

main divide at the southwest corner of the Territory, runs a formidable chain, the Bitter Root Mountains, which form our western boundary. The Northern Pacific road has turned this chain by a great loop to the north, going almost to the British boundary. As far as I know, no one has yet found a feasible pass across this range, and here is where the great topographical obstacle to railroad building through Montana is met. The Manitoba road must, of course, have an outlet to the Pacific, and is built so far north that it may cross the main range at the head of the Dearborn or Sun River and by way of the Big Blackfoot or Flathead Lake, seek the same outlet as the Northern Pacific via Pend d' Oreille Lake. But if the Chicago and Northwestern or other trunk lines are to cross Montana on their way to the Pacific, they must come from the southeast, and will they choose a route through our Territory if they also are compelled to make the great loop north of the Cœur d'Alene Mountains? If not then again may topographical considerations decide in favor of the alkaline, sagebrush deserts and barren lava plains of Idaho, as against the grassy plains and fruitful valleys of Montana.

The question then arises, whether with three great railroads already competing for Montana traffic, our business will be sufficient to justify other roads in entering this field, when they have to seek it as an end and not merely as so much way traffic to be gathered by a trans-continental line, passing through the Territory on its way to the Pacific. These questions are too large to be treated here. I can only throw out the hints to show in how many ways our future growth and development are dependent on the topographical features of the country; and how important it is that these should be thoroughly understood by all who are interested in their development.

But even if the Bitter Root Mountains should prove an insurmountable barrier to the crossing of railroads, they are fortunately low enough to be surmounted by the vapor-laden mild winds from the Pacific Ocean, which temper the rigor of our winters and drive those unwelcome British American visitors, the blizzards, across our northeastern corner into Dakota. They cover our mountains with snow and send us the spring rains which make the valleys of Montana to blossom like the rose, covering the bottoms with waving fields of hay and grain and the hillsides with rich grass and the most beautiful wild flowers in the world. Without the mountains our winters might be warmer, but the dryness of the desert would be upon us. With the mountains as high as those of Colorado our winters would be arctic. Are topographical studies of no interest?

Bozeman, Montana.

P. KOCH.

OUR LEGISLATIVE SOLONS.

The Men Who Are at Present Charged With the Duty of Legislating for the People of the Territory of Montana.

The following is a roster of the present members of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, they having been elected at the last general election held November 2d, 1886. On joint ballot the Assembly is Democratic by 3 majority.

COUNCIL.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	COUNTIES.	POST OFFICES.
Batchelder, G. L.	Beaverhead	Bannock.
Cardwell, E.	Jefferson	Cold Spring.
Collins, T. E.	Choteau	Fort Benton.
Hickman, R. O.	Madison	Virginia City.
Holliday, S. L.	Gallatin	Livingstone.
Hundley, W. B.	Lewis & Clarke	Helena.
Kennedy, Will.	Missoula	Missoula.
Pardee, J. K.	Deer Lodge	Phillipsburg.
Richards, J. E.	Silver Bow	Butte.
Sutherland, W. H.	Fergus and Meagher	White Sulphur Sp'gs.
Thompson, J. J.	Custer	Miles City.
Waters, E. C.	Dawson and Yellowstone	Billings.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	COUNTIES.	POST OFFICES.
Alderson, W. W.	Gallatin	Bozeman.
Armstrong, F. K.	Gallatin	Bozeman.
Blake, H. N.	Madison	Virginia City.
Brown, L. A.	Beaverhead	Dillon.
Buskett, J. W.	Jefferson, Lewis and Clarke	Boulder Valley.
Gorham, T. L.	Lewis and Clarke	Dodge.
Hanscomb, C. W.	Silver Bow	Butte.
Harwood, E. N.	Yellowstone	Billings.
Hoffman, C. W.	Gallatin	Bozeman.
Holt, J. M.	Custer	Miles City.
Johnson, E. H.	Custer	Miles City.
Kanouse, J. E.	Fergus and Meagher	Townsend.
Mantle, Lee	Silver Bow	Butte.
Marshall, T. C.	Missoula	Missoula.
Muth, William	Lewis and Clarke	Helena.
Page, J. M.	Beaverhead and Madison	Twin Bridges.
Scobey, C. R. A.	Dawson	Ridgellawn.
Spaulding, Harrison	Missoula	Missoula.
Taylor, J. F.	Choteau	Choteau.
Thompson, William	Silver Bow	Butte.
Titman, Jacob	Fergus and Meagher	Tooston.
Toole, J. R.	Deer Lodge	Anaconda.
White, M. W.	Deer Lodge	Helmsville.
Wilson, Enoch	Jefferson	Radersburg.

J. CHAUVIN.

The gentleman whose name is above, conducts the Northwestern Furniture Company, an establishment whose warerooms cover acres of ground floor, every available inch of which is covered with goods. The stock comprises all manner of household articles, kitchen and dining room, glass and queensware, office, bed room and parlor furniture, pictures, etc.

Silver Bow County, Montana Territory, has the proud distinction of producing more wealth per capita (\$1,300.00) than any other community in the world.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

A Temple for the Drama That Would do Credit to any Small City on the American Continent.

