

THE RIVER PRESS.

Wednesday, February 9, 1881.

J. R. STEVENS, LOCAL EDITOR



Choteau Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F.

A regular meeting of the above Lodge will be held on Wednesday evening of each week, at their lodge room in this city. Sojourning brothers are cordially invited to attend. J. N. O. F. MURPHY, N. G. J. P. McCABE, Secretary.



Benton Lodge, No. 25, A. F. & A. M.

Regular Communications of the above named Lodge are held at 7 p. m. on the first and third Saturday of each month. Members of sister lodges and sojourning brethren are cordially invited to attend. RUFUS PAYNE, W. M. H. P. ROLFE, Secretary.

IN TOWN AND OUT.

Wood

Is worth

Twenty-five

Dollars a cord, at

Wholesale figures, and

Will probably be retailed at

The extremely cheap rate of a

Dollar and fifty cents a stick, before

Another week rolls into endless eternity.

If you want a good square meal go to the Estaphone.

Steps are being taken for the formation of a Press Association in Montana.

Kleinschmidt & Bro.'s clerks have started a gymnasium, in which they practice every evening.

Ed. Lewis's and Smith & Castner's trains are expected in Friday with twenty-five tons of coal.

A new postoffice has been established at Copperopolis, with Mr. J. H. Sutherland as Postmaster.

Persons having over half a cord of wood are regarded by the ordinary Bentonite as soulless autocrats.

Pres. Lewis and Davie Brown have come into town to take part in the nightly matinees of Wetzels' clerks.

A dance will be given on the 23d inst. at the Carroll & Steel building, and supper will be served at the Overland Hotel.

The residence of Hon. W. G. Conrad was thrown open to those seeking safety from the threatened flood, Thursday night.

Storer & Storer's teams did good service Thursday night, conveying families to places of safety. They are good citizens.

Wolfene is the name of a new postoffice established at Wolf creek, Meagher county, with J. H. Woodhurst as postmaster.

The Rev. Father Camp desires us to state that he will have services at the regular hours in the Catholic church on next Sunday.

There will be a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners at 11 o'clock on Friday, next, the 11th instant.

Capt. Geo. L. Browning, of the 7th Infantry, has been ordered to report at New York for duty as Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

If you want a plain or fancy "stimulator" to warm the blood and invigorate the system these wintry mornings, drop in and interview Marshall.

Milner & Boardman, a few days since, sold a fine span of their blooded mares to the Morrow Bros. The price paid, we understand, was \$350.

Joe. Lessard was made the father of a fine boy on February 5th; weight nine pounds. Wife and child both doing well, and, Joe says, eating beefsteak.

The Benton Board of School Trustees held a meeting on Friday, and made out an order for maps, charts, school furniture, etc., that will be needed during the coming year.

Mrs. J. S. Hill and Miss Annie Ford left this morning for a month's visit to their mother, Mrs. N. Ford, of Sun River. We wish them a pleasant and enjoyable trip.

If you want cheap and wholesome groceries, go to W. S. Wetzels. If you want a good, warm, comfortable, serviceable suit of clothing, you can also get them at the same place.

The families who availed themselves of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman desire to express their sincere thanks for the many kindnesses received at the hands of the hostess, Thursday night.

Our readers will find the accounts of the breaking up of the ice in the Missouri at this place, and of the flood in the Teton, on our inside pages. They will repay perusal, being thrilling and in some places ludicrous.

The largest band of Indians that have been in this vicinity for a number of years are on the Shonkin. It is composed of Bloods and Piegiens, and they are reported as having a large number of robes.

Our county coroner went out last Sunday to view the ruins of the Teton. Sam. came back with a sad and mournful expression on his usually pleasant countenance. It shows enterprise when even the coroner seeks for employment.

We are reliably informed, by a gentleman of undoubted veracity, that Mr. A. DeLorimer intends engaging extensively in the cattle business next summer, and that he has his branding iron all ready. As a cow-boy the Count will be a splendid success.

Judge Tattan requests us to say that his name was taken as a member of the Board of Trade without his sanction, as his health prevents him. And also that his office will always be at the disposal of the Board and arranged for its convenience as far as it is possible to do.

The Record must be mistaken in regard to Messrs. Wilton & Co. commencing excavating for the new jail, as there is no contract let to anybody for such purposes. Mr. Donnelly, our late county clerk, is now legislating a bill to legalize the former illegal actions that have been taken in regard to the jail.

