

THE SWEET GRASS HILLS.

Continued Good Reports as to the Richness of the Diggings.

We were shown to-day a private letter received from a gentleman now in the Sweet Grass hills, confirming the previous good reports which have been received from that section. The letter states that the writer had struck it rich, having ground from which he had panned out as high as five dollars to the pan on bed-rock; that he had in his claim pay dirt which yields eight cents to the pan. We have learned from other sources that water is scarce in the diggings, but Milk river is only nine miles away, and they can make two trips a day with a team and net \$40 to the load.

We have talked with an old miner who is of the opinion that the best diggings found for many years will be in the Sweet Grass hills. The letter above mentioned has been shown to several parties and has created a genuine excitement, and within a few days several people will leave town for the diggings. It would seem that new discoveries are being made almost daily, and those who are interested say it is way ahead of the Little Rockies.

Special Meeting of the County Commissioners.

The board met at 10 o'clock on the 10th inst., all members being present.

Upon a verbal representation from residents of the Shonkin concerning obstructions to the county road, the chairman was directed to write to Mr. Morrow and also instruct the supervisor of road district No. 4 to open said road within ten days from receipt of notice.

Considerable time was consumed in an examination with the county treasurer of the delinquent tax list for 1882. After cancelling all delinquent taxes which it was considered useless to attempt to collect, the clerk was directed to notify the treasurer to proceed and enforce collection on all delinquents.

The report of the viewers appointed at the last meeting to view the proposed road from Fort Benton to Great Falls on the north side of the Missouri river, was considered, and the vote on the acceptance of the report was as follows: Wetzel and Arnoux, Yes; Ford, No. The latter read and had filed the following reasons for his vote:

MR. FORD'S PROTEST.

In recording my vote against the road viewers' report, duly appointed by the board to lay out the shortest and most practical "general purpose" road from Benton to Great Falls, I wish to state a few facts as they occur to me in connection therewith:

That I have traveled over every foot of their proposed road and examined it carefully for my own satisfaction, so that I could act on it in what I conceive to be intelligently; that to the best of my knowledge and belief there are five or more bridges necessary to be constructed—in east prong of Portage, Spring and Huntley, west prong of Bull's Head and Bull's Head coulee proper; That considerable grading will have to be done to all the approaches of the coulees named. Besides the present marked out crossing to Spring coulee will have to be changed at considerable expense in grading the approach to the bridge in order to enable freight teams to cross. That loaded freight teams will be compelled to untrail at the crossings of Huntley and the east prong of Portage coulee; that the snow in winter will drift into all these approaches deep enough to cause considerable expense to keep the road in a passable condition for teams; that the snow in melting every spring will carry out these bridges, in consequence of such considerable water shed above these crossings; that any considerable rainfall at any season of the year would have the same result, thereby causing an annual expense to said road; that the hurried trip of the viewers did not enable them to examine the country immediately north of their proposed road.

That the present indebtedness of Choteau county will require the strictest sort of economy, at the present levy of taxes, to pay the interest on outstanding bonds and warrants and the running expenses; that the commissioners have stopped all work on roads except necessary repairs for the traveling public; that the amount asked by the viewers to put said road in repair is greater than the taxes paid by Great Falls last year and in my opinion much less than will be required.

That I deem a road from Benton to Great Falls—shorter than by way of 28-Mile Springs—of public utility; that to the best of my knowledge and belief such a road can be constructed without any cost to the county, by leaving the present road that leads from Benton to Sun River at the present crossing of Huntley coulee, thence in a south westerly direction, crossing Spring coulee from 2 1/2 to 3 miles southeast of the 28-Mile Springs, and continuing the same direction until you intersect the road that leads from 28-Mile Springs to Great Falls at a point within a mile of the top of the hill that overlooks the lake in flat, thence to continue on the

old road as laid out by viewers; that the character of soil is the same as on the proposed road.

That there is no necessity for an expenditure of one dollar, or ever will be, from Huntley coulee to the top of the hill above mentioned; that the work on said road will be from the top of said hill to Great Falls through an adobe flat similar to the lakes; that it is a natural and practical freight road, just as good as the present road to 28-Mile Springs—no necessity of untrailing to cross Spring coulee, which is the only coulee of any consequence to cross; that it runs parallel with the proposed road for a distance of twenty miles, and is not to exceed two miles north of it at any point the entire distance; that bullrushes are growing just below the crossing of Spring coulee, and water abounds most of the year for several miles down the coulee; that said road is just as near as the proposed road, in which opinion a majority of the viewers did coincide; that such a road is of public utility and a benefit to the people of Fort Benton, Great Falls, Sun River and the entire county; that I believe a practical survey will prove every statement herein made.

