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THERE is considerable sickness in Benton just now, much of which is caused by the filthy condition of some of our streets and alleys. We hope that our new Board of Commissioners will take this matter in hand, and see that the nuisances are abated. By spring the mass of filth will have become intolerable.

THE burning of the government hay and the stacks of Harris & Strong was one of those malicious acts which are suggestive of a necessity for measures regardless of law. Just what the motive was which actuated such wanton destruction cannot with any certainty be determined, but suspicion is directed to a couple of discharged laborers from Assinaboia, who are known to have a grudge against government officials, although why this should actuate them against private individuals can hardly be perceived. The citizens of the town and county should leave nothing undone to ensure the conviction of such dangerous people, and we are certain they will get the extent of the law if they once get into its power.

THE conservative and reactionary classes of Germany, which consist of the authorities of the Catholic church, and a goodly share of the aristocracy, headed by the Empress, are taking advantage of the Anti-Jewish sentiment to strike at Bismarck. The Chancellor is in open opposition to discrimination against citizens of any class and race, and with all his personal despotism, is the most liberal and democratic statesman of Germany, and his measures, though arbitrary, have a general leveling tendency. We believe this combination against him will fail as have all the others, for there are political forces at his disposal, which, if he should choose to use them, would show very quickly where the power of Germany lies—in her masses. He has used them before to confound his enemies, and may see fit to use them again.

It would have amused the Presidential electors who assembled in the colleges of the respective States, two weeks since, with no weightier worry upon their minds than which of them would have the good luck to be chosen messenger to Washington, to turn over the pages of the *Federalist* in the good old days when the adoption of the constitution was under discussion, and read the laudation of the electoral college system because the choice of President would be made "by men most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station, and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation and to a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements which were proper to govern their choice. The disciples of Jean Jacques have triumphed over English conservatism, and well enough for the future of republican government in America. Think what effect the money of a railroad corporation would have on the analyses of "gentlemen capable of deciding the qualities adapted to the station," in this day of sole financial and commercial expediency!

NEARLY 22 millions of pounds of freight were received in Benton last season, of which all but 8 millions for the government was for general distribution. In addition to this there were received about 600 head of blooded stock. The number of passengers who chose this route for coming into the Territory was 1,583. Down freight, which consisted nearly of wool, robes, hides and furs, amounted to 3,868,042 pounds and 469 passengers. Those who doubt the value of Benton as a distributing point will be reassured by a glance at the above figures, and their indications point only to one conclusion, that Benton has advantages which must inevitably cause her to become the leading commercial city of this entire section of Montana and the British possessions immediately contiguous. The Benton "P" and Coulson Line carried all of this immense freight, with the exception of a little that was brought by the Red Cloud, which is so unwieldy and uncertain as to be useless for the navigation of the Upper Missouri. Some steerage passengers brought by the latter were said to have received brutal and inhuman treatment. The verdict of passengers relative to the Benton "P" and Coulson lines, was, however, unanimous of pleasant treatment, and excellent accommodations.

HON. MR. BRAND, Speaker of the House of Commons, delivered a speech at Lewis in which he discussed a question that must interest every American. In speaking of the importation of American cattle, he said that the prediction that the English farmers would be crushed out by American importations would never be fulfilled. As between the English farmer and the American farmer it was not a matter of competition at all. He thought it was rather a matter of co-operation, as the American farmer was just as heavily taxed as the English. The cost of labor was greater to him, and he had a vast distance to travel over, in order to find a market for his products. Mr. Brand evidently does not understand the difference in the conditions affecting the stock raisers of the two nations, as he only includes those which are common to both, and the only clause in his remarks which have any relevancy to the question is the greater distance ours must traverse in order to reach a market. If American cattle raising was confined to the limits of an En-

glish or New England pasture ground there would exist the certainty he foreshadows, but the vast herds of the great Western plains, and the almost utter freedom from expense in production as compared with soiling methods will give us predominance in that business as long as these plains furnish their nutriment, and are not susceptible to subdivision for agricultural purposes. By far the larger portion of them (unless artesian wells shall solve the irrigation problem) are good for nothing else, and must for many years at least, be given to the sole purpose of cattle raising, and with such manifest advantages over any system that it is possible for British producers to introduce, that we may consider the certainty of our predominance in the cattle and wool interests a foregone conclusion.