Dr. J. W. Wheelock and family leave on Thursday morning for a visit to Sun River and Helena. The Doctor represents Choteau Lodge, No. 11, in a meeting called by the dignitaries of the Odd Fellows Order, which assembles in Helena. Dr. Wheelock will also represent THE RIVER PRESS and collect and receive subscriptions.

J. D. Weatherwax came in on Saturday. He reports that the water at his place, fifteen miles up the Teton, rose nearly to his house, on a bench, at 5 o'clock, and by 7 o'clock it was running behind him. He hitched up, loaded some supplies and bedding, and prepared to "git," but soon after that the water commenced to lower, and he went back.

Mr. Castner, of the firm of Smith & Castner, is in town from their coal mine, and informs us that they have over 200 hundred tons of coal out ready for hauling, and that they have done a great deal of work this winter towards thoroughly opening their mine, so as to facilitate the working of it—next summer when the people have no use for coal.

The detachment which left Assinaboine for the expedition on Milk River after Sitting Bull has returned to that Post, on the 2d inst. The officers were in good health and looking well, but some of them had been frost-bitten. A few of the men only were in the hospital, although nearly all of them had been nipped and frozen in the severe weather which was encountered. If the detachment had been one day later it could not have crossed Beaver Creek.

Skating parties are becoming frequent just now. The late "melt" has left large places covered with water, which is now frozen over smoothly, making very good skating. But the skaters sometimes take a tumble, and were it not for the gallantry of the gentlemen, who make cushions of themselves for the ladies to fall on, some of the latter might be seriously hurt. The type of men, of which Sir Walter Raleigh was one, have not all died yet, nor the days of chivalry entirely gone, of which a striking proof was furnished a few evenings since.

Mr. Louis Martin, who has been engaged in freighting between this place and Helena, and whose family has been residing here, died on the 28th ult., in Missoula. The nature of the complaint which carried him off is unknown, but from what we can gather was some sort of acute inflammation induced by taking cold. He leaves a wife and three children in destitute circumstances. Mr. Martin was born in Bordeaux, France, on the 23d of November, 1822, but has been resident of America for many years, and his family will receive the sympathy of the public and should receive its assistance.

The debating society whose headquarters is at a business house in the lower end of town had a very spirited meeting one evening last week. Subject of discussion, "Resolved, That a man has a better chance to make money in the States than in Montana." The Messrs. Storer took the affirmative, and argued their side of the question in a most masterly and forcible manner, while Gov. Brooks, Julius Falk, W. O. Dexter, Major Dunne and others spoke on the negative side. Mr. Falk's description of his experience at raising hogs in the States being very amusing. The audience were much entertained, but our reporter left before a decision had been reached.

Messrs. Murphy, Neel & Co., having removed into their new building, corner of Front and Benton streets, are prepared to wait upon customers with more ease and despatch than heretofore. They offer superior inducements to retail as well as the jobbing trade, having on hand a choice stock of staple and fancy groceries complete in every respect. They also have dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, hardware and stoves, tin ware, fence wire and iron roofing, Cortland spring wagons and buggies and the old reliable Schuttler wagons. Call on Murphy, Neel & Co. for anything you want, and they are prepared to furnish it as cheap as the cheapest, and of the very best quality.

The Record, with sublime cheek, says the advertising patronage of its daily is steadily increasing. Why, bless your soul, Horace, can't the people of Benton see that. Can't they see that you folks, starting in with three columns of original matter and nine of miscellaneous "stuff," have, in your efforts to make a big splurge, "bitten off more than you can chew," and, not being able to keep it up, have been obliged to slip in four more columns of weekly advertisements, including Tutu's Pills, Hostetter's Bitters and that photograph gallery which became among the things that were four or five months ago. And don't they know equally as well that many people whose advertisements appear in your daily are not aware of that fact, and neither ordered their insertion nor intend to pay for the same.

DISASTER ON THE MARIAS.

The Ice Engorged River Breaks, Carrying Destruction and Death.

The streams seem to be actuated by a single impulse this season, for no sooner does one overflow its banks, bring down its heavy, crashing burden of ice, creating its panic of fright, and do its quota of damage, and then recede than another and another follows. First our own Missouri, then the Teton, and now the Marias has been pouring herself down, overflowing the entire lower valley, and bring destruction and carrying death in its course, for this stream did not stop with driving people from their houses and carrying away their substance, but came on swiftly and irresistibly, taking poor humanity unawares and sleeping, and pouring over it its flood of water and its mass of ice, leaving them behind, perhaps, but not in condition to tell the story—or carrying them off down with its turbulent flood where they will not be heard of again.

