

# FORT BENTON RECORD

FORT BENTON, M. T., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1875.

Vol. 1.

No. 26

**THE BENTON RECORD,**  
Fort Benton, M. T.,  
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

W. H. BUCK, - - - Editor & Proprietor.

**RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.**  
(IN ADVANCE.)  
One copy, one year, \$4 00  
One copy, six months, 2 50  
One copy, three months, 1 50  
SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

**ADVERTISING RATES.**

SPACE	1 w.	2 w.	3 w.	4 w.	13 w.	26 w.	52 w.
1 inch.	\$2 50	\$3 00	\$4 00	\$5 00	\$10 00	\$18 00	\$24 00
2 "	4 50	5 00	6 50	8 00	14 00	20 00	30 00
3 "	6 00	7 00	8 00	10 00	16 00	24 00	40 00
4 "	7 00	8 00	10 00	12 00	20 00	30 00	52 00
5 "	8 00	10 00	12 00	14 00	30 00	40 00	64 00
6 "	9 00	12 00	14 00	16 00	36 00	50 00	80 00
8 "	11 00	20 00	24 00	28 00	60 00	80 00	120 00
column	20 00	30 00	36 00	42 00	80 00	120 00	200 00

Local notices 15 cents per line for first insertion and 10 cents for each subsequent insertion.  
Legal advertisements, of not more than 10 lines solid nonpareil, \$1.50 for first insertion, and 75 cents for each additional insertion.

**INDIAN POLICY OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.**

At the time of the arrest and incarceration of our fellow-townsmen, Evans, Hale, Hardwick, Harper, and Deveraux, in view of extradition for the murder of certain Assiniboine Indians in British America, we asserted that the arrests were made to perfect a stroke of policy, to act upon the feelings of the Indians in the British territory in the grand peace measure which was then about to be forced upon them. The assertion was ridiculed by parties who considered themselves judges of the situation, who insisted that the British Canadian authorities had no covert motive in their action against the lives and liberty of our citizens. The following extract, of a description of the tour of Major Irvine, from the Manitoba "Free Press" proves the correctness of the conclusion we had arrived at in the premises: "The Major made a very rapid march from Fort McLeod, but he is of opinion that there is not an Indian in the North-west who is not aware of the enterprise in which he was engaged, as he was constantly meeting scouts from the several encampments. These arrests will do more to establish the confidence of the Indians in the Government, than any quantity of presents, promises, and pow-wowing. Major Irvine deserves the greatest praise for the decisive and energetic manner in which he has brought these criminals to justice."  
There is a sacrifice of the liberty of American citizens for the purpose of adding the monopoly of the Indian trade by the Hudson Bay Fur Company. Hear what this same journal says of these men: "The prisoners, being experienced buffalo hunters, did good service

in supplying the party with steaks, and were allowed considerable liberty, until the borders of this Province were approached, when it was deemed best to handcuff them."  
What a disgrace to a Government like ours is contained in the above pithy paragraph.

**THE YELLOWSTONE.**

In common with other sections interested in the progress of the Territory, we welcome every enterprise that is likely in any way to enhance the general prosperity, but while willing to aid in advancing any practical project, the RECORD will always condemn any rash undertaking, which, however plausibly represented by other journals, must in the end prove an injury to the business interests of Montana. On this principle we have condemned the Carroll route, and for the same reason we refuse to countenance the efforts now in progress to test the navigability of the Yellowstone river. Not that we have the least objection to any number of people investing their means in this or any other enterprise; but we do protest against the ridiculous representations that have been made by the Bozeman papers regarding the practicability and advantages of opening the river. When the project was first announced in the rooster articles of the late "Times," we regarded it as a mere ruse to attract public attention to the Gallatin valley—in fact an immigration advertisement. But if we can believe the "Courier," a company has been organized for the purpose of testing the truth or falsehood of Grant Marsh's reports, which as frequently stated in this journal are in direct contradiction to the Josephine's log, and also of statements made in a letter from Capt. Marsh to one of the principal merchants of Benton. It remains, however, for the Bozeman company to prove the sincerity of the Captains promises or contrary assertions.

The settlement of the country lying between the Yellowstone and the Missouri, is a matter of the deepest interest to the inhabitants of this section, as it bears an important feature in our future welfare and advancement; and were the Yellowstone practicable, were it possible to overcome the current of the river so that freight could be transported into that section the consequent increase of settlers would materially enhance our own

prosperity, and consequently, we would be only too happy to encourage any honest effort towards the development of the enterprise. But having one instance of disaster to the business interests of the Territory through the failure of an unwise transportation project, we have no desire to see the mutual welfare of the Gallatin and this section again endangered by unscrupulous speculators, for we have taken the pains to investigate the subject, and have learned from Capt. Grant Marsh himself that the scheme is utterly impracticable.