This beautiful Temple of Thespis is a monument to the live and progressive men who aided in the enterprise, and a credit to the city. It is located on West Broadway near Academy street; is of red brick, two stories high, and the front is ornamented by a neat portico. It is 54 feet in width and about 35 in height. The ground floor, in addition to the main entrance, contains two storerooms. The main entrance is 9x25, and in addition to an electric light in front, is well fitted with neat gas fixtures. The auditorium is 54x70 and the height is 35 feet. It is divided into orchestra and dress circle, the first containing 182 and the latter 280 chairs. The floor has a good pitch toward the stage and the elevations are so arranged that the occupants of any and all rows of seats can easily see over the heads of those in front. The space for the orchestra is divided off from the main body of the house by a neat rail. The aisles are handsomely carpeted. There are four boxes, two on each side. They are neatly furnished. The family circle is supplied with 300 chairs exactly like those below. One of the principal charms about the building is that it is nicely proportioned and the seats so well arranged, that a full view of the stage can be obtained from any of them. In case of fire or other accident, ample water and exit facilities exist. From the family circle there are two flights of stairs, one on either side of the main entrance, and the smaller stairs leading to the boxes from the first floor, which can be utilized for the circle audience. The plumbing is complete in every detail, both in regard to the water and gas supply as well as ventilation. The principal fixture is the sun-light, which is dependant from the apex of the ceiling over the auditorium. The stage and dressing rooms are well lighted.

The water supply is, like the gas, complete and ample, there being at that point a direct pressure of 70 pounds. On the stage there is a rigging of risers and valves, with cross-pipes perforated and so arranged that in case of fire the stage can be flooded in a moment. The dressing rooms are supplied with hot and cold water and are very neatly furnished. The stage was built and fitted up under the direction of H. W. Barbour, of New York City. It is 23x54 feet, and completely fitted with all modern machinery, scenery, traps, etc. The dressing rooms are six in number, four below the stage and two above. All are plastered, well finished and lighted with gas. They open into the alley, thus enabling all luggage to be delivered just where it belongs. The frescoing of the walls is of a light tint, relieved with panels and scrolls. The arch of the ceiling has a blue background and is ornamented with allegorical figures, executed in fine style and reflecting great credit on the artists. The drop curtain is an Italian scene of great beauty. It is a fitting adjunct to the remainder of the work, and pleases the eye by making the ensemble of the pretty auditorium complete. A full and complete set of scenes and accessories are provided. All the flats are 20x18. The acoustics of the house are excellent. The ventilation is all from the ceiling or dome and therefore safe and good. The building is nicely heated by hot air furnaces. The cost of the building was over \$40,000, exclusive of all furnishings and drapings.

John Maguire is a large stockholder and the manager. He is well known to all theatrical people, having been for years an actor on the coast. Since the building has been completed there have been numerous attractions, including the Emma Abbott Company, the Frohman Fifth Avenue Company, the Devil's Auction, etc.

GEO. W. IRVIN, II.

George Irvin, II, as he is familiarly called, is a handsome man of commanding presence, genial disposition, ready wit, and eloquent tongue. At a casual glance he would pass for about 30 years of age, but his closely cropped iron-grey hair would compel him to plead guilty to having seen many more "moons." He crossed the plains with a bull team when quite a lad, and for many years roughed it in various sections of the then new West. In fact he was a pioneer. Early in the sixties he, in company with a party, drifted into Montana, and during the exciting time of the gold days in Alder and Bannock, enjoyed the tough life of these localities. Concluding to settle down he located in Deer Lodge and remained there a number of years, engaged in business, and held several important positions, the last being Clerk of the Second Judicial District. When the County of Silver Bow was organized, Mr. Irvin came to Butte and has since remained here. Soon after his arrival he was elected as Sheriff by the Republicans and held the office for one term to the entire satisfaction of the people. At the expiration of his term he threw off official responsibilities, and engaged in mining with varying success, until he secured an interest in the Amy and Silversmith combination which he still holds, being general manager of the company. He holds 60,000 shares of stock, and it has proven a most fortunate and successful investment, being worth at least \$4.00 per share, although none of the stock is on the market. Since his good fortune came Mr. Irvin has engaged in other enterprises with good judgment, and is considered a reasonably rich man, with the financial thermometer still rising. He has only recently purchased, in Beaverhead County, M. T., a group of mines for \$50,000. These are now being developed by the Irvin Mining Company, of which he is president, and they promise to be among the big mines of the continent. Mr. Irvin is married and has a family.

H. L. FRANK.

Mr. Frank carries on the largest wholesale liquor business in Butte, and has a branch in Anaconda. He has been ten years in the trade here, and during that time has handled large quantities of goods in his line. He is noted for the assistance he has rendered many men, in engaging in business, and is a safe and clear-headed business adviser. He has been twice Mayor of Butte, and his administrations were clean and popular. Mr. Frank is a good, live man, an excellent citizen and is deservedly popular.

An exchange asks: "Why don't we play any of the good old-fashioned kissing games at Christmas time, as we used to?" Why don't we? Oh, come off, thou bat's eyes! If you will read the daily papers you will see there is hardly enough kissing in this country to go around the preachers. The rest of us have to get along with subpoenas.