It was early on Saturday morning, our informant says he thinks it was three o'clock, when the suppressed roar of the flood was first heard tearing its way down, but no particular danger was anticipated, and the inhabitants manifestly felt no alarm, some of them evidently having been up and returned to bed again.

Particulars so far have not been given except upon what can be guessed from the condition of the houses late on Saturday after the flood had partially receded, for nothing has been heard from the unfortunates who participated in it, and it is feared that but few of them are left to tell the story.

After the flood had risen and then partially receded, lulling the people into a false security, it had gorged in some of the numerous canyons to an extent that is difficult to imagine, for when it broke the torrent came down more like a tidal wave than the current of a river, and carried everything before it, leaving not the people time to escape. It was this which must have done the work of destruction.

"Dutch John," who has been stopping at the mouth of the creek which empties into the Marias, three miles above the Teton, was the lowest down, and the first to be heard from, although among the last to suffer. He was awakened, as the search afterwards revealed, by the first pouring down, when he evidently arose, dressed himself, and again retired, after seeing there was no immediate danger. Soon after, the great flood came, which probably caught the unfortunate asleep, and drowned him as he tried to make his escape. His cries for a few moments for help were distinctly heard by a number of people who were unable to assist him, but they grew fainter and fainter, and in a few moments were lost amid the rushing of the ice and flood. When the flood went down, an examination of the premises disclosed that the house had been struck by a field of ice and one end crushed in; the clothes of the victim were lying on the bed where he had thrown them, and everything showed a hasty attempt to escape and he probably went without his clothes out into the gloom of the night and a doom which must have had all the horror which the wild rushing of the elements and a sense of utter helplessness impressed upon a mind awakened from peaceful slumber.

Three fourths of a mile above the place described, resided a man who goes by the name of "Long-haired Jim." Nothing has been heard from him, and he is believed to have been lost. It was impossible at the time our informant left to get into the place, for the water was still rushing around the house. It was more exposed, and gave indications, when discovered, of having been at one time entirely covered with water. As it was higher up, and closer to where the ice had fearfully gorged, it is not probable that the force or depth of the current was less than below, in fact, it was more exposed, and the belief was general that it must have perished.

Further up the stream was the ranch of Mr. Simmons, who with his wife and child, and two men who were stopping with him were believed to be lost, although this is not certain, for some of them at least might have escaped, and the time from which this information dates, (Sunday evening) leaves considerable room for hope that something may yet be heard of them.

But at the best this Marias flood was a horror that we never again record, for the situation of weak women at children, and, in the warring of flood and ice, of no less helpless men, is too horrible to contemplate. And when we think how very narrow was the escape of this town Benton, and imagine what would have been the condition of this mass of people had the gorge, lasted a short time longer, we can only be thankful that the situation on the Marias was not repeated in Benton.

Board of Trade Meeting

Pursuant to call the Board met on Monday evening. Mr. Collins in the chair. After the usual preliminaries, consideration of the regular business was entered into, and the reports of committees called for.

The Ways and Means committee reported a balance of \$38.75 on hand as the result of the fireman's ball, an expenditure of \$1.21 and receipts amounting to \$170.

The discussion of the pamphlet was lively, and a general difference of opinion was expressed as to what should be done. Messrs.

Hunt and Collins were of opinion that the pamphlet could not be creditably issued this season, while Messrs. Todd, Wetzels, Weatherwax, Dewey and Williams were of opinion that the matter could be completed if it were the will of the board.

Mr. Sullivan believed that a small pamphlet devoted to stock interests would at the present juncture be the best politic, and his idea met with general concurrence.

Mr. Hunt moved that the original committee report, authorizing the publication of the pamphlet to be laid on the table indefinitely which was carried.

Mr. Sullivan moved that the newspapers be consulted relative to issuing extra editions, devoted to the special interests of this section, which received favorable consideration, and was referred to a committee comprising the officers of the Board.

Mr. Williams moved that the committee be empowered to use discretion as to whether they issue the pamphlet, the temporary expedient of Mr. Sullivan or the newspaper plan, which was carried.

The expression was general that something should be done, but the division as to the best method was so general that the committee will require to act with energy to accomplish anything.

It is questionable wisdom, at present, to halt, or defer the publication of the pamphlet for while, in some respects, it would not be so complete, or filled with the embellishments of maps and engravings, the necessity for action, in order to destroy a prevalent impression of disaster, which is certain to go abroad, is the superior consideration.

C. D. Storer, John W. Tattan, P. H. Hughes, W. S. Stockings and John Evans were elected members, and the Board adjourned.

Possibly Another Victim.

