

# T. C. POWER & BROTHER,

FORT BENTON, MONTANA TERRITORY,

Wholesale and Retail dealers in

## ALL KINDS OF MERCHANDISE.

Including Every Description of

### INDIAN GOODS.

Agricultural Implements of all kinds

kept constantly on hand.

Storage and Forwarding

### FREIGHTERS.

Through Bills of Lading from

Chicago, St. Louis, and Pittsburgh to Helena, M. T.

#### RIVER MARKET.

Beef, Game,  
Veal, Mutton, Fresh Fish,  
& Pork, & Ice.

SANBORN & MARTIN,  
Front Street, - - FORT BENTON, M. T.

Goods delivered to any part of the city free of charge.

#### EDMUND BRADLEY,

Fort Benton, M. T.,  
House Carpenter and Joiner.

All work guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

#### STAINING & VARNISHING,

JOHN HUNSBERGER,  
Fort Benton, - - M. T.,  
AGENT FOR

#### Steell & Adams'

SUN RIVER SAW MILL,  
Boards, Scantling, and Shingles constantly on hand

#### J. A. KANOUSE,

#### ATTORNEY AT LAW

Fort Benton, M. T.

#### ISAAC & RICHARD MEE,

#### BLACKSMITHING

In all its Branches.  
FORT BENTON, - - - MONTANA.

#### J. W. Toohy,

#### TONSORIAL ARTIST

and  
Capillary Rejuvenator,  
FORT BENTON, - - MONTANA

#### FORT BENTON

EXPRESS,  
GEO. HOUK, Proprietor.

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

## 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.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### CARROLL.

To the Editor of the Record:

In closing these letters, which I have been called upon to write—forced upon, I might say, by the untenable and unseemly position taken by the advocates of the Carroll route—concerning the advantages and inducements and practical illustrations of the supremacy of the Benton route, a few words in regard to the record of the Fort Benton Transportation Company are in place. Not in the shape of praise are they tendered; justice demands that an acknowledgement should be made of the successful operations of the Benton Company, who have done everything that was possible, all that was required, to restore the commercial traffic of this Territory to a safe footing, which traffic was dangerously impaired through the mushroom venture of unwise speculation.

Starting into existence early this season the Fort Benton Transportation Company were met on all sides by the most persistent opposition. At every quarter, at all points least expected, did they encounter the obstacles which were skillfully strewn by their untiring opponents. Railroad officials seemed to be carried in the pockets of the Carroll people. Railroad promises of fair rates and open competition were, when the time arrived for fulfilment, construed through this unseen influence into a discriminating offer to forward Benton shipments at an exorbitant rate. State officials were used to forward this scheme of opposition, and State laws were invoked to prevent shipments of certain articles via Benton. Nothing daunted, however, by these untimely and unexpected reverses, which would have cooled the ardor of many corporations, and although the coming venture looked unfavorable in the extreme, the Benton Company still continued their persevering course. They plunged into every known nook, traversed every avenue, many of which had previously remained unknown to Montana shippers and which had never been touched by Montana freight. No single belt of railroad could bind them. No monopoly could drive them from their purpose. And if the railroad which intended to pluck the golden fruit of the future of this Territory refused aid in the distribution of the seed of commercial enterprise, if the Northern Pacific closed its doors to Montana freight, or refused it admittance on terms of equality, another, though it were a thousand times more remote, could be found who would gladly welcome the opportunity to replenish its coffers by shipping Montana freight at lower rates than it could be shipped by the road which was speculating upon the possibility of a Montana subsidy. The Benton Company still persisted in contracting at losing rates. They still agreed to forward freight at a lower through rate than freight could be delivered by the Carroll forwarding merchants. Hundreds of tons of freight had been entered on their forwarding books; still no open rate was allowed, although the Northern Pacific had endeavored to mislead the Benton merchants, by assuring them that the same rate would be allowed to Benton and Carroll shippers. Thousands of tons of freight had been checked for shipment, when at last the N. P. officials saw it was a losing game to butt against the solid wall of enterprise that shielded the live merchants of Benton from the encroachments of monopoly, and the road was open to all at the rates under which Maclay & Co. were shipping. It was then too late to be of much advantage, but whatever could be gained by open competition at that late period was quickly recognized. Had the Northern Pacific Railroad acted upon its agreement and not have been influenced by opposition shippers, freight would have been delivered in Montana earlier and cheaper than it has been done this season; although, in view of the obstacles in the way of success, the rapid transit and cheap rate record of the Benton route this season excels that of the other route so much, that judging from appearances a person would think that the Carroll route was the one discriminated against, and the Benton the one favored by the N. P. Following the action of the railroad officials, came the retraction of many of the prophecies of failure of the Benton Company; but still a doubt was cast on the ultimate success of the attempt to concentrate the freight traf-

