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FORT BENTON, MONTANA TERRITORY,

Wholesale and Retail dealers in

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All work guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

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and

Capillary Rejuvenator,

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FORT BENTON

EXPRESS,

GEO. HOUK, Proprietor.

Parties desiring my services will please leave their orders at E. BRADLEY'S CARPENTER SHOP.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BENTON, M. T., June 21, 1875.

To the Editor of the Record:

Almost every Eastern journal that comes to hand contains some interesting fact or proposition concerning the important subject of emigration. Some have editorials pointing out the duty of the people in connection therewith, while others contain elaborate descriptions of particular sections. Reflection on the subject creates surprise at the absence or lack of feeling, the seeming inactivity of the people of this Territory; for while columns, and sometimes pages, of the most popular journals in the country are devoted to the subject of emigration, scarcely a line appears in the journals of Montana, in relation to the same. Why should it be so? Are we so much occupied? is our attention so closely riveted to other necessary enterprises, that we must close our eyes to this great movement of bone and sinew, brains and capital? Can we afford to let this tidal wave sweep by our doors without one effort to stay its course for the benefit of our own soil? Have we not the means to entertain these people, to gratify the wants of the most fastidious among them? Are we in a position that would justify us in ignoring the necessity of having any feature bearing on settlement truly presented to the world of emigrants and those who intend to become such? We are not. We cannot advance any reason for silence. Our requirements are many. We want capital to develop the hidden treasures of our land, and labor, its great co-operative, to assist in the work. But have we any other needs outside of what may be necessary to develop our mineral resources? Have we a country adapted to other than the pursuits of mining? Have we not tracts of agricultural and grazing land second to none in the world? Yes, sir, the Territory of Montana contains twenty-five millions of acres of agricultural land, which calls for the attention of the farmer, and sixty-nine millions of acres of grazing land equal, if not superior, to any beneath the sky, but almost a waste for want of occupation. The following extracts taken from a late official report truthfully represents our fruitful and productive Territory:

"Actual experience has demonstrated the entire success of agricultural pursuits, and a largely increased area of land is annually broken up by the plow, producing abundant crops of wheat, barley, oats, and vegetables. To the stranger, the agricultural resources of Montana are more remarkable than her mineral wealth, because more unexpected in so northerly a region."

"The Territory contains a system of beautiful valleys, separated from each other by mountain ranges and spurs, which annually yield abundant crops of everything indigenous to the Northern States."

"As a grazing country, Montana stands pre-eminent. Horses, mules, cattle, and sheep thrive well in the valleys and on the foot-hills. The bunch grass on which they subsist, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, does not become withered and sapless during the winter, but remains in the highest degree nutritious. It undoubtedly possesses more fattening qualities as it stands on the table lands in midwinter than the best hay, and in wet years the growth is so luxuriant, that much of it is mown for hay, the quality of which is little if any inferior to sheaf oats. The grass in the bottom lands resembles, if it is not identical with, the prairie grass of the States. Considerable wild clover grows among it, and timothy, when sown, does very well. The abundance of these grasses, and their extraordinary fattening qualities, in connection with mild winters—which do not necessitate the feeding of stock during more than every fourth or fifth winter—render the Territory one of the very best on the continent for raising stock of all kinds."

"Only those aware of the great consumption of timber in a mining country can appreciate the importance of an adequate supply of the same. Fortunately Montana is much better timbered than the Territories further south, although the large forests are chiefly confined to the mountain ranges. Pine, fir, and spruce abound in the mountains and canons, and balsam, alder, willow, and aspen, in the valleys in the neighborhood of larger streams. Coal has been found in all parts of the

Territory, and patches of coal-bearing strata will be discovered in nearly all the valleys. The coal belongs to the lignite group. It is already used in the cities as fuel, for blacksmithing and the manufacture of gas. It occurs in beds of from two to six feet in thickness, and can be easily and cheaply mined. These deposits are destined to form an important factor in the future industrial progress of the country."

"It is a well known fact that climate does not always depend upon latitude or altitude, and that the same isothermal line traverses localities differing widely in these respects. The experience of the inhabitants as well as meteorological observations, have established the fact that the climate in the valleys of Montana, though situated further north, is not any colder than the middle States, and that only in the more mountainous regions the average temperature is lower than in the New England States. Locally, the climate is varied and changeable, yet such is the dryness and purity of the air, that these sudden alternations of heat and cold are scarcely noticed, and do not have any injurious effect on man or beast. The days in winter, with few exceptions, are not too cold to render outdoor work unpleasant."

The last statement was verified during last winter, which was the most severe of any for a number of years, for outdoor work was not discontinued on account of cold weather up to the first week in January. Indeed, the above extracts, which are taken at random, fairly represent our Territory, especially in consideration that official reports are confined to facts without elaboration, and are not presented to confuse or mislead the public, but to give a plain statement of things as they actually exist. Of late, an unusual number of letters of inquiry concerning Benton and vicinity have come to hand, to which we shall reply through future numbers of the RECORD. T.

The grasshoppers are said to be disappearing in swarms; they are killed by parasites, and dying in large numbers from other unknown causes; but the reports come in from a number of sections of army worm and potato-bug ravages. In reference to the latter pest, we have read lately a very practical, inexpensive and reasonable method of protecting crops against their ravages. A correspondent of one of our exchanges says:

Every person has noticed how the bugs of every description—moths, millers, &c.—will fly to a lighted lamp after night, and even now, while we write, it is difficult to do so on account of the assemblage of bugs. From this well-known fact the hint was taken and acted upon by some of our people to build brush piles near their potato ground, and after night set them on fire, and all the bugs among the potatoes will at once fly into the flame and then be destroyed.