COMMON ROADS.

The rapid extension of our common roads is an imperative necessity, both to our own business men and the populations of districts proposed to be traversed. The development of Northern Montana has proceeded so rapidly during the past two years that internal improvement has not been able to keep up with it. The cost of opening long lines of roads through our sparsely settled Territory is very considerable, and imposes a degree of taxation very severe on the few who are compelled to bear it. Yet whatever their cost, they must be made, and without delay, or the development of the country, both agriculturally and commercially, will be indefinitely retarded. The amount lost to consumers, through the almost impassable condition of parts of the country is very great, sufficient, we believe, to cover the cost of construction in a very few years. There are broader grounds for the interest taken by our merchants in the matter of road construction than the mere requirements of present necessity; for upon them will depend whether the trade of the great section naturally tributary to Benton will seek its natural channel, or be deflected to other points where business men may have the superior foresight and energy to push them ahead of us to favor their own interests. We do not intimate that the sections we are directly interested in are utterly inaccessible to Benton, or that the difficulties to be overcome in constructing roads are such that they would require heavy outlay to render them passable, for they are not, on the contrary, there is no section of Montana, taken as a whole, where roads could be so easily constructed or at so little cost. But they are in such an imperfect condition, especially at certain points, that they very materially affect the cost of transportation by retarding—sometimes indefinitely—the movement of freight. It is only at a few points on contemplated routes that the work of straightening, bridging and grading is necessary, and expenditures of money on those points will speedily repay its outlay. Especially should attention be given to the matter of straightening and shortening the roads, and in this connection the erection of bridges is the most vital and expensive, for it is essential that Benton should be brought into the closest communication with her outlying districts, for although great transportation lines, as the river and railroads, will serve a general purpose, it is on the common wagon roads that we must depend, for many years at least, to reach the mass of our population.

There has a great deal been said relative to the folly of creating indebtedness for works of internal improvement, and there is a class of conservative minds who will not or cannot see any other outcome than inevitable bankruptcy, and will not recognize nor take advantage of future possibilities nor see any advantage in improvement, other than the first and most inconsiderable results. But we believe that the people of this district are superior to a conservatism which would repress all the development possible, and keep us in the condition of immobility and stagnation which has been the history of Benton until within the past two years.

We are in favor of creating debt, if necessary, in furtherance of any scheme of internal improvement where the advantages and interests are vital to our development, for it is only by such methods that development can be secured and its advantages retained, and we believe that our County Commissioners will see the necessity of immediate action, and that the people at large, as well as the business men most interested, will sustain any reasonable effort they may make in the direction of road building and improvement.

A road should be opened up the Marias as far as Blackfoot Agency, striking close to the mouth of Piser creek and continuing along with the general course of the river to the head of the Badger. The present route by way of the Teton and Muddy creek is neither more direct nor does it open, by any means, a country so rich and well watered as the route we have named, the settlement of which would add greatly to the commercial resources of Benton.

The route to Ft. Maginnis requires a great deal in the way of improvement. Part of it passes through a country so deficient in landmarks that during the winter season it is impossible to distinguish it, and there are some points in it only passable by roundabout ways and with great effort. Complaints of this route have been incessant, and accidents and delays altogether too numerous for our own good. The country it passes through is the richest in Montana, and it is our principal artery with the Judith. From the mouth of Wolf creek to the head of McDonald's creek, considerable work in the way of grading and

straightening is required, and the balance should be well marked.

