

THE RIVER PRESS

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H. C. WILLIAMS, EDITOR

The Legislature parted its closing days with good humor and a kindly fellow feeling, perhaps congratulating itself that it had accomplished so little and talked so much.

CABINET making continues and slates are made and broken. But there is a kind of similarity in them all. Blaine always heads the list, and there is so far a great predominance of Western men. Garfield, however, keeps his own counsel, and the country will know in due time just what to expect from the new administration, which bids fair at present to be firm and strong, and in a great measure free from personal and clique influence. We have an idea that this will be a Garfield administration.

The most important bill introduced and passed in the Council during the session of the Legislature was the following, by Hundley during the closing hours:

Resolved, That the Council do recommend and request that any moneys remaining in the hands of the Committee on Military Affairs not otherwise appropriated be turned over to the Attorney General of the Territory of Montana, to be used by him to purchase a sword and horse-pistol for his own use, and that he shall always appear dressed in uniform and with said sword and pistol on all Fourth of Julys and St. Patrick's days.

LAND LEAGUES are forming all over the United States, and the amount of enthusiasm that is being raised for the suffering masses of Ireland is growing into fever heat, and will reach its culmination by the time Parnell reaches America. A vast fund is being created to assist the Irish cause which must have a powerful effect upon it. America is exerting great moral influence at present upon the masses of England, which will cause them to affiliate more with the Irish on the land question, which affects them almost as disastrously as the Irish themselves.

ACCORDING to late reports Gen. Colly, in command of the English forces in South Africa, has sustained a defeat which amounts to the annihilation of his command—himself being killed. The Boers appear to be better organized than was believed, and the movements which have led up to the present triumph show a degree of generalship superior to that of the British commander. If this victory is not founded on a mere rumor, it will have a strong tendency to draw the other Transvaal states in with the combatants, and also will strengthen the natives to alliance with them, which may eventuate in placing the whole of South Africa in arms against the English and render its subjugation a matter of much expense even if it does not make it impossible.

ANOTHER of the old "war horses" has departed this life. Senator Carpenter of Wisconsin, died on the 24th ult. at Washington. He was a gifted man, and at one time exercised a powerful influence on our National Legislature. He was covered by the Greenback wave and retired, owing to a suspicion of Credit Mobilier influence. He was returned two years ago, but did not exert the influence he did before. His health has been gradually failing since, reducing him to a wreck. It is presumed that his complaint was Bright's disease of the kidneys, which produced a gradual dissolution of vital energy. His passing away has been so gradual that the public mind was in a measure prepared for it and it did not produce that impression it would have had it been sudden and unlooked for. Leaving aside all political differences and viewing him away from them, he was a great man, and will be remembered as such, when the acerbities of political strife are forgotten.

COL. TOTTEN is after the Eads canal scheme, and demotes it as utterly impracticable. He demonstrates that even if it were feasible in an engineering sense, it would not be adapted to the necessities of interoceanic trade, but would be limited to the coast trade exclusively, which would in no degree support the enterprise. He believes the Panama scheme as alone the proper one, as it is shorter and more direct between Europe and Asia, which would furnish the bulk of the canal trade. He believes the estimates of General Grant on the Panama enterprise as exorbitant. The principal objection to Eads is the gigantic railway scheme, and the feeling among ship-owners is one of extreme distrust, it being generally believed that ships cannot bear the strain of transportation out of the element for which they were intended. On the whole, the DeLesseps scheme is gradually growing into favor that it is the only practicable solution of the inter-oceanic canal on the American continent.

THE Republicans of Pennsylvania are at last united, and the 35th ballot for U. S. Senator resulted in the election of John P. Mitchell, who received 150 votes, Wallace 92 and two scattering. This puts an end to the present of the Cameron influence and the "machine" as a dominant factor in Pennsylvania. The Cameron rule has been so long, and exercised with so much vigor and with perfect unscrupulousness that the Harrisburg Legislature has become a synonym of corrupt. But it has at last thrown off the incubus, and assumed a tone of independence which is almost startling, and is the strongest intimation the country has received that it has

entered upon a new and more liberal phase of national polity. Conking himself, although he still assumes to dictate, is only a member of the Senate by a majority of one, and his tenure is becoming feeble, and if he does not change his own attitude of hostility to new measures, he will learn that he is no more indispensable to the well being of the country than any one else.

