

LOCAL NOTES.

From Saturday's Daily.

The bids for the beef contract at Fort Shaw were as follows: Quail, \$8.85; Burkenbuel, \$9; Adams, \$9.38; Mulcahy, 8.70; Steell, 8.85.

The Birch creek boys are very jubilant over their release from jail. Some of them have lost a summer's job by their arrest, notwithstanding which they are happy.

Dell Dick, the proprietor of the Arcade saloon at Helena, has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. The liabilities are placed at \$4,000 and the assets about the same.

A company of rangers has been organized at Medicine Hat to operate against Riel. A Canadian says: They are dressed in coats of Montana cloth, corduroy breeches, top boots and cowboy hats. They do not look very soldierly, but the opinion is they will get there.

The Gros Ventre Indians who have been in jail awaiting the action of the grand jury, against whom no indictments were found, are loud in their praises of Jack Brown whom they regard as their savior, and believe that but for him they would have spent a term in the penitentiary. They say he is the chief of them all.

Charles Rhodes, alias Dutch Charley, who has committed seven murders in Montana, Wyoming and other western territories and Canada, was captured at Turtle Mountain with a companion, William Smith, a horse thief, by Sheriff Lewis of Jamestown. Rewards of \$8,500 are said to be offered for his capture. He has been taken to Miles City.

The expense of transportation and storage in the Northwest is enormous. The following is for hay alone: "The hay costs the government, delivered at Clark's Crossing from Qu'Appelle, \$400 per ton; the freight from Qu'Appelle to Clark's Crossing is \$200 per ton. The government pays \$20 per ton. There are other expenses up north. Five hundred tons per month are being consumed."

While driving in from their Shonkin ranch this morning Mr. and Mrs. John H. Green met with an accident near the upper ferry, on the other side of the river. The horses became frightened at a log lying in the road and sprang to one side, breaking the pole of the wagon. They commenced to run and dragged Mr. Green over the dash board, while Mrs. Green with the baby in her arms, jumped out. Mrs. Green and the baby escaped unhurt, but Mr. G. is somewhat severely injured about the back or hip, but not seriously we trust. The runaway team was caught by Charley who was following the wagon on horseback.

Mr. B. O. Lenoir, in charge of the signal office, has been ordered to report to the commanding officer at Fort Shaw for special duty. He will be relieved by Mr. Fullerton who is now in Helena. The duty to which Mr. Lenoir will be assigned will be that of putting the telegraph line between Helena and Fort Assinaboine in good order. The order detaching him for this service states that he will be temporarily relieved, although it is possible he will not again be assigned to duty at this station. We shall be sorry to lose Mr. Lenoir as he is the most efficient member of the signal corps that has ever been stationed at Fort Benton; but if he is given a fair chance he will put the line between Helena and Fort Assinaboine in good repair. We would be glad to see Mr. Lenoir return to this station after he has completed this special duty.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The river is falling about one inch per day, and is now thirteen inches above low water mark.

We regret to learn of the death of Dr. Herbert Smith, which occurred at Choteau, yesterday morning at one o'clock.

Al. Olden is supt. of a stage line from Billings to Mee-tee-tse Wyoming. Al. was formerly in charge of the Benton & Barker stage line.

The jail is now clear of prisoners, as Antelope Shirt is the only remaining one and we believe an order for his release was made by the court.

W. A. Allen, of Billings, charged with producing abortion upon his wife, has been examined and bound over in the sum of \$1,000 to await the action of the grand jury.

We learn that one of the bondsmen of J. M. Hunt withdrew his name from the bond to-day. Efforts will be made by his attorney to get the bail reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000.

Lieut. Thies, of the Third infantry, has been appointed regimental quartermaster, vice Lieut. F. B. Jones promoted. Lieut. Thies is now stationed at Fort Missoula but has been ordered to Fort Shaw.

Capt. Durage and sixty-five men are on the steamer Josephine which will be

here in a few days, we have learned that they will commence operations in this vicinity and will probably remain here most of the summer.

We have it on good authority that John Longmaid who has charge of the development of the Montana Belle group of mines at Neihart, says he does not think there is a particle of doubt but that the parties who have bonded the mines will purchase them on the expiration of the bond in September.

The construction of a narrow gauge railroad from Livingston to Fort Benton is being agitated again. The project is deserving of serious attention, as promising direct benefits to the towns named, and as the means of opening up the intervening country, which is surpassingly rich in agricultural, grazing and mineral resources.—Courier.

