

The Benton Record.

BENTON, M. T., FEBRUARY 15, 1875

Local Items.

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 1875.

Monthly mean Barometer	30.122 inches
Highest Barometer during the month	30.710 inches
Lowest Barometer during the month	29.417 inches
Monthly Barometric Range	1.293
Monthly Mean Thermometer	8.6 degrees below zero
Highest Thermometer during the month	38 degrees above zero
Lowest Thermometer during the month	55 degrees below zero
Monthly range of Thermometer	93 degrees
Greatest daily range of Thermometer	56 degrees
Mean Temperature of the coldest day	37 degrees
Maximum velocity of wind	44 miles per hour
Total amount of melted snow	0.67

WM. MCGILLIVRAY,
Bergant, Signal Service U. S. A.

Joseph McFarland, well known to our citizens as a successful dairyman, some three months ago took up a claim on the Teton twenty-five miles from town. He is pushing improvements with vigor, and is already comfortably fixed. His ranch is right under the noses of the Indians, being the highest yet located upon the Teton, but lower down quite a number of claims have been recently entered. The Teton bids fair to be speedily filled up with settlers. Come quickly, or the best claims will be gobbled.

It is getting to be generally acknowledged that the section of country between Bird Tail and Bear Paw Mountains, which comprehends the rich valleys of the Sun, Teton, and Marias Rivers, affords the best stock range in Montana, which is equivalent to saying the best in the world. Old ranchmen tell us so, and a good many stock owners who have tried other parts of the Territory are preparing, or thinking of preparing, to move over into this. Plenty of room, gentlemen, six beautiful valleys to choose from, and we extend you a welcome. Send us a subscription, and we will tell you more about it hereafter.

Legal matters of late have had a lively run in Fort Benton; lawyers Ilges, Kanouse, and Tattan figuring with credit. Our town may be proud of its legal talent, and should create litigation enough to keep the gentlemen busy. Major Ilges is a regularly licensed practicing attorney, but employs his talents only in cases affecting the military arm. He now has an important one on hand, under section 156, of the criminal code of Montana.

This has been the coldest winter within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Look at the figures, the minimum for each day in January as reported by A. A. Surgeon Turner, at Fort Benton. February has been much milder. It is in such exceptionally severe winters that our tall bunch grass gladdens the heart of the bovine, and shows the advantages of our section as a range for cattle. All the figures in the following table are below zero.

date	deg.	date	deg.	date	deg.	date	deg.
1	9	9	50	17	55	25	19
2	9	10	46	18	52	26	5
3	9	11	24	19	51	27	28
4	53	12	39	20	39	28	15
5	55	13	51	21	21	29	5
6	33	14	57	22	16	30	10
7	40	15	58	23	4	31	11
8	47	16	51	24	17		

Shooting Affray.

Our usually quiet and peaceful burgh was, on the night of the 12th instant, disturbed in its serenity through an attempt at murder. The stillness of the night was broken by the yells of a human being in the agonies of death. One, two, three shots were fired, and a fellow citizen had fallen by the hand of an assassin! The taking of that whose restoration is beyond our control, no matter under what circumstances it may occur, is a terrible deed; and when a murder is committed without provocation, without cause, and to all appearance partly premeditated, how much more terrible is the deed, not only to the perpetrator, but to every honest-minded man. We are glad to see that the authorities have taken prompt action in the matter. We have only one side of the case, as yet, but from all we can learn, the facts are as follows:—

Mr. Moses Solomon, in company with Mr. Jeff Perkins proceeded to the saloon of the latter to take a drink. All the other saloons were closed at the time, and the folks abed. Perkins placed a bottle and some tumblers on the counter reached under the counter, presented a revolver, and without a word fired at Solomon, the bullet striking him in the right breast, passed through his body, and lodged in the wall of the saloon about twelve or fifteen feet distant. Solomon retreated and endeavored to reach the door, and had his hand on the knob when Perkins again fired, the ball striking Solomon in the hand. In the attempt to open the door, Perkins fired another shot, which luckily did not take effect. By this time the people were aroused, and Judge Mills, Mr. Conway, and Mr. Tillman came to the rescue of Solomon. Mr. Tillman knocked Perkins down and wrenched the revolver from him. But for this interference Perkins would undoubtedly have completed his work. Solomon was carried to his own house, and is now under the treatment of Dr. W. E. Turner, U. S. A.