A road from the mouth of Wolf creek to Martinsdale, crossing the numerous laterals of the Judith, would open up a splendid country, directly tributary to Benton and would place us in the most direct communication with the splendid country of the Musselshell headwaters, and with points in the south part of the Territory which must soon have prominence from the incoming Northern Pacific.

A road to White Sulphur Springs by the way of Belt creek and over Belt Park would also be a great improvement over the present roundabout way, besides opening up a valuable and fertile country.

While there are other roads—laterals to those we have enumerated—which will soon be required, and which would do much in the way of developing our communications and resources, they are not so absolutely essential and may be deferred until the opportunity shall call for them. But those mentioned should receive the earliest attention of our own county board, and means should be devised by it, and by our Board of Trade, to impress upon the authorities of our sister county, Meagher, the importance of concerted action, which will have so much influence upon the future prosperity of both counties and upon the commercial interests of Benton.

The yule tide ceremonies and festivities will be upon us before another issue, and we cannot let the occasion pass without wishing to all our friends—and all are our friends—a merry Christmas.

The day is a memorable one, celebrating the primal event of several great religions which have merged into the more elevated type of the Christian belief. But we will not discuss the origin of the day nor the grotesque associations which the medieval age has engrained upon it and handed down to us, and which constitute a part of our youthful associations.

It is the day given up to the true pleasure of giving, and this one will not be less noted than those which have preceded it in this regard, for from everywhere come sounds and signs of preparation—trees loaded with all things good, and questions concerning the tastes of individuals which at other times would seem impertinent, but which now are only harbingers of mementoes for the sealing of old friendships and the creation of general good feeling.

It is par excellence the day of rejoicing to the little folks, and stockings will be hung up as they always were in the fullness of childish faith in the generosity of Santa Claus and the certainty of parental oversight. And if we must muse, we might almost wish that we could forget everything but the faith which gave to our early years their only charm.

But it is a day of Waterloo disaster for turkeys which have been pluming themselves on escaping the thanksgiving holocaust, and on their sorrow is depending our enjoyment, which will be taken in the fullness of gratitude for their unquestionable toothsome qualities, and they will add food for reflection with the moral that in the eternal compensations of things turkeys may be evolved into higher elements through the medium of a good appetite, and cranberry sauce.

TAILINGS.

When the felon's not engaged in his employment, Or maturing his felonious little plans, His capacity for innocent enjoyment Is just as great as any honest man's. And of hay stacks he quite often makes a bon-fire, Just to see what little fun he can create: He should be so further aided in his desire That on his body crows shall dialectate.

The King of Greece—Oleomargarine.

If representation in the Senate is to be equalized, all of New England combined would make one tolerable State. But New England combined would make an intolerable State.

If the military academy at West Point is to be turned into a Sunday school, the selection of Gen. O. O. Howard as superintendent would be highly judicious. Of course, the cadets would have the good sense, remembering the fate of the Freemans' concern, to patronize some other bank than that recommended by Gen. Howard.

The future American President who shall condense his official communications to the American parliament into the compass of the corresponding communications to the British parliament will be the greatest of public benefactors.—Chicago Times.

The dreary platitudes condensed from newspaper editorials, and grown wearisome from eternal repetition is among the annual evils of our great republican system.

The sly suggestion is made here and there that, as there is left to Hayes only some three months of official life, he should embrace the opportunity to send in that long promised message on civil-service reform. And he ought not neglect to accompany it with a certified copy of order No. 1. But he probably started with the axiom that charity begins at home, and he has not been enabled to get any further.

There has arrived in America an English gentleman, who has a curious claim for distinction. He is Langtry, the husband of the "Jersey Lily," celebrated as a professional beauty. He intends bringing the lady to America next summer, when Americans will be enabled to see for themselves the truth or

untruth about the reports of her beauty.' It is possible that America is less interested in the matter than the gentleman supposes. Jersey lilies with a princely tarnishment are not a popular American flower, and may appear just a little drooping and faded under the blaze of the bright American sun.

