feet under ground in a country graveyard, is the repose enjoyed by a gilt-edged bible in a Chicago newspaper office.—*Argus*.

Alfred Tenyson wears his hair long and natural. The first time he ever saw a comb somebody sent him one for a Christmas present, and he thought it was something to scratch his back with.—*Burlington Hawkeye*.

"A woman," remarked a Preston official, "first loves a fast man, then a good man, and finally a man." Then his wife appeared in the doorway, and he went back into the cellar and began to split kindlings in an objectionable manner.—*Nor. Bulletin*.

It is noticeable as showing the rapid decadence of those impervious conventions by which the present age pays homage to an ignorant and suspicious past that a young man can go into society now and inspect a woman's hair upon his own head. The wife were sure now and is not it less than half the time it used to take him.—*Argus*.

The Compromise Bill Passed the Senate. WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—At 7 this morning the Senate passed the Compromise Bill by a vote of 47 to 17.

Telegrams in Brief.

BUFFALO, N. Y., January 22.—Rev. J. C. Lord, aged 74, and for the past 32 years pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, died last evening.

BERLIN, January 22.—The German Government has proof of the existence of a large monastic community in France to which it is to gain power in that country for purposes hostile to Germany.

YANKEETON, D. T., January 19.—The Supreme Court today affirmed the decision of the court below in the trial of McCall for the murder of Wild Bill, and McCall will be hanged on March 1st.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., January 24.—The 35th ballot for U. S. Senator resulted: Lawrence, 86; Davies, 97; Haines, 7; scattering, 8. Thirty-ninth ballot: Lawrence, 42; Davies, 52; Haines, 60; scattering, 10.

TOPEKA, January 24.—On the first ballot for U. S. Senator Lemons received 23, Harvey 27, Sears 20, Plumb 25, Stilling 12, Osborne 20, scattering, 23. Second ballot, little change.

Reduction of Salaries.

Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill reported to the House, makes the following changes in the salaries of the officials in the Territories: For the Governor, \$2,000; for the Secretary, \$1,500; for the Pacific Coast Surveyor Generals are reduced to \$3,500 for California, Nevada and Idaho, \$3,250 for Oregon and Washington, and \$2,750 for the other Territories. The allowance for clerks is—California, \$8,000; Oregon, Arizona and Washington, \$8,000 each; New Mexico, \$4,000, and Utah, Idaho and Montana, \$3,500. All these reductions, if carried through the House, will be strenuously resisted by the Senate.

A Missouri Heed

St. Louis, Jan. 19.—The *Globe-Democrat* speaks from Carthage, Mo., gives a brief account of a riot at Webbs City yesterday. It appears that a somewhat notorious fellow named Bud Blunt was arrested for a violation of the city ordinance. Not being able to pay the fine assessed he was lodged in the calaboose and subsequently released. In a spirit of revenge, he and his brother with a large number of followers, procured guns and pistols and opened fire on the citizens promiscuously. Some 200 shots were fired and several persons badly wounded, including two of the rioters. Several houses were fired into, two horses killed, and two men severely wounded. Great excitement prevailed, and the citizens called and ten of the rioters were arrested.

HOUSE BILL NO. 4.

An Act to amend the Helena and Benton Railroad Act of February 11, 1876.—Introduced by Chadwick.

Sec. 1 Declares that the action of Lewis and Clarke and Chouteau counties in voting \$400,000 in aid of the road.

Sec. 3 Provides the board of county commissioners of any county of the Territory of Montana are hereby authorized and it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required upon the petition of 50 qualified voters of such county, to assemble to the same order of business as the board of county commissioners of any county of the Territory of Montana are hereby authorized and it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required upon the petition of 50 qualified voters of such county, to assemble to the same order of business as the board of county commissioners of any county of the Territory of Montana are hereby authorized and it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required upon the petition of 50 qualified voters of such county, to assemble to the same order of business as the board of county commissioners of any county of the Territory of Montana are hereby authorized and it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required upon the petition of 50 qualified voters of such county, 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