HEALY'S disingenuous newspaper, published on lower main street, which has a dwelling place in a \$30,000 building (more or less) with a street car attachment (heavily mortgaged), has again given vent to its periodic monthly disgruntlement of the county commissioners, Mr. Kennerly of the House, Mr. Ford of the Council, and the Democratic party and people of Choteau county, all of whom it is pleased to consider a "clique." While the body politic, which, according to the "organ," is composed of Mr. Healy and Mr. Donnelly, is represented as a long-suffering community, which has suffered persecution at the hands of that circumscribed clique, the people of Choteau county.

It has often been a query with us whether the tail should wag the dog or the dog should wag the tail, but we should judge from the tone of Mr. Healy's paper that the tail should wag the dog; at least the tail has been straining every effort to wag the dog, and if you will believe the story told by the tail, it really does wag the dog.

We would not impugn the motives of the gentlemen composing the tail, for they are honorable men, who have always watched the opportunity when each could render the other assistance; and, as every one knows, their best efforts have been directed to the destruction of what they are pleased to term the "clique" composed of the voters of Choteau county, and to the social, moral, and material elevation of themselves, the community.

Of course, the two able representatives of Choteau county [Ford and Kennerly] are wrong; the Honorable, the Board of County Commissioners are wrong; the Democratic party and people of Choteau county are wrong; and the community, Messrs. Donnelly and Healy, are right, and when they make war on the Choteau county "clique" they will have the full sympathy of the "community," consisting of themselves, for they are all honorable men.

We cannot account for the temerity of Messrs. Ford and Kennerly in daring to have an opinion contrary to the wishes of the community; we were surprised that the county commissioners should have had the courage to telegraph the Legislature its wishes regarding its own business, in the face of the repeated assertion of the "community" that it was seriously displeased; we are unable to understand why the Democratic party and people of Choteau county should have sent such men to represent them after they had been informed that attention to their interests was not in accordance with those of this "community," who are all honorable men.

We will not, like Healy's paper, indulge in sarcastic personalities against the gentlemen who represented us in the Legislature, even though one of them is the community itself, and has done all that its constituency required of it, for which service he should have its due praise. We do not blame Healy's paper for not allowing itself to be drawn into argument which would involve a defense of the community, consisting of Healy and Donnelly, especially when such argument would involve a defense of this community from the persecutions of Messrs. Ford and Kennerly, the county commissioners, the Democratic party of Choteau county and the people at large. Such an argument would be altogether too heavy for its capacity, and besides, it might compel it to disclose some very disagreeable facts as to the past management of the "clique" against this long-suffering "community."

If we were to go into particulars, (which for the present we will not) we might ask the community some pertinent questions, which would apply to a time when the community was differently arranged than it is now—a time when it was the dog and not the tail. But we will say that Healy's paper and the "community" have drawn upon the Democratic party and the people the necessity of drumming them out of its ranks, or being contented with the position of the tail. We will further add that in so far as this county is concerned, the honorable gentlemen are as dead, politically, as the pilgrim fathers, and two years hence will see the Democratic party free from their influence. The tail will not always wag the dog.

REPORTS from the Territory at large indicate that the mortality of cattle is not so great as was anticipated, and this coming with an extended period of favorable weather leads us to hope that we will get through without anything worse than a temporary setback. One peculiarity of the present winter has been that both the snows and the chinooks have been in "streaks," which have been strongly marked in a comparatively circumscribed space. From the Boulder divide to within a few miles of Benton and between the Rockies and the headwaters of the Musselshell is a section which has had a phenomenally large quantity of snow, and been less affected by warm winds than any other part of Montana. From Benton north there has been only temporary trouble, and a mortality that is comparatively slight. In Southern portions there have also been more favorable conditions, and less snow; also in the Judith and Musselshell country beyond the Elk range the cattle are reported as doing

fairly well. Considerable damage to the Territory has resulted from incendiary publication of losses which existed more in anticipation than in fact, and which were of such nature that any experienced publisher should have viewed them with distrust, and at least withheld from the world until he could verify them. There have been losses, which in individual cases have been serious, but it was impossible a month ago, and it is impossible now, to learn their extent or significance on the future of the stock interests, and while we do not believe any good can result from a misstatement of losses, or hiding of unfavorable conditions, there can only come harm from panic stricken statements of unknown purport, which instead of being a true reflex of affairs are a gross distortion of facts built upon gloomy anticipations caused by a spell of cold weather.