MINERS' NOTES.

Work done outside of a mining claim in order to hold it, must have some distinct relation to the claim, or be in reasonable proximity to it.

If a party has the right of entry upon a mining claim, his right is not vitiated by his forcible or fraudulent exercise of such right, and the party whom he ousted cannot be restored by ejectment.

The appropriation, by ditch for irrigating purposes, of water from a spring, does not prevent the owner of the land on which the spring is situated from so using his own land as to cut off the supply from the irrigating ditch.

When a party stands by and sees a ditch owner appropriate the water of a creek to his own use, at a great expense, and does not inform him of his claim to the waters, he and his vendees are estopped from afterwards claiming the water.

If a person having a just right to mines stand by until he sees whether the adventure of opening them result in profit, a court of equity will lend him no assistance. These observations extend to every kind of trade, but not with such force as they do to mines. A flume for the conveyance of water is in the nature of real estate, and a mortgage upon it will, without any special provisions, include all improvements then upon the line of the works, and also all those which may afterwards be put thereon.

When the law requires a certain amount of labor to be performed "within one year," the locator has until the year expires to perform such labor; and a party who enters upon his claim after the other acts of location are performed, but before the expiration of such year, is a trespasser.

From the necessity of the case, every owner of a mine must submit to the inconvenience of having the water of an adjoining mine upon a higher level descend upon his mine, so long as it descends in the natural course of drainage; but that does not entitle the owner of the adjoining mine to throw upon him, in some other and more objectionable way, water which might be allowed to descend upon him in a modified form not occasioning the same amount of injury to his property.

Important Mining Bill.

Senator Teller has introduced a bill providing that any person owning six or any less number of mineral lode, ledge, or "blanket" claims adjacent to each other, or not more than half a mile apart, on which the assessment labor for the first year has been performed, may thereafter perform upon any one claim of the combined number the entire assessment labor due upon the whole number of claims. If pay mineral is reached on the claim worked, it shall then cease to be counted as one of the combination, and another shall be selected on which to work the assessment of the remainder, and so on until pay mineral is reached on all or the ground abandoned. The bill also provides that claims located since May 10th, 1872, whether located by one or more persons, shall not exceed 1,500 feet in length along the vein or lode, and that no claim shall extend more than 300 feet on each side of the middle of the lode or location at the surface.

The Educational Bill.

Senator Brown, in remarks on the bill above named, delivered the following pointed and eloquent speech: He pointed out that nearly all of our prominent men, from Washington to Garfield, had been of poor parentage, and had by their thirst of knowledge and their industry worked their way up to the top. Doubtless thousands of boys of equal capacity with those he had mentioned had remained mute and inglorious through the absolute impossibility of overcoming unfavorable circumstances and obtaining the necessary education to lift them above the mass. He referred to the great advantage enjoyed by men in New England in comparison with other sections of the country by reason of her supremacy in education. She had furnished or educated most of the men who had controlled our public affairs. The growth of Prussian and German predominance were explicable by the education of the whole mass of the people, making every individual man an intelligent aid to the State, in war or in peace. There were special reasons why the South should favor this bill. The Senator from Vermont (Morrill) had referred to the alarming amount of illiteracy in the United States, but had not analyzed it. Unfortunately it was disproportionately great in the South. One reason for this was that under the old system of Southern society more attention was given to the education of the ruling classes than to that of the whole mass. Another reason was the non-education of the slaves. All now agreed that the blacks should be educated, but the South was too poor to do it alone. They lost two billions of dollars in the value of slaves, which they held constitutionally before the war. They spent two billions more in maintaining their armies, and immense amounts by the destruction of property. He thanked the framers of the bill for providing that the greatest amount of the money should go to the States where there

was the most illiteracy. He complimented the negroes upon their self-control and peaceableness under their new political condition. He had more belief than he had once in their future advancement among the races. The whole country was interested in the intelligence of the colored population. There was complaint that the negroes were cheated at the polls. Ignorance can be cheated anywhere. Educate these people up to the knowledge of their rights and form and spirit of our government and there will be less and less danger. He hoped the blacks and whites alike would be educated in the love of republican institutions. He reiterated his belief that republican institutions could best be insured by the spread of education, and appealed to the representatives of all parts of the country to secure the general benefit by this means.