fic of this Territory on the Benton route. The splendid record of the Fort Benton Transportation Company this season shows how foolish it was to indulge in such prophetic warblings. The first freight of the season was delivered via Benton, the first through freight was delivered at Helena via this route before a pound had yet left Carroll. The last freight of the season is now being transported to its destination by reliable freighters. The events of the close are in accordance with the mode of entry, and all agree in confirmation of the successful operations of the Fort Benton Transportation Company, conspicuous among whose members are the firms of T. C. Power & Bro. and I. G. Baker & Co., have have clearly demonstrated the supremacy of the Benton route as an avenue for cheap and rapid transit, which shows beyond doubt the permanency of Benton as the freight metropolis of Montana. T.

### INDIAN COUNTRY.

TETON, Nov. 1, 1875.

To the Editor of the Record:

In the RECORD of last week I read with pleasure an article concerning Indian country and Indian reservation. Judge Wade's decision regarding Indian country may be a true interpretation of the law; indeed, I do not doubt that it is, but as far as it reaches a large component of the prosperity of the Territory, it carries with it a withering touch. But aside from that, the reasons and the circumstances, and their realization through which the decision was rendered, have a damaging effect in the settlement of the vales and dells of this region. The decision, that the Teton valley was Indian country, was based on the fact of occupancy by Indians. This valley is open for settlement, is now being as rapidly settled as could be expected in view of the above mentioned transformation of its relation towards settlement. If it is occupied even in part by Indians, who is to blame for it? Is it the trader, to reach whom this decision was originated? No, the unfortunate pioneer, the hard working ranchman, must bear the blunt of Indian raids, which through pressure of the manipulators of the present Indian policy, are construed and passed through our halls of legislation and courts of justice as "Indian occupation."

In the article I speak of, you say that the country "from the confluence of the Teton and Marias to the Rocky Mountains, and south to a considerable distance, is still occupied by Indians in their nomadic pursuits." That is to say, occupied by Indians while they are on flying trips as war parties. Yes, sir, that is correct. Numerous occupations of this kind occur within the vast expanse of country spoken of. Almost any week the war—excuse me, an occupation—party of Indians may be seen traversing the Teton valley, ostensibly on their way to make war on the buffalo, but as it appears afterwards, really to make war with their red brethren and, to make the task of occupation less expensive, to steal the white men's horses. Only Saturday a party of red neighbors occupied a portion of this valley for a very short time. About five miles from Stocking's ranch a hunter was commanded to halt by two buck occupants, who, mounted on fleet ponies, rather belied the justice or truth of Judge Wade's definition of a war excursion by Indians. In a haughty tone they demanded the hunter's name, where he lived and how many horses he had. To these questions of course the hunter gave proper replies, and the Indians left in disgust at his poverty. Cautiously trailing them to a coulee, the hunter discovered a large war party of Nez Perces Indians, who were quietly awaiting the return of the scouts. Next morning no trace of the Indians could be found, but several anxious inquirers were around to know "if anybody saw any horses straying around there." The trail of the Indians was followed for a long distance. It led towards the Bear Paw Mountains. Further information concerning the Indians proved that they were only a portion of a war party of Nez Perces who were going to battle with the Gros Ventres, and fearing to lose their game were playing for general results along the Teton. This is only one of many instances of late occupation by Indians, all of which will in time be written of by

TETON RANCHMAN.