The Bozeman journals are having a time over the "Indian scare," as the *Courier* terms what the *Times* represents as true reports of Indian depredations. Not content with blaming the guilty parties—the Crows—they are endeavoring to bring the Gros Ventres into the squabble, and are representing that much abused tribe in a worse light even than the Crows appear in their hostile efforts to prevent the removal of the Yellowstone agency. Says the *Times*: "As we go to press, Mr. J. M. Lindley, a gentleman whose word even the *Courier* will not doubt, assures us that war parties are about Twenty-Five Yard Creek. Indian men pronounce them in this instance Gros Ventres. They are armed to the teeth, and are evidently on the war-path for scalps or horses or both." A small party of Gros Ventres may possibly have been seen in that vicinity, but that they were on the war-path even to assist the Crows is most improbable. The Gros Ventres have repeatedly proved their friendship for the whites, and should not be accused of hostile intentions whenever they approach a settlement.

At the public meeting mentioned in another column a vote of thanks was tendered Major Guido Ilges, Commanding Fort Benton, for his earnest endeavors to protect the lives and property of the people of this community, with the limited force at his command.

The President presented Sitting Bull with a fine rifle, nicely mounted and enclosed in a leather case. On the mounting surrounding the lock is engraved—"Sitting Bull. From the President. For bravery and friendship."—*Ex.*

Had Grant securely locked the case so that Sitting Bull could not have removed its contents, we should have no comment to offer. Who is this Sitting Bull? He is the bloody thirsty villain who has committed more murders than any one Indian since the days of the Wyoming massacre. He is the treacherous scoundrel who has made life-long threats against the white race, and sworn to kill every U. S. soldier that crossed his path, provided he could do so without danger to his own cowardly carcass. He is the Indian whom Major Alderson sets down in his report as the mischief maker of his race in the vicinity of the agency, and we all know that much worse could be truthfully said concerning him—this is the man to whom the President presents a rifle, "For bravery and friendship." Let us chalk that down upon the third term memoranda, and carefully watch the future actions of Sitting Bull. Grant has already had his finger in the Upper-Missouri-Indian-trade pie. Is he afraid of losing his share of the fruit? Oh, no; the President of the United States would not think of committing himself to the active control of Brother Orvil, Bonnet & Co. He who has committed an action unheard of in the annals of commercial enterprise; he who has in effect taken his brother by the hand and said, "Orvil, I, you, & Co. will use the Territories for our own individual benefit; we shall remove any obstructions that may appear in our path, though the same may be legal obstructions and have had an existence previous to our coming, and which may be strictly in accordance to the law by which we are bound, and which I, U. S. Grant, have sworn to obey—he who has done this would not for a moment think of presenting a rifle to an Indian cut-throat for the purpose of using the same in driving his competitors from the field. Time will tell.

True farming is the result of the studies of the laws of nature and their application to the culture of the earth, and has always constituted the most useful occupation of man; for it has contributed more to increase his comforts and alleviate his wants than almost all other efforts combined. It also tends to refine and elevate him above the grosser conditions of life. It has been well described as the master wheel which moves all the machinery of society. Whatever gives increased impetus to this great power communicates a corresponding impulse to the many minor wheels of interest which it regulates. But while agriculture offers to a liberal mind opportunities denied in almost every other department of science, yet the laws which govern the productive powers of the soil remain a dead letter to the great body of those who should manifest the most interest in their observance. How important then that those who choose farming for their avocation in life should cultivate their minds, that they may become familiar with its principles, as well as the best modes of practice in the various departments of husbandry, and thus not only profit themselves by the experience and improvement of others, but give their share of the same that it may benefit their neighbors.

A TEXT FOR A SERMON.—A bright boy, just three years of age, and like most little chaps of his size sometimes rather refractory. In order to curb him, his mother often threatened him with a peach-tree "persuader," and the little fellow has learned to understand that any allusion to the peach tree means a whipping, and usually subsides when it is spoken of. A day or two ago, since the flowering of the fruit trees, the youngster made peace for that day by looking up and saying: "Why, mamma, the switches are covered with roses."

I held a hand at "draw," and thinking it worth while, I "blinded" half my pile; and with a triumphant smile, he "saw." I drew one card—'twas red; the other four were spades. Straightway that fellow wades for me with three old maids. 'Nuff ced.

Mr. Hyde's Stereopticon exhibition was a grand success. Mr. Hyde contemplates visiting Benton again in the fall.

OVERLAND HOTEL,

Fort Benton, M. T.,

Under the management of Messrs

ROWE BROTHERS

is unsurpassed by any

First-Class House in Montana

for comfort and convenience.

NEW HOUSE, NEW ROOMS, NEW FURNITURE.

Messrs Rowe Brothers have just completed a new addition to the OVERLAND, consisting of a large, neatly-finished building, containing eleven sleeping apartments and an elegantly furnished reception room. The liberal patronage which this old and widely celebrated Hotel has received since its establishment at Fort Benton has encouraged the proprietors to make it still more worthy of public favor. It is believed that the improvements just completed make

THE OVERLAND

SECOND TO NONE IN THE TERRITORY.

Clean, neatly-kept rooms, comfortable beds, luxurious table, attentive waiters,

Are Characteristics of this House.

The Helena Stage will bring guests to the door of the OVERLAND.