**BRITISH JUSTICE.**

The following account of the examination of George M. Bell appears in the so-called liberal journal of Winnipeg, the "Free Press": "Before Justice Betournay, Monday, was brought Geo. M. Bell, charged on the information of Wm. T. Urquhart, late Clerk of the North-West Council, with having with others, killed certain Indians, of the Assiniboine tribe, at or near the Cypress Hills, in May 1873. This man is one of the prisoners brought in by Major Irvine. Mr. D. M. Walker appeared for the prosecution on behalf of the Local Government, and Mr. Cornish on behalf of the Dominion. Two witnesses were also brought in by Major Irvine, of which Abel Farwell, who kept a "fort" at the scene of the massacre, is the chief. The other witness, Alexis Leboinbard, corroborates Farwell's testimony which was to the effect that horses had been stolen by a band of Indians, from the party of which Bell was one. Another band of Indians had recaptured some of the horses, and had brought them in to the camp, where Bell was, at Farwell's fort. The white party without waiting for any explanations, opened fire upon this band, with Winchester repeating rifles, with terrible effect. Witness saw Bell fire several times. The Indians fled; one was afterwards found in a lodge; he was killed, and witness saw his head on a pole. The evidence of this witness is very damaging to the prisoner."  
Tuesday Mr. Biggs appeared as counsel for the defence, and asked for an adjournment until 10 a. m. Wednesday, which was granted.

The prisoner is quite a young man, and looks as if he might or might not be a murderer. He certainly looks like a frontiersman, and has probably been educated at Benton and thereabout, to believe that the killing of a few Indians is only what is expected of him, as his mode of assistance towards the march of civilization."  
But for the grave nature of the charge against these men, we might pass this expression of British-

Canadian feeling towards our citizens without comment. We commend it to those who pretend to believe in British justice and British clemency. In the first place, the old and well established rule of allowing counsel to the accused is violated. Two prosecuting attorneys appeared on the first day of the examination, while the prisoners were deprived of the right and privilege on all occasions extended to the most depraved criminals in English courts. Yet this is the custom which one of the prominent journals of Montana, the "Herald," desires to have adopted in our country and calls it Anglo-Canadian impartiality. Let the reader glance over the evidence which is now being presented, compare it with the evidence of these same witnesses at Helena, and it will at once be seen that the liberty of our fellow citizens is for a purpose being sworn away by the perjured and paid informer, the Englishman Farwell, assisted by the half-breed sot, La Bompard. There are at least a dozen men in this town and vicinity who can swear that there is not one word of truth in the evidence for the prosecution, which connects the prisoners with the Cypress Hills affair. The bigotry displayed in the last paragraph of the Anglo-Canadian police report is truly contemptible. The writer of that slurring insult upon the citizens of America cannot hide his purpose behind the mass of ignorance displayed in regard to the advantages of civilization, which usually pervades the sanctum of Tory editors of the Northwest British Possessions. No Canadian bank-notes called forth this expression of opinion from the communist of the "Free Press;" it is pure prejudice, an inveterate hatred against the representatives of a free and civilized people.

**THE MILITARY RESERVATION AT SUN RIVER.**

Our Sun River neighbors now feel the necessity of commanding every inch of land in their vicinity. The increase of population demands a wider scope than is now afforded for industrial pursuits, and the surety of the present increase being continued, renders it necessary that some practical step should be taken in the matter. We again urge our Sun River friends to be up and doing. The course which they should follow is plain and by using a little of their chief

characteristic, perseverance, they must succeed in their efforts. There can be no doubt that the interests of the entire Territory would be benefited by the opening for settlement the large adjacent tract now almost useless as a military reservation. This large acreage of rich agricultural land would under settlement remove the difficulty now felt there a home market being only partially supplied. The greatest possible latitude is allowed in the construction of the land laws of the United States to render the same applicable to every section. The scarcity of arable land in the Territories is taken into consideration, and special legislation even is made regarding the survey of lands on the creek bottoms and valleys. For this reason we feel assured that upon representation to the proper authorities any action that had been previously taken in regard to the withdrawal of public lands along the river bottoms and which now retards the progress of agricultural pursuits in the vicinity of said land, would be immediately revoked. And we believe that Gen. Gibbon, who has taken great interest in the agricultural resources of the Territory, would assist in the endeavor to remove any obstacles that may have through force of circumstances arisen, and that he would cheerfully endorse the petition of the Sun River people for the revocation of the order which withdraws from entry that portion of the public domain that comprises the Fort Shaw Reservation.

**CHAS. K. WELLS**

(SUCCESSOR TO J. H. MING & CO.)

Helena.....Montana

**Bookseller, Stationer**

And Dealer in

FANCY GOODS, NOTIONS,

Wall Papers, Musical Instruments & Strings, Etc., Etc.

Agent for the SINGER SEWING MACHINE.

Letters of inquiry promptly answered and samples sent by mail.