The following, from a Choteau county correspondent of the Independent, no doubt refers to E. W. Price of Highwood. "We recently had a pleasant chat with Mr. Price, of Highwood, who has a fine bench ranch in that beautiful valley. We were struck by his new departure in fence building, and sought information as to why he made the pannels fifty feet long and made the posts ten feet high above ground. To these interrogations he explained that he made the panels long because he wished the fence to last a long time, and as to the high posts they could be utilized to string telephone wires on for the present, and in time when they had rotted off in the ground, he would simply turn the fence upside down and set the other end of the posts in the original holes. This was a new idea to your correspondent, and he silently went his way meditating on the progressive age in which we live."

The District Court.

From Saturday's Daily.

The jury in the case of Sullivan vs. McDevitt, after being out twenty-four hours, came into court with a verdict, which was in favor of the defendant, James McDevitt.

In the case of the territory vs. Mee, the order to overrule the motion to quash the indictment, made yesterday by defendant's attorney, was set aside and the motion to quash sustained on the ground that the indictment was not signed by the district attorney. The instrument was signed "J. A. Johnston, district attorney, by J. K. Toole, deputy," which is held to be invalid. A deputy district attorney cannot, under our statutes, sign an indictment. This ends the case unless the present grand jury should find another indictment, as they have the right to do. It would be proper to say in this connection that this summary dismissal of the case is in no wise the fault of District Attorney Hunt, the faulty indictment having been found some two years ago. Mr. Hunt has been zealous in the prosecution of this case and would like to have seen it come to an issue this term.

The bond of W. S. Wetzel as commissioner was approved. Mr. Wetzel's bondsmen are A. J. Samuel, John Harris, M. Morrow, Sr., and Chas. Rowe—certainly a "good and sufficient" one.

The grand jury made two reports this afternoon, one that no true bill had been found against the three Gros Ventre Indians held on the charge of stealing horses, and a like report in regard to the nine men charged with complicity in the lynching on Birch creek. This ought to be a lesson to committing magistrates. The prisoners were given their liberty at once.

An indictment having been found against John Guardipie for assault with a deadly weapon, he was arraigned and the hearing of the case postponed until Monday.

The court adjourned at 3 o'clock until 9 a. m. Monday.

From Monday's Daily.

There was but little business transacted in court to-day as the docket was pretty well cleaned up Saturday.

The bond of James M. Arnoux was approved this morning. The following gentlemen were named in the bond: Sam'l. C. Burd, Thos. Clary, Malcolm Morrow Sr., Wm. Morrow and Tom J. Todd. Two other gentlemen of wealth were in waiting to add their names in case the bond given was held to be insufficient.

The grand jury brought in fifteen indictments but they have not yet been made public.

Mrs. Woodworth was granted a divorce and the custody of all of the children.

The case against Antelope Shirt for breaking jail will probably be thrown out of court because of a defect in the indictment.

It is probable that the grand jury will make its final report this evening and that court will adjourn for the term.

Death of Dr. Smith.

The many friends of Dr. Herbert Smith will learn with regret of his death, which occurred at his home in Choteau Monday morning. The deceased was widely known and esteemed and his loss will be deeply felt in the community in which he has lived so long. A. B. Hamilton received a telegram last evening announcing the sad event.

Report of the Grand Jury.

In the District Court, Third Judicial District, County of Choteau, Territory of Montana.

To the Hon. D. S. Wade, Judge:

SIR:—We the grand jury, duly empaneled at the April 1885 term, respectfully present the following report:

The accumulated criminal business of one year has occupied by far the greater part of our session, and has interrupted as full an examination into county affairs as we had hoped to be able to make. It took us a long while to hear the evidence in many criminal cases where persons were bound over to await our action.

We found several Indians in jail for alleged horse stealing, but there was no evidence against them, and the county has had to bear heavy and endless expenses in keeping them dependent upon our sitting.

We caution all committing magistrates not to make arrests, unless, before their warrants issued, they may certainly be assured by sufficient evidence that a conviction will follow in the district court. No one except the sheriff is benefited by these promiscuous arrests, and it is just such expenses as these that we wish the county to escape in the future. We warn the commissioners not to allow any bills in such frivolous cases as have been presented to us in these Indian matters, and let it be distinctly understood that magistrate's and sheriff's bills will all be rejected unless the case is deserving of serious attention.

The county is in debt \$115,921.40. This represents a lamentable state of affairs in public matters, and the tax payers will do well to reflect upon it and to be duly mindful of the oppression of taxation in times like these when the strictest economy is demanded, and when the public funds should be most rigidly accounted for.

Choteau county need never have been involved as it is had there been the legal management that the statutes require. The funds of the county show some tremendous expenditures; for instance a total expenditure in the road fund of \$5,851.76. The commissioners made a payment of \$1,400 for a road bought from John LaMott. Why this road should have been bought the grand jury can not thoroughly understand, as we fail to note any common good from such purchase.