I am aware of the fact that perhaps the springs at Bull's Head and Spring coulee, though small in themselves, would convenience a mail line over the viewer's proposed road, but I do not consider it the province of a county to build roads at considerable expense to benefit mail lines alone. What we want is a good, practical freight road, at as small expense as possible, that can be traveled at all seasons of the year, even though the distance should be a little greater. When business revives, money matters get easier, tax payers more numerous, our population greatly increases, and Great Falls blooms into a veritable city, then we can afford to build more and better roads. Under these and many other circumstances I could mention, and as guardian of the county's interest, I cannot consent to vote to accept the road viewers' report. However, if the petitioners for this road will put and keep in repair for a period of one year at their own expense said laid out road, I will be perfectly willing to grant this as a county road.

R. S. FORD.

Respecting the recommendation of the viewers of the above road for an appropriation of \$500 dollars for its construction, the board modified the report and appropriated the sum of \$200 for the repair of the road for a period of one year.

The report of Jos. Stretl, road supervisor district No. 3, was accepted.

The clerk was instructed to ascertain from the proprietor of the Great Falls Tribune the probable cost of making an abstract of all land entries in Choteau county published by them. Also to make a similar inquiry of the land office in regard to desert land.

The report of the viewers of the upper Shonkin road was accepted and the viewers discharged.

A number of warrants were cancelled by the issue of bonds.

The clerk was instructed to notify all county and township officers to present their bills the first of every month.

A number of bills, aggregating \$702.56, were allowed during the session; bills amounting to \$101.80 were disallowed, and one for \$7.20 was referred to the district attorney.

The Road Question.

Mr. Wetzel, chairman of the board of commissioners, filed the following reasons for voting "yes" on the report of the Great Falls road viewers:

1st. For the reason that during two and a half terms of service as county commissioner I have never seen a petition for a road in this county signed by so many good citizens and tax payers.

2d. Because the road as now viewed and reported is the shortest, best watered and more easily traveled in all seasons of the year than any other road leading from Fort Benton to Great Falls. With an expenditure of \$250 it will be much easier for freight teams or light wagons than any one of five roads of the same length leading out of this place.

3d. Because it will benefit a greater number of people than many other roads, viz.: The people living on the upper Missouri above the falls, Sand coulee, Great Falls and vicinity.

4th. Having carefully examined the proposed road, I am of the opinion it cannot be shortened advantageously.

Lastly. That it is my duty to those who elected me to serve them conscientiously and justly, as I believe I am doing in this case.

W. S. WETZEL.

Wool Looking Up.

The wool of Hass Bros. shipped to Wm. MacNaughton & sons New York through I. G. Baker & Co. sold yesterday on arrival for 23 cents. This we believe is the highest price yet chronicled for Montana wools.

Wool seems to have an upward tendency just at present, Montana medium being quoted at 24c. This will be good news to those wool growers who did not sell.

County Roads.

The subject of county roads has been a serious one for the county fathers. At every meeting petition after petition is brought before them. Every man who has a ranch is of the opinion that the road should go by him. Others are filing protests against roads being opened through their land. It is pretty sure that where roads are absolutely needed they will be constructed. We heard a prominent citizen say the other day that he should "kick" if a certain road was laid out through his place. If it should be done it would necessitate his building at least five miles of fencing; he had no objection to the road if the county would build the fences or allow him damages sufficient to construct them himself.

In the past money has undoubtedly been expended foolishly for roads, but we believe that the county commissioners are now trying to expend the money judiciously and put it where it will do the most good to the greatest number.

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DRUGS OF ALL KINDS.

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Of all kinds.

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M. A. FLANAGAN, POST OFFICE BUILDING, BENTON, M. T.

Notice to Creditors.

Estate of William E. Hager, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, David H. Churchill, administrator of the estate of William E. Hager, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administrator or to H. G. McIntire, Esq., atorney for said administrator, at his office in Fort Benton, in the said county of Choteau.

DAVID H. CHURCHILL, Administrator of the estate of William E. Hager, deceased. Fort Benton, M. T., August 5, 1885.

Stolen—\$100 Reward.

The undersigned on June 25th, had the following described horses stolen from his ranch five miles north of Fort Maginnis, by northern Indians, who were tracked to the Mouth of Eagle creek, on the Missouri river, and are now supposed to be among the Indians at the agencies or across the line.

One sorrel horse, 9 years old, front feet white, and hind feet white half way up to the gambel, branded A on left hip; a close built, thick set horse, weighs 1,000 pounds.

One roan mare, 6 years old, branded F on right shoulder, weighs about 1,000 pounds.

One roan mare, 6 years old, branded F on right shoulder, also X on right hip, weighs about 900 pounds.

One black horse, hind feet white and left fore foot white, branded monogram JP on left shoulder, weighs 900 pounds.

One bay pony, saddle marks, branded P on right shoulder, also CM on right shoulder and M on left shoulder.

A reward of \$20 per head will be paid for the recovery of the above described horses if delivered within a reasonable distance of Fort Maginnis.

WILLIAM FERGUS, Fort Maginnis, M. T.

FENNO & MANNING, WOOL Commission Merch'ts, BOSTON, MASS.

CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED.

Liberal Cash Advances made.

Strayed.