This morning (February 13,) Perkins, in custody of Sheriff Hale, appeared before Judge Mills on examination of a charge of shooting and wounding with intent to kill Moses Solomon. Mr. J. A. Kanouse appeared in behalf of the people. Owing to the dangerous state of Solomon, the Court adjourned to take his deposition.

On re-assembling, the Court decided on the waiver of examination made by the prisoner in the morning, "That he be committed to prison to await examination before the District Court at Helena."

[We publish the above as reported for the RECORD. We are not personally acquainted with the facts.—Ed.]

PERSONAL.

Colonel Donnelly made his appearance in town yesterday. The Colonel wears well.

Mr. Joe Leighton and Col. Wheeler lately sailed for Belknap on board the "Flying Racoon."

AN INSTITUTION OF THE COUNTRY—The Montana Steam Cracker Company, North Main Street, Helena, has become one of the institutions of the Territory, and deserving of patronage. They manufacture just what is needed in this section. Hard Tack; Soda, Butter, Pic-nic, milk, and Sugar Crackers; Ginger Snaps, &c., &c.; and deal in Groceries, Flour, Grain, Assorted Merchandise, and Baker's goods generally. Send to Lockey Bros. for anything you want.

The Fort Shaw Theatre will close on the 17th of March.

A few residents of this section, who believe that the proprietors of the Carroll Route have not quite lost their senses, are of the opinion that no attempt will be made to use the road another season, while others think that one more effort is necessary in order to run the whole concern into the ground.

"Benton," says the *Avant Courier*, "is making a strong effort for the Montana business this next season. Her business men have secured boats, and freights to that point will be low." Yes, freights will be unusually low; but high or low, no sensible merchant will ship by any other route.

The Louisiana excitement has so greatly occupied the public mind of late that the situation in Utah is forgotten. Meanwhile the lawsuits against the polygamists are pending, and Brigham, spite of advancing years and declining vigor, goes on, as the late lamented A. Ward would say, loving not wisely, but 200 well.

Under the title of "A Plea for Fort Benton," Cavalier favors this issue of the RECORD with some interesting reminiscences of the American Fur Company's old trading post. We heartily agree with the author in that our town should resume the name it received from Major Culbertson, and by so doing preserve the pleasant memories which surround the old Fort, and distinguish it from the other Bentons with which the country is so plentifully supplied. We would also add that if Congress would appoint a standing committee to change every duplicated name of town throughout the country, the people in general, and the post office department in particular, would be saved a world of trouble.

The Contract for carrying the mail on the Helena and Fort Benton route has been awarded to D. T. Parker, St. Louis.—*Independent*, Feb. 11, 1875.

Good. We shall await patiently the time when we can estimate within a week, at least, the arrival of any particular mail. The powers that be have agreed to furnish us with a tri-weekly mail, and for aught we know to the contrary, the gentleman who undertook to perform the contract would have done so in a satisfactory manner, if the "freeze-out" system had not been employed to oust him. The present contractors have not made half a dozen regular trips this winter. During the present month, some fifty or sixty soldiers have been discharged from Forts Shaw and Benton, and we are informed that the Quartermaster was obliged to send the men to Helena in a government wagon, because the stage-company could not, or would not, furnish the necessary transportation, even at the extortionate price they charge for fare. Indeed, it is surprising how such wretched old plugs as are used on the route to drag the dirty, rickety hen-coops called coaches can travel at all, and if these unfortunate animals are used much longer to the disadvantage of Benton, we shall have to call out a Bergh. This so-called stage-line has been an outrage and a swindle upon the residents of this section long enough, and it is quite time that some change—no change could be for the worse—was made. The route is a good one, and would well repay an enterprising party to furnish it with good stock and comfortable, cleanly coaches; but under the present management, no person who can own, borrow, or hire any sort of private conveyance, will patronize it.

