

# FORT BENTON RECORD

FORT BENTON, M. T., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1876.

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## THE BENTON RECORD,

Fort Benton, M. T.,

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

### RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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5 "	8 00	10 00	12 00	14 00	30 00	48 00	64 00
6 "	9 00	12 00	14 00	16 00	36 00	50 00	80 00
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### END OF VOL. I.

The first volume of the RECORD closes with this number. The first number of the second volume will appear next Friday morning, greatly enlarged and typographically improved, and in future will contain a much larger complement of local and general reading matter. Economical management and a steady increase of patronage has placed the paper upon a firm paying basis, a fact of which we are not a little proud when considering the many disadvantages under which we have labored during the year, and the many prophecies of failure with which we were favored before and after our establishment at Benton. Our task, it is true, has not been an easy one, for many journals have struggled and failed under far more favorable circumstances than the RECORD has enjoyed, but the result of our labors is none the less satisfactory because every dollar of our receipts have been faithfully and laboriously earned.

For the forthcoming volume we expect a more liberal and extensive patronage—not in the way of charitable donations, but as payment for full value received. We mean to earn all that we get and want all that we earn, and so long as our labors are fairly compensated, so long will the RECORD continue to exist and to use every honorable effort to advance the interests of its patrons and friends.

### HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

In a recent controversial article on the Helena and Benton Railroad, the "Independent" claims to have "originated the idea" and to have urged the measure through the Legislative Assembly. During or about the time of the meeting of the Legislature, and before any other journal had agitated the matter, the "Independent" certainly did advocate the construction of a railroad from Helena to the head of navigation; but the credit of originating the idea belongs to Choteau County's Representative, Hon. R. S. Ford. At the railroad convention held in Helena in April, 1875, every section of the Territory was represented, and every county and town endeavored to grind its own particular ax. Choteau was represented by Mr. Ford, and whether or not the gentleman regarded the project of a H. & B. road in a local or a general sense, he presented a resolution to the effect that the Territorial Legislature should encourage the construction of a railroad from Helena to the head of navigation on the Missouri river. Mr. Ford also represented this county in the last Legislature, and true to that consistency which has characterized all his public actions, he presented the bill that authorizes the construction of the road by the counties interested. The "Independent" no doubt materially assisted in the passage of the bill, and its efforts are not unappreciated; but we believe in giving "credit where credit is due," hence these remarks.

### IMMIGRATION.

At the last meeting of the Territorial Legislature a bill calculated to encourage an increase of population was framed. The object of the measure was of course favorably considered, and even party lines were not permitted to obstruct its passage; but, unfortunately, it was opposed by those whose mistaken zeal for economy, or desire to advance their respective railroad projects, would not permit them to vote for the expenditure of the few thousands necessary to place the measure upon a practical footing. They regarded the expense as unnecessary, for the reason that the construction of a railroad, which they considered a settled fact, would open up every avenue of immigration and develop every acre of the min-

eral and agricultural resources of the Territory. This was undoubtedly a serious blunder on the part of our Legislature—a mistake that had frequently been condemned in their predecessors. It is by no means advisable to encourage a larger immigration to any country than is necessary for its development, especially if there is a probability that a slight stagnation in its limited enterprises may prove the cause of general impoverishment. It is doubtless wrong to hold out inducements unwarranted by the situation, for the purpose of increasing the labor population of any community where the demand is of such a nature that a surplus must necessarily cause suffering and distress; although it is proper to encourage those who have capital to invest, however trifling the amount they possess. In Montana there has always been a scarcity of labor and wages has been proportionately high. It is even doubtful whether in our day a time will arrive when the supply of labor will equal the demand, as new industries and enterprises now unknown among us will spring up with every new addition to our population. For this reason any and every feasible plan through which, at a reasonable and justifiable expense, an increase of population may be secured should be adopted regardless of their connecting or associating influences. Such a plan we believe was rejected, or rather failed to receive sufficient support to justify its presentation at the last Legislature. In the absence of that general aid which was confidently hoped for, it is advisable that the people of this county should embrace every opportunity, public and private, to encourage immigration, and thereby practically assist in the development of their unlimited resources.