While out looking after stock, last Thursday, Geo. Samples saw smoke issuing from a clump of willows close to the Missouri river, near the mouth of the Marias. Riding up to ascertain who was camped there, he discovered a man lying down, and a small coffee-pot setting over a little fire made of willow twigs. Mr. Samples spoke to the man, but, receiving no answer, rode off. When about fifty yards away, the man rose to a sitting position and beckoned him back. On his returning, the man held up a slate on which was written questions concerning the part of the country he was in, how near it was to settlements, etc., and stating that he was on his way to the States. The man was deaf and dumb. Mr. Samples talked with him for some time, by means of the slate, and then left him. The next day while Samples and others were riding up the river, driving their cattle to higher ground for safety from the overflow threatened by the engorged ice just above, they descried the little column of smoke still ascending from the willows, and before they reached the gorge above it broke, letting out the confined mass of ice and water and covering the bottom and the willows where the man had been seen the day before. Possibly the man had left, and the smoke seen came from an abandoned fire, but if not, and he was still there, he was probably swept away, as, being deaf, he would not hear the roar of the death-flood until it was upon him.

Paris Gibson's Faith in Benton.

Mr. T. C. Collins received a letter from Paris Gibson, in which the latter stated that from expressions made by manager Hill, of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba road, that that company means to push straight to Montana, and believed that they could undertake it. He also believed that Montana was on the verge of great development, and that her population will rapidly increase during the next four years. He had heard a prominent New Yorker say that he regarded Montana as the most promising mining field on the continent, and that 100,000 men would be employed here in this industry alone. Everybody is pleased with the situation of Benton and faith in her future growth. He thought he could influence a number of good men in Benton, who would help build it up. He was worried over the sheep and cattle, but believed there would be fewer losses here than further South, as the weather had affected the whole country.

Where is the Error?

We see that alongside of the cut of the Record building in that paper's daily edition of its weekly advertisements, it has: "Cost to build, \$30,000." Now, perhaps it cost \$30,000, and perhaps it didn't. But if it did, how is it that the assessment of the firm of W. H. Buck & Co.—of which the assessor of Choteau county is a member—was given in, on their real estate, which comprised not only this building but the one occupied by Hirschberg & Nathan (which was sold since for \$3,000), and three lots, at \$7,000? Either the assessor discriminated in favor of his own pocket, or the building is worth between \$4,000 and \$5,000, instead of \$30,000, and the latter figure is only another of the Record's "splurges." But we may be doing them an injustice, after all: perhaps it was the street car which is seen in the cut (and nowhere else) which cost the remaining \$25,000 or \$26,000.

J. C. Guthrie keeps always on hand a nice assortment of bread, pies and cakes. He has also a choice lot of selected candies, new and fresh, and sells at very reasonable prices. Give Guthrie a call, and sample the good things to be found in his shop.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

John Smith and Two Others Caught in an Ice Gorge—An Island of Ice in a Boiling Flood—Hard Swimming and a Rescue.

About ten miles down the river, on the bottom, just below Charles Rowe's ranch, on the morning of the 4th inst., was one of the narrowest hair breadth escapes from death from drowning on record, which was detailed to us by J. B. Smith who was the chief participator, as follows:

Mr. Smith, Henry Holt, and a traveler by the name of Adam Side were in a small cabin on the bottom, and awakened about 5 o'clock by the noise of water, and having some fears of overflow, retired to slightly higher ground, where they made a fire and took breakfast. A gorge of ice was forming above, but the party were totally unaware of its existence, till about eight o'clock, when Mr. Smith got up on a wagon and saw that the gorge was breaking over the bottom, and said that the party must get out somehow and at once, or they would be lost. Meanwhile the gorge was moving down, scraping everything clean up to the bluff, taking out trees of two and three feet diameter as if they had been straws. It made a noise, and the party moved toward the upper end of the bottom, as the only place where escape was possible; the place they left was entirely isolated, and the water shoulder high. They made toward the gorge, wading through the icy fluid to their necks. Finally reaching the ice pack within 300 yards of the bluff, they got upon it. They walked across the broken ice, being required to use the utmost care from being submerged, and had got perhaps one half way over, when the ice on both sides moved along with a terrible, irresistible movement, leaving a small pack of ice upon which they were standing, grounded upon a bar or other obstruction. The sight to these men in this awful situation was terrible and grand, and Mr. Smith declared that, notwithstanding the extreme danger of the party, they could not help looking at the boiling seething mass as it swept by them. They were on the ice probably ten minutes, altogether, but had in that time made over to the edge nearest the bluff. By this time the ice on that side had gone by, leaving a space of comparatively clear water between them and the shore, perhaps 40 feet wide, and about 20 feet deep. There was nothing to do but to swim for it, and two of the party could not swim, and every moment their frail foothold might join the mass that was tearing downward and take them to destruction. Mr. Smith plunged in, taking a lariat with him, one end of which was held by the two who remained. The current was swift, and the only chance of escape was to make the shore before the current would carry him under the ice. After tremendous exertion, he succeeded, and then drew his companions safely over. The three men were saved, and they can never believe that the formation of that little quiet gorge in the seething current was not a miracle, for slender as the foothold was, it was the only avenue of escape for them, which once lost there could be no help.