### FORT WALSH.

#### Holiday Sports at the Cypress Hills.

FORT WALSH, October 24, 1875.

Yesterday being the anniversary of the birthday of Major Walsh's little daughter, Anna Cora, who at present resides with the Major's estimable lady in Canada, the Cypress Hills presented a scene of jubilee not often witnessed in this isolated region. The British flag waved proudly in the breeze, the cannon thundered over the hills, and the glad voices of lass and ladie rang merrily in the morning air.

After the opening salute, which was well executed by the troop under the direction of the gallant Captain Welch, who was acting as officer of the day, the first item on the programme was a foot race, which took place at 10 o'clock and was participated in by half a dozen muscular young men, such as are seldom produced outside of the British Isles. The race was won by Mr. Fred Gaddes. The remainder of the forenoon was devoted to base ball.

At 1 o'clock the racing stock was brought out on the flat above the fort. Among the most conspicuous horses were Dolly Oldham's sorrel, and Mr. McCoy's bay horse Buffalo Dick. The sorrel won a 400 yard race by a half-neck. A Derby was made up—from which the above horses were barred—best 3 in 5, which was won by Mr. Lavelle's little bay horse. A number of scrubs concluded the sport.

Next in order came an old man's race, the prize for which was a fancy riding bridle. Old man McCoy and Gabriel Patras, entered the contest, the indomitable Gabriel coming out victorious.

At 7 o'clock the ladies, among whom I recognized several old acquaintances, made their appearance, and were comfortably cared for by the kind and attentive Capt. Allen. The windows around the square were illuminated, and a painted balloon bearing the celebrated words "God Save the Queen" shed its light from the top of the flagstaff. At an early hour the dining hall was cleared, and all present were invited to trip the light fantastic, which they did in true Red River style. In due time supper was announced. Maj. Walsh sat at the head of the table, and made every one comfortable and happy by the beaming smiles of his own pleasant countenance. Such were the holiday sports at the Cypress Hills.

Before closing this communication, I desire to say a word concerning that "strange story," which I understand has been contradicted in the Helena Herald by one Hugh Duncan. The rev. gentleman is either ignorant of the facts, or has purposely misstated them. With the exception of a few old "coffee coolers," none of the Blackfoot tribe ever go near the agency; and as for the Blood Indians, not over five or six lodges have been near the agency for the past three years. I can also prove that the Piegan Indians have spent the greater part of the past summer on this side of the line, and are here now. These facts are well-known to myself and hundreds of others, Rev. Hugh Duncan notwithstanding.

Respectfully yours,  
ROBERT E. EVERSON.

#### FORT GARRY PRISONERS.

#### True Bills Found By the Winnepeg Grand Jury Against Montana Citizens.

[From the Manitoba Free Press.]

Court of Queen's Bench opened on Monday, October 11th their Lordships Chief Justice Wood and Judge McKeagney on the bench:

The following charge was delivered by his Lordship Chief Justice Woods:

"James Hughes, Philander Vogel and George M. Bell stand charged with the murder of several Indian men, women, and children at Cypress Hills in the Northwest Territory, in the month of May, 1873. We all recollect the shudder with which, shortly after the bloody tragedy, we received the intelligence of the wanton and atrocious slaughter, by a lawless band of whites chiefly from Fort Benton, of the Assinaboine Indians peacefully encamped at Cypress Hills, having given no cause of offense, and all unsuspecting any attack, and whose first intimation of danger was the sharp rattle of the deadly repeating rifle from a treacherous and concealed foe.