THE bill to fund the national indebtedness has been passed and has become a law, and the national banks at once assumed an attitude of hostility to it by withdrawing their circulation. The low rate of interest and the fact that Congress has had the extreme audacity to tax the bonds, has aroused the ire of these institutions, whose exemption from taxation has been the shame of our financial measures. They will not reinvest in three percents because they affect to believe that the loan will be a failure, and are aiding by their best efforts to make it so. They are not satisfied at seeing their monopoly of the circulating reduced to a nominal degree of profit, and hope by obstructive measures to bring a disaster upon the country and make of the law a dead letter, and they have gone so far as to provoke the House to action which will paralyze the efforts of the bankers. If there is a continuance of such policy, it is probable that the House will so amend the bill as to admit the issuance of greenbacks, to take the place of the bank circulation that may be withdrawn, and take from the banks the power they have had of withdrawing the circulation and creating thereby a disastrous stringency which would leave business men absolutely at their mercy.

It would be curious, indeed, to see the pet idea of the Greenback party brought to a successful issue through circumstances created by the banks themselves, and, while the idea to substitute greenbacks for national bank notes was agitated as a Greenback party measure, it was hissed at as the result of sore-headed, crack-brained theorists, there is a good probability that it will be demonstrated that the epithet will yet rest with the dominant parties who have so long been the obedient tools of the banks. That Secretary Sherman will be compelled to resort to radical action to frustrate the destructive policy of the bankers, is probable, both from the necessity of the government to protect itself, and the well-known financial views of the secretary, who was in 1868 pronounced greenbacker. And the most pronounced greenbacker could not wish to see a broader fairer measure than the new funding bill, coupled with a suicidal attempt of the banks to bulldoze the government into compliance with their policy. During the corrupt and disastrous administration of Grant the government was merely the tool of the railroad and banking class, and the power they have exercised has been absolute. They cannot understand that the people have at last affected a change in the hearts of their representatives nor why their influence has become less paramount. With the decline of the Camerons, the Conklings, and the Carpenters and the old war element, and the gradual growth of Western democratic ideas and influence, we may look for broader and more democratic governments.

ONE of those beautiful zephyrs born of the currents of far-off Japan, has blown its balmy breath over the classic suburbs of Benton, melting the frozen plains into an ooze without bottom, making slabbering and squinting the plains which before were as marble. Quickly our winter's coat was changed to the glooming of summer, and we find a ranch well developed will cling to the soles of our gum shoes. Unhappy is he who mistakes the drift of his pathway, if he splurge for a time and then fall his pliz beyond recognition, and his raiment no semblance will have of fine linen; no water will suffice to give him remembrance of old father Adam, but more to the likeness of Darwin's link prehistoric. The floodgates of earth have reopened and have brought forth, not water, but mud that is fathomless and like macielage in its cohesion. Gum boots are only sufficient to sail in the sloughs of the muddy, and querulous wallowings and vain attend the bespattered pedestrian, as he meanders his way over the path once familiar and long ago again for the foothold remembered in childhood. Longingly each lady stands on her threshold and calls to her neighbor, who longingly views the impassable gulf which keeps her apart from her gossip. Lonesome and sadly she shuts up the door of her dwelling, and retires within to the quiet and dearth of her parlor, and gives herself up to reflections not mirthful, but dreary; thinks, perhaps, of the days just gone when walking and not disappearing resulted from boreal blowings; or longingly wishes for summer and drouth that she may go forth to her neighbors' and unbosom the gossip now so luxuriantly growing and wasting its sweetness on air all deserted. But still the winds come with their laden of warmth and mud of moisture, and still the streets flow with mud superfine without bottom. Still the traveller wearily splurging and slabbering and hoping

soon he will reach a haven of rest and diversion, finds the saloon, and stops for a while, there to replenish his energy wasted, and moves not again till the darkness compels him to find in sweet slumber that comfort denied to his waking.

How the Funding Bill is Regarded in the East—Comments of the Press.

NEW YORK, February 18.—The funding bill and its passage by the Senate, formed the principal subject of discussion on Wall street. Among bank officers there was a wonderful unanimity of opinion in regard to the measure. Some of them did not hesitate to pronounce it an outrage on the national banks and a violation of the public faith. They declared that it made a forced loan from the banks, and that when, with that support, the bonds would be difficult to sell, it was predicted that the banks would withdraw their circulation to a large amount immediately.