IRISH TROUBLES.

A Liberal's View of Irish Insubordination—Probable Course of the Government.

Tread, one of the most respected of the Liberals in the House of Commons, speaking at Bedford on the 15th, described vividly the reign of terror that had left no honest calling safe in a large part of Ireland, and avowed his feeling that the sad time had come when the government might be compelled to use coercion. There have been liberal governments before the present government embarrassed by Irish difficulties, and they have not been slack to do what they could to assert the authority of the law. Contrast the spirit of those times and the spirit prevailing now, and there is little to the credit of the government of that or the present generation. One of the worst evils consequent upon the government's attitude is the effect it must have upon the popular reception in Ireland of their remedial legislation. It is imperatively necessary that this legislation should be received as a satisfaction of justice; but it is too probable that it will be received as a concession to the lawlessness with which the government did not venture to grapple. If the arbitrary demands are not granted in the form which they have been made, it will still be said that what is given is the result of the demonstration of the irresistible power of the people determined to have their own way. The most false and foolish notions will thus be confirmed in the brain of the Irish peasant. The shortcomings of the government thus threaten us with a recurrence of the difficulties in the future, for their conduct will encourage a repetition of the tactics with which they have now ventured to grapple.

The New York *World's* London special says: The course pursued by Parnell, which means Home Rule or nothing, has forced the government to a stop which will not unlikely cause bloodshed in Ireland before long. A prolonged meeting of the Cabinet was ominously preceded by an interview between the Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief of the forces, and Childers, Secretary of War. Mr. Forster, Chief Secretary for Ireland, came hurriedly to London a day or two ago, and demanded that coercive measures should be at once put in force in Ireland. It is asserted in the clubs that the Cabinet has decided to use all the power of the government to crush the Land League movement in Ireland. This result is so entirely unexpected that the greatest excitement prevails at the West End. It is expected that orders will be issued at once to send every available soldier across St. George's channel. Having overcome all petty scruples about the duty they owe to Ireland, the government proposes to those that unfortunate country their power at once. The Queen will certainly immediately be asked to exercise the royal prerogative and suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

The London *Times*, in shadowing the reply to the speech from the throne on the opening of Parliament, predicts that the only opposition or suggestion of opposition to the royal speech in reference to Ireland will come from a small section of the Irish members, and expresses the belief that a majority of the Irish members will act with the representatives of England and Scotland, and that the result cannot be doubtful.

A number of men who were leaving on a furlough for England were stopped before going on board and directed to return to their quarters. The officers and men on leave from the regiments stationed in Ireland have been ordered to rejoin their regiments without fail before the 28th inst. Great excitement was caused here by the news that the orders had been issued by the war office in London.

Desert Land Decision.

On the 16th inst., the Secretary of the Interior decided that a married woman whose husband is still living but who has exhausted his right under the laws, can make an entry and acquire a title in her own right under the Desert Land Act. This decision of Secretary Schurz is based upon the broad ground that a woman is a citizen just as truly as a man is, and as the act in question provides for entries for desert lands simply by citizens of the United States, the enjoyment of its benefits cannot properly be restricted to male citizens.

If Virginia is the mother of Presidents, New York, says the Salt Lake *Tribune*, may be called the father of Vice Presidents. Chester A. Arthur will be the seventh Vice President elected from this State. His six predecessors were Aaron Burr, George Clinton, Daniel D. Tompkins, Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore, and William A. Wheeler.