From our ranch on the Muddy, about May 15th, a large light grey horse branded JH combined on the shoulder, weight about 1,100 pounds. The horse had the poll evil when he left. Also a roan, weight about 850 pounds, branded G S. (Gilmer & Sausbury) and other brands and a brown horse weight 850 pounds, branded TE combined on the shoulder. The animals were last seen on the Teton. A liberal reward will be paid for information leading to their recovery.

HOBBS & HEFFERNAN, Choteau, M. T.

FOR

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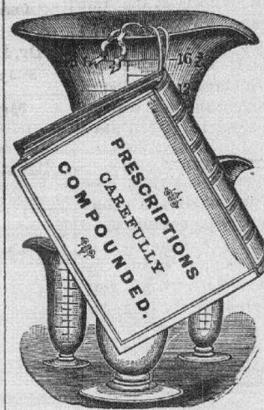
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\$20 Fort Benton to Billings. Time, 46 Hours.

Direct connections with the NORTHERN PACIFIC R. R. at Billings. Through tickets at reduced rates to all points East.

We are now making direct connections at Ubet for White Sulphur Springs, passengers should leave Benton on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for this point. We have reduced the fare Benton to White Sulphur Springs, \$18.00; from Benton to Maiden, \$17.00; Benton to Maginnis, \$18.00.

T. C. POWER & BRO.



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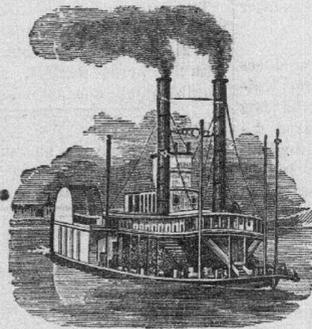
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Will run the Fastest and Best Boats on the Upper Missouri River during the coming season.

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"Montana" Stables, FORT BENTON, - - Montana.

Livery, Sale and Feed Stables.

Good Saddle Horses, Fast Teams, Fine Carriages and Buggies.

Good Corral, and best of accommodations.



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ST. PETER'S MISSION Boarding School for Boys.

Under the direction of the FATHERS OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS.

The object of this institution is to afford means of a solid moral, mental and physical education to boys.

Tuition free. Board, \$10 per month. Washing and mending, \$1 per month.

For further particulars inquire of REV. T. DAMIANI, S. J., Fort Shaw, M. T., or to REV. F. EBERSVILLE, S. J., Fort Benton, M. T.

Ursuline Convent of the Holy Family, ST. PETER'S MISSION, NEAR FORT SHAW, M. T.

This institution, under the direction of the Ursuline Nuns, is situated in one of the most beautiful locations of Montana. It has been lately opened for the purpose of affording the young girls of this country every advantage for obtaining a solid and useful education. Particular attention is given to preparing children for their First Communion.

Tuition free. Board, \$10 per month. Washing and mending, \$1 per month. Music, \$5 per month.

For further particulars address the—MOTHER SUPERIOR, Fort Shaw P. O., M. T.

For Sale.

One hundred and forty acres two miles from Benton, on the Shonkin. Forty acres proved up on. Good house and ten acres fenced—will be sold cheap, if sale is made within two weeks. Apply to M. J. Learning, or to Andrew Forrest, Fort Benton M. T.

Taken Up.

A red heifer, three years old, branded OZ on right hip. Came to my ranch last November. The owner can secure the Animal by paying cost of advertisement, etc. DAN THOMAS, Stanford.

Northern Pacific Railroad.

The only direct line between SAINT PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS, Or DULUTH,

And all points in Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington Territory, Oregon, British Columbia, Puget Sound and Alaska.

Express trains daily, to which are attached Pullman palace sleepers and elegant dining cars.

No change of cars between St. Paul and Portland on any class of ticket. Emigrant Sleepers Free!

The only all rail line to the Yellowstone Park

"Montana Short Line."—Time Table.

BILLINGS. Train arrives from east—Pacific exp. 8:25 a. m. " " west Atlantic " 7:00 p. m. Train departs for east " 7:15 p. m. " " west Pacific " 8:40 a. m.

HELENA. Train arrives from east—Pacific exp. 7:25 p. m. " " west Atlantic " 7:50 a. m. Train departs for east " 8:10 a. m. " " west Pacific " 7:50 p. m.

Pullman palace and dining cars run through between St. Paul and Minneapolis and Helena and Portland on Atlantic and Pacific express trains.

Time from Helena to Portland, 36 hours; St. Paul, 50 hours; Chicago, 67 hours.

For full information address C. S. FEE, S. G. FULTON, Gen. Pass. Agt., St. Paul. Gen. Agt. Helena

Strayed.

From the ranch of Swope & Davenport, on Dog Creek, May 31, one bay mare, weight about 1,000 pounds, branded (pitch fork) on left shoulder and (seven six, combined) on left thigh. Also a small wattle on left side of neck. Information leading to her recovery suitably rewarded. Address: W. T. SWOPE, Maiden, M. T.