The *Graphic* says a majority of the conservative stock operators on the street look for a much stronger and higher market next week, after the funding bill is better understood. As soon as government actually begins to buy \$50,000,000 of bonds and to issue \$300,000,000 of certificates, a further improvement may be looked for, because the operation will prove a virtual expansion on a ground basis. There is a very large "short" interest in the general stock market. The action of the few city banks who on Saturday decided to withdraw their circulation because of the tax and the low rate of interest on the new bonds, is the subject of considerable discussion in Stock Exchange circles, where the operation is much ridiculed and is generally regarded as extremely ill-advised and hasty. It is claimed that many of these institutions which have been largely benefited and favored in the past by Government officials are short of 4 per cent in the stock market, and are therefore making as much opposition to the new 3 per cent bill as possible, and are also endeavoring to induce other banks to oppose the measure and withdraw their circulation. Conservative bankers, however, believe these banks will all ultimately conclude to redeposit 3 per cents and take out their circulation again within three months.

The *Post* says \$1,600,000 was paid into the Treasury here to withdraw National bank circulation, a total of \$3,600,000 since the refunding bill passed.

The Secretary of the Treasury has a surplus of \$12,000,000 which the Secretary will use to buy 6s and 9s provided the banks continue to retire circulation.

Battle in South Africa—General Colley Killed.

NEW BOUTLE, Natal, February 27.—A severe engagement took place to-day between the Boers and General Colley's force, and the latter was driven from his positions at Spitzkop. There was great loss on both sides and many British officers were killed and wounded.

Later telegrams from Colley's camp say that all the wounded coming in agree in reporting that General Colley had been killed and that only one hundred British escaped.

The Boers charged up the hill four times and were about retreating when the British were forced to retire, because the ammunition had not been taken to the extreme summit.

LONDON, midnight, February 27.—General Colley in a dispatch sent previous to the engagement to-day says: We occupied Majola mountains Saturday night—it immediately overlooks the Boers' position. The Boers are fighting us from below.

In a later dispatch he says: The Boers are still firing heavily on the hill, but have broken up their line and begun to move away.

The War office has the following telegram from Cal Bound commandery, at Mount Prospect: General Colley with 21 officers and 627 men, infantry and naval brigade, proceeded Saturday night to occupy Majola mountains. The Boers attacked him at 7 o'clock Sunday morning. At 1 o'clock p. m. the firing increased; at 2:30 p. m. it became evident from the camp that we had lost the hill and our men were retiring under a heavy fire.

There is no doubt but that General Colley is killed.

General Wood telegraphs corroborating the above and says he will return to New Castle on Monday.

Canadian Pacific Railroad.

NEW YORK, February 24.—The *Tribune* says: Evidently the Canadians do not expect their Pacific railroad to draw any trade from our Western States and Territories. The charter that parliament has given to the new syndicate prohibits the construction of any branches of the line within 15 miles of the American borders. Instead of reaching out for our trade they are afraid our railroads will grasp a portion of that yet to be developed in their own northwestern province, and divert it from Montreal and Quebec.

The Canadian enterprise, although highly important in its bearing on the settlement of Manitoba and British Columbia, and on the problem of the Dominion's future, will not be likely to exercise any appreciable effects on the currents of trans-continental trade in this country. We shall have three Pacific railroads in operation before the Canadian line is built. They will all be competitors for the China, and Australian trade, and each will possess a decided advantage in

the matter of distance from Ocean to Ocean over their far northern rival, to say nothing of a better climate for winter operations.

A Family of Eight Persons Burned to Death.

PITTSBURG, February 23.—Intelligence has been received here of a terrible conflagration at East Liverpool this morning, at 1:30 o'clock by which a family of eight persons named Sloan were burned to death. About the time stated flames were seen issuing from a four story frame building, owned by Frank Stewart and occupied as a drug store, feed store, grocery and dwelling. The proprietor of the drug store, Wm. Sloan, with his family were living in the latter portion of the building. As soon as Mr. Sloan discovered the flames he awoke all and telling them to follow him, picked up a three-year old daughter and started for the stairs. The flames had cut off their retreat by this time, however, and turning to a window he leaped out, at the same time telling his wife and children to follow. It is supposed that before they had time to follow his advice, they were overcome by the stifling fumes from the drug store, as no others escaped.

Claims for injuries done citizens of the United States, by the authorities of Spain, in Cuba, since the first of October, 1868, not heretofore presented by the United States to the commission now in Washington, may be presented within 60 days from the 23rd day of February. The Commission is empowered to extend the time 30 days longer.