The poor farm has been run with a hired man in charge to whom was paid \$790.50 last year, and at the same time \$2,056.33 was expended on paupers, principally in Fort Benton. There is no economy in this. It would be far wiser to lock up the poor farm and stop the expenses there altogether, or else stop maintaining poor in Benton and at the same time pay for their care outside. There is only one legal way of managing this poor fund and that is by prescribed methods, and we demand that the statutes be followed and that the business be systematized.

There must be a greater effort to confine expenses within funds collected, or Choteau county will keep climbing up with her indebtedness until she stands first in the black list of counties in her excessive obligations.

There is a great deal of personal property in the county for which there is nothing whatsoever to show. Each and every county officer should preserve a correct list of all county property in his possession and held to account for the good care of same and the delivery of it to his successor.

Purchases for county officers ought only to be made through the medium of one officer; not as is the custom at present, by any one, at any price, and for almost any purpose. The clerk is the proper person to make purchases, and accounts should only be incurred through him as a suitable agent.

The poor farm of this county has never been deeded to the county, and the commissioner ought to require a deed to be given at once.

The county treasurer should make diligent efforts to collect delinquent taxes which amount to about \$10,000, and we advise the treasurer to remit the penalties by way of compromise with delinquents, in cases where the interest of the county warrants it.

A test should be made of some of the heavy fees paid by the construction of the ambiguous statutes regarding sheriff's compensation. Let the commissioners deny some one or two questionable accounts and we believe the county will profit thereby. When subpoenas are issued for witnesses to appear before the district court, before a session thereof begins, every witness should be served with a large subpoena and not merely with a printed sheriff's command, such as we have had laid before us.

Our county jail is as strong as any in Montana, and there was no need whatever of any person escaping last winter. It is disgraceful that with such a prison, and a jailor to keep it, prisoners can not be confined.

We very much question the need of a jailor in Choteau county, except at particular times. The sheriff ought to be able to place one of his deputies there and thus save the expenses of this superfluous official, unless there are say four or more prisoners.

The wants of the citizens of all portions of the county should be attended to promptly, and their interests carefully guarded.

A new division of townships should be made in this county and all facilities granted to settlers to have peace officers and a fair and just apportionment of the road fund.

There should be the most careful management of all county affairs and every effort made to liquidate the present tremendous debt and to raise the credit of the county to the proper standard, and this end can best and only be successfully attained by allowing legal, and legal claims only, against the county, and by incurring in all cases moderate and requisite expenses.

F. L. ROOSEVELT, Foreman.
JERE SULLIVAN, Clerk.
Fort Benton, April 27, 1885.

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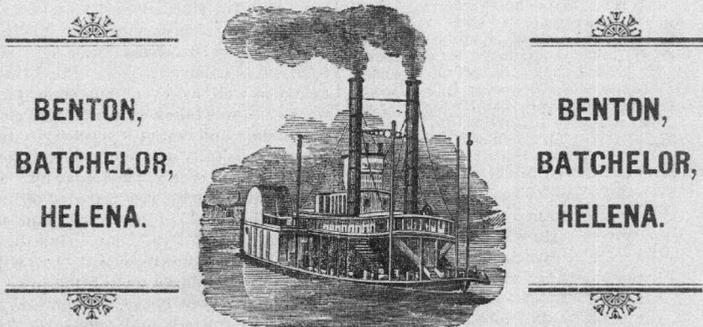
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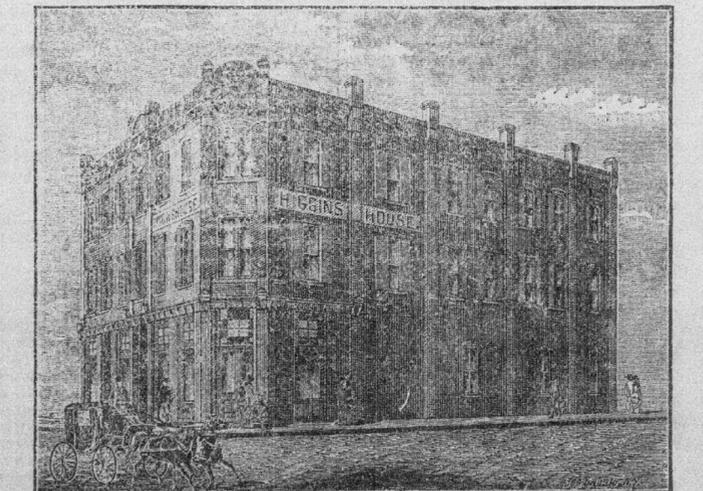
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