A correspondent informs us that the residents of Fort Shaw are taking advantage of the fine weather with which the Fort is now being favored, and proving their appreciation of Nature's kindness by indulging in evening promenades. As the shades of night approach, the flats outside and around the post are crowded with those who love to breathe the pure, spring-like air which is wafted gently across the fertile plains and majestic mountains of the Great North-West. It is certainly a luxury to revel in these balm-zephyrs, while studying the grand works of nature with which Fort Shaw is surrounded upon every side, and which

appear almost unearthly when illuminated by the rich tints of a Montana sunset. But when the pleasure is heightened by a fair companion leaning on one's arm—as the case seems to be with most of the promenaders at the Fort—we can imagine worse places, even in this favored land, than the country around Fort Shaw. Rumor has it that two weddings will soon take place at the Post.

ANTICIPATING TROUBLE.—It is altogether probable that as soon as the snows have melted away and grass begins to grow, the army will be called upon to repress Indian disorders in the North and the remote South.

During the autumn the Crows and Sioux on the upper Missouri arrived, and above Fort Peck have swarmed the country in war parties, aiming blows at each other and at such stray whites as they encountered.

They will renew hostilities with the spring, and as there is expected to be a considerable influx of white gold hunters into the country around Carroll, Montana, outrages are to be looked for.

The Indians at Standing Rock and the adjacent agencies near Bismarck are now reported quiet, though when Rainface and Wahaha were arrested for murdering whites there was much uneasiness. Unfortunately, the efforts of the military have been in some degree neutralized by the conduct of the agents.

Not alone have the Indians been allowed to supply themselves freely with ammunition for their breech-loaders, but the murderers' presence was known for a long time to the agents, who in fact opposed arrests along the Missouri from Fort Sully down to Yankton.

The savages are in a very unamiable temper, owing to the fact that the gold hunters have successfully penetrated and entrenched themselves in the Black Hills in considerable numbers.

Within the month three bodies of troops have been sent to oust the miners whose trespass is unwarranted. The Indians at Spotted Tail's agency and the Cheyenne agency, near the mouth of the big Cheyenne and Lower Platte are much excited, and threaten to take the work of expelling the miners into their own hands as soon as the snow goes.

They are in regular communication with Indians along the Platte and the hostile northern bands, and unless the Government can anticipate and maintain them, it is to be feared that the savages will not stop when they have cleaned out the gold seekers.

The Nebraska settlements are within easy striking distance, and have always been a temptation to the young warriors. All these Indians are splendidly armed with Henry and Manchester rifles, ammunition for which they can secure without trouble at the Yankton agency and Brule City.

In the Southwest it is not probable that more than the usual amount of horse stealing and concomitant murders is being transacted by the savages, as in most instances the war parties have been quickly discovered by their trails to have been on foot. It is feared that the Indians, who have been dismounted and disarmed by Government, are quietly preparing for another outbreak.—*Cincinnati Star*.

The exceedingly narrow escape from being buried alive experienced by a young woman in Montreal, a short time since, ought perhaps to go far towards neutralizing the opposition which the cremationists are encountering. It appears that the lady was taken suddenly ill, and after two days' sickness, was pronounced dead by the attending physician. Three days afterward the body was found to be in a remarkable state of preservation, but the funeral was allowed to go on. When the procession arrived at the cemetery, the coffin was removed to the Morgue to gratify a friend of the deceased, who had come a long distance to take a last farewell. The request was complied with and the coffin-lid unscrewed, when to the horror of all the corpse was found to be lying upon its side, the head twisted around and facing uppermost, the grave-clothes disarranged, while the left arm was drawn up as though to support the body, as if the unfortunate woman had been leaning on it in an ineffectual and terrible struggle for breath. It is supposed the deceased had been lying in a trance, and was brought to life through the jolting of the hearse.