Col. C. D. Curtis shoveled off some of the deep snow in his yard on Clark and Olive streets, and found the blue grass underneath green and growing. He brought to our sanctum a bunch of sweet williams, found beneath the snow—the leaves of which are as fresh and green as in midsummer.—Independent.

Any of our business men desiring first-class job printing should get their work done at the RIVER PRESS office. We have excellent facilities in type and presses, and have the best job printers in the Territory in our office. We allow none to underbid us in prices and guarantee satisfaction in our work.

THE CHURCHES.

EPISCOPAL.

Episcopal Church services are held every Sunday at the Court House, at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 2:30 p. m. Rev. S. C. Blackston, Pastor.

CATHOLIC.

Catholic Church services will be held at the several churches as follows: Fort Benton—First and last Sundays of each month. Sun River—Second Sunday of each month. Fort Assinaboine and Fort Shaw (alternately)—Third Sunday of each month. First Mass 8 a. m.; High Mass and Sermon, 10:30 a. m.; Sunday School, 2:30 p. m.; Evening Service and Lecture, 7:30 p. m. Rev. H. J. Camp, S. J.

BENTON RETAIL MARKET.

FORT BENTON, M. T., February 9, 1881.

SUGAR—Belcher's Yellow, 13½¢; Brown, 14¢; C, 14½¢; Granulated, 15¢.
SYRUPS—B & W. half-gallon cans, 75¢; 1 gal. \$1.25; 5 gal keg, \$5.00; 10 gal keg, \$9.50; Maple, \$2.00 per gal.
COFFEE—Old Gov. Java, 35¢; Rio, 22¢@25¢; Roast, 35¢; Ground, 30¢@35¢.
TEA—Japan, 55¢@58¢; Imperial, 75¢@1.00; Young Hyson, 80¢@1.00; Gunpowder, 75¢@1.15.
CANDLES—Star, 40 lbs boxes \$7.50; Stearns wax, \$4.50; Soars—Schaeffers, 55¢ per box; American Family, \$7.75; Kirk's W. R. 88; Castle mottled, 25¢ per lb; Candle, white, 40¢.
COAL OIL—Elaime, 150 test, 50¢; Headlight, 50¢; Headlight, 112 test, 45¢.
TOBACCO, Chewing—Fine Cut, 55¢@60¢; Cable Twist, 80¢; Gold Block, 75¢; Black Navy, 45¢@55¢; Lorillard, 75¢@85¢.
TOBACCO, Smoking—Durham, 7¢; Vanity Fair, \$1.25; Perique, \$2.
HAMS—State, 20¢.
BACON—State, 20¢.
LARD—20¢.
LIQUORS—Sour Mash whiskey, \$3.50@3.50; Bourbon, \$2.00; Brandy, \$1.00; Sherry wine, \$3.00; Port wine, \$2.00; Gin, 80¢; Milwaukee and St. Louis beer, 15¢ per dozen quarts.
SUNDRIES—Matches 5¢ per case; Zante Currants, 15¢; Filled Cherries, 30¢; Boneless Codfish, 12½¢@15¢; Prunes, 15¢@20¢; Alden Apples, 25¢; Raspberries, 40¢; Blackberries 20¢; Alden Apples, 25¢; Concentrated Lard, 50¢ per case; California can goods, \$9.00@9.50; Jellies \$3; 2lb Tomatoes, \$5.50; 2lb Tomatoes, \$1.50; Canned Corn, 15¢@20¢; Oysters \$4.50@6¢; Rice, 15¢; Hominy, 3¢; Beans, 10¢.
PRODUCE—Flour, States, 45¢; Montana, \$1.50@1.50; Corn Meal, 50¢; Butter, ranch, 60¢@75¢; Eggs, ranch, \$1.50 per doz; Wheat, 8¢; Oats, 3½¢@4¢.
FUEL—Wood, \$1.00@1.25 per cord; Coal, \$14 per ton.