### WOOLEN FACTORIES.

The establishment of manufacturing is one of the most important features in the development of the industrial resources of any country. It gives new life and vigor to other enterprises, it inspires confidence among those who watch the progress of events with a view to pecuniary investment, and it produces among the people a feeling of independence or self-reliance which is indispensable to the proper development and prosperity of every newly-settled land. All things

considered, the few industrial enterprises of which Montana can at present boast have made creditable progress. Our mining interests are every year conducted upon more scientific principles, with the most profitable results and cheering evidence of future unlimited wealth; our agricultural and pastoral resources have also been sufficiently tested to prove that they must eventually become an important source of revenue and the means of sustaining an immense population. But while these pursuits are essential to the welfare of the Territory, they require stimulation from those other enterprises which naturally result from the progress of civilization and which are now very necessary to our further advancement. The proposed erection of a woollen factory in Missoula County is a step in the right direction, as it will open up a branch of industry much needed and fully warranted by the local demand for woollen goods and the home supply of raw material. The force of example is at times wonderful, and we should not be surprised if it proved very effectual in this instance. Our own section possesses many advantages for the manufacture of woollen fabrics.—Surrounded by the most excellent sheep ranges, well supplied with water power, and having an abundance of coal and wood, we could sustain at least one factory at present and any number in the future. We hope our people will give the matter some consideration, as this county is sadly in need of some new enterprise to encourage an increase of population and give additional confidence to its present residents.

The Secretary of the Interior has sent to Congress a list of claims for losses through Indian depredations from April 1, 1864, to March 15th, 1876. The total amount of these claims is \$5,753,641, of which the department has allowed and transmitted to Congress for its disposal \$1,184,610. The loss of property in this vicinity alone, for which no claims have ever been made, would swell these sums many additional thousands of dollars.

A bill providing that no person shall be prosecuted, tried or punished for any offence except against Internal Revenue, unless indicted within three years after such offence has been or may be committed, has passed the House.

The Helena "Independent" says that the merchant who does not advertise is like Enoch Arden, because he sees no sale from day to day.

The Deer Lodge Rifle Team offers a prize of \$50.00 to be shot for April 20th, at 500 yards. There is a shootist at Benton who we think could take that \$50.00.

The logical arguments of the Helena "Independent" in favor of the H. & B. Road should be read and well considered by every resident of the Territory.

The "New North West" considers that the people of Montana has had a narrow escape from ruin through railroad subsidy, but thinks there is still danger in the future, and recommends them to look well to their future Representative nominations. The "North-West" says:

The submission of our railroad aid bill by the Legislature to the people before it became a law was demanded by the press and public unexceptionably. It is well this was done. But it is now very generally accepted that laws so vitalized are void. It is therefore probable that efforts will be made at another session to fully enact a subsidy measure with no subsequent test of its popularity at the polls. If that is possible, it may be even worse than the one just defeated. Therefore while congratulating our people on their great deliverance, with renewed confidence in the intelligence and integrity of Montana and faith in the judgement of the people, we bid them beware in the future and look well to their legislative nominations. There are perils yet to come."

Latest reports from the Black Hills are not encouraging to emigrants. It is stated that a party of hungry miners recently broke open a store in Custer City to obtain provisions.

The Bozeman "Times" states that the Yellowstone expedition is making slow progress on account of bad roads. "The officers and men are ambitious to give a good account of themselves should they encounter hostile Sioux on their march."

Official correspondence published in the "Missoulian" indicates that a one-company post has been established near Missoula on the recommendation of General Merritt, and that the order assigning troops will be promulgated as soon as the present campaign places them at disposal.—["New North West."]