SAMUEL W. MILLS, Of Carrickatae, County Monaghan, Ireland.

Was in Montana when last heard of. Any information which will lead to a knowledge of his present whereabouts will be very thankfully received by his brother,
GEO. MILLS,
Emerson, Mills Co., Iowa.

POTATOES FOR SALE.

The undersigned has a lot of good potatoes for sale at his house, on his ranch, four miles from Benton, at 3 cents per pound.
JOHN NEUBERGER.

To the Farmers of Choteau County.

The coming season I will have three threshing machines in operation, one steam thrasher of unlimited capacity, so as to get their work done at an early period, and not to be caught in the snow.
W. O. DEXTER.

NOTICE OF FINAL ENTRY.

U. S. LAND OFFICE.
HELENA, M. T., February 25, 1881.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his application to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before Alex. H. Beattie, Clerk of the 3d Judicial District, Court of Montana, at Ft. Benton, Choteau county, M. T., on Friday, the 8th day of April, 1881, viz: James Fitzerald, Declaratory statement No. 3500 for the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of sec. 23, the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of sec. 22, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section No. 27, township No. 24, north of range No. 8 east, and he names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said tract, viz: John Madden, Patrick Whalen, William W. Austin and William McIlheney.
J. H. MOE, Register.

NOTICE OF FINAL ENTRY.

LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, M. T.,
Feb. 14, 1881.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his application to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before Alex. H. Beattie, Clerk of the 3d Judicial District, Court of Montana, at Ft. Benton, Choteau county, M. T., on Friday, the 8th day of April, 1881, viz: James C. Adams, Homestead Entry No. 477, for the S half of S E quarter and the S half of S W quarter of section 25, township 21 N, range 1 W, and he names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said tract, viz: Joseph L. Largent, John Kerler, Charles Drew and Charles E. Zook, all of Sun River, Lewis and Clarke County, M. T. And Charles G. Holt, pre-emption declaratory statement, No. 3359, for the N W quarter of N E quarter, section 19, S E quarter of S W quarter, and the S W quarter of S E quarter and lot 5 of section 18 and lot 8 of section 17, township 19 N, range 2 east, and he names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said tract, viz: Joseph L. Largent, William C. Zook, John Kerler and Charles Drew, all of Sun River, Lewis and Clarke County, M. T.
J. H. MOE, Register.

BEWARE.
All persons are hereby warned against skinning any dead cattle branded NV without a special permit from me, and all parties are notified not to buy hides with said brand.
NARCIS VAUX (Capt. Neale).

Ranch for Rent.

Situated on the Missouri, 11 miles from Benton, with 100 acres under cultivation. Good buildings, granaries, root houses and implements, 225 acres under fence. For particulars apply to Charles Rowe, Benton, or at this office.

Potatoes for Sale.

Charles Rowe wishes to inform the public that he has a lot of choice potatoes stored in town, which he will sell. For particulars enquire of Charles Rowe, Benton.

Proposals for Care of Poor.

SEALED PROPOSALS for the care, support, nursing and maintenance of the sick, poor and infirm of Choteau County, M. T., per capita, by the week, for one year, will be received at the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, until March 10th, A. D., 1881. J. W. TATTAN, Clerk of Board.

STOCK BRANDS.

HENRY KENNERLY,
Range, Teton. Brand on left side. Postoffice address, Ft. Benton, M. T.

R. S. PRICE.

Range—Judith Basin. Brand on either right or left ribs. Address Fort Benton. Also owner by purchase of the following brands: U on left thigh, formerly owned by P. D. Kenyon and Charles Lehman; 121 on right ribs or right hip, formerly owned by Joe Gehrett. All persons are hereby warned against using either of said brands in any way.
T. D. KINNON.

TO STOCK MEN.

HELENA, Montana, December 5, 1880.
I hereby certify that I have never sold any party whatsoever any cattle belonging to myself and Chas. Lehman, branded U on left thigh or G vented on right thigh, and never sold to E. Rosen any excepted four head of steers.
R. S. Price now owns the above brand. Address—Fort Benton, M. T.

HELENA, Montana, December 8, 1880.
This is to certify that I never sold any stock cattle of my brand, G on right thigh, without the same being vented, and never sold any with my brand and U on left thigh to any person.
JOSEPH GANS.

MONTANA RAISED HORSES.

We have a fine band of horses, three and four years old, of from 1 to three-quarter bred, which we will sell at a fair market rate.
J. H. EVANS & CO.,
Fort Benton.