

THE RIVER PRESS.

Vol. V.

Fort Benton, Montana, Wednesday, September 9, 1885.

No. 45.

INDIAN DEVILTRY.

A War Party of Crows Succeed in Getting Away With a Good Band of Horses.

From Ferd. Kaiser, who arrived in this city to-day from his sheep ranch on Eagle creek, in the Bear Paw country, we learn that a war party of nine Crows stopped at his place a few days ago, en route south to their reservation, with a band of thirty horses which they had stolen from the Piegiens and settlers. About half of the animals were fine, large American horses, but none of them were branded. They were by no means Indian horses, and it is something of a puzzle where they came from.

The Indians said they had had a fight with the Piegiens at the Sweet Grass hills, but as to the result of the battle, if they had one, nothing was said. They broke camp at Eagle creek about 8 o'clock a. m., and in four hours afterwards Lieut. Bachus, with a detachment of thirty men, arrived at the ranch, in pursuit. The troops followed on with all possible speed, but evidently did not catch the Indians before they had crossed the Missouri, as was desired. Being without rations for a long seige, Lieut. Bachus and command returned to the Coal Banks, and, we understand, will renew the pursuit from that point.

These are the same Indians reported a few days since as having passed the hay camp on the Sandy, though it was supposed then that they were Bloods, from the north. Mr. Kaiser says the party was well equipped, and larger, finer looking Indians he says he never saw. They made no attempt to molest him or his property, being evidently well satisfied with the result of their marauding excursion.

Lieut. Bachus and party left the post at midnight and made splendid time in pursuit, and it is only to be regretted that they did not take sufficient rations to have continued the march until the red raiders were captured.

Wool Market.

The demand for wool in Boston and Philadelphia seems almost unlimited at prevailing prices, and the sales enormous, larger than were ever before known in the history of the trade in either city, if we except the years of the war. Nevertheless, prices do not advance materially, although the conditions all seem to favor higher prices. The reason is simply this: Manufacturers have already sold their products ahead, at low prices, and are free buyers within limits that will save them from a loss. Beyond that point there is no market for wool. On the other side sellers have paid, in the country, more than it was worth in market when it was purchased, and are cheerful sellers in Boston at prices that will save them from loss. After the frightened holders and the equally frightened manufacturers have sold out and bought in enough to make them easy, we expect to see a very solid market, with rather short supplies in all the leading markets, and prices a little better than they are now—as much better as any general improvement in business will warrant.

We find it impossible to get up any strong faith in a permanent improvement in wool, until we can see other branches revive. There may be a "boom," or, as grain men say, a "bulge," but wool cannot scar alone to any extreme height, and stay up long.—Chicago Wool Journal.

The Galt Railroad.

Having noticed an article in your last paper concerning the extension of the Galt railway into Montana, I desire to remark, having a personal acquaintance with Mr. Galt, that if he attempts to build a road into this country, it is certain to come, at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Galt is another Villard, for business tact, enterprise and energy. What he undertakes he carries through, at all hazards. If he has decided to supply Montana with coal, we shall get it. The company's coal mines are the best in the country and the product is clear, hard and fine as any coal I ever saw. The supply is almost inexhaustible. The Canadian Pacific officials say that it is equal, if not superior to Pennsylvania coal. The Galt Railway is one of the largest and most solid companies in the N. W. T.—"Traveler" in Rising Sun.

Will Tucker Deny This?

Congressman J. Randolph Tucker of Virginia has the reputation of being one of the best stump speakers in his state. He is always prepared to talk to his constituents under any and all circumstances. Senator Blackburn of Kentucky, who accompanied Mr. Tucker through parts of Virginia

during the campaign last fall, declares the Virginia congressman to be one of the most incessant talkers in a political fight he ever listened to. The two statesmen were traveling together through the southwestern section of the state electioneering for Cleveland and making sometimes as many as twenty or twenty-five speeches a day. In fact, whenever Mr. Tucker discovered several men talking together by roadside he, without further ceremony, walked into their midst and delivered a brief speech on the struggle then going on. One morning about 9 o'clock these two gentlemen were passing through a piece of woods when they came upon a hanging party. The rope had been placed around the victim's neck, and the chief executioner informed the prisoner that he might have ten minutes to say anything he desired in his own behalf. Mr. Tucker saw an opportunity, so Mr. Blackburn says, to work off a few political remarks. He pushed his way through the crowd and requested the condemned man to divide his time with him.

Bright, But not "Booming."

These words indicate with sufficient accuracy the business prospects. The improvement in feeling and in actual trade, which has now continued longer than at any time since the depression began, prevailed throughout the past week,—the slight reactions being quickly recovered and the general tendency being onward. The local exchanges for the week amounted to \$61,844,959, a gain of \$6,500,000 over the corresponding week last year, and the balances were more than \$1,000,000 larger. The New York bank clearings were over \$100,000,000, larger than in 1884, and \$2,429,500 more than those of the preceding week. The bank statement was again favorable, the loans increasing \$2,614,000, and the surplus reserve falling off over \$1,200,000. Although the new deposits overtopped the loans by about \$1,000,000, the call for money has improved, and the gain in deposits is attributed to the payments and collections upon merchandise. The activity in the New York stock market is indicated by the sales of nearly 2,250,000 shares during the week, the largest number credited to any week save one since the rise began. And though 74 of the transactions comprised but fifteen stocks the average number dealt in daily eighty-six against sixty during the past three months, showing an activity throughout the list that has heretofore been absent. The somewhat improved demand for money has not yet advanced the rate of discounts, as it could not be expected would be the case, in view of the great accumulation of money; but it is noted that "lenders" are showing less inclination "to make long time investments." Unless all signs fall, money will not long be as cheap as it has been during the last six months.

The general trade reports point to a slow but steady gain. The prices of wool tend upward, and the activity of the past six weeks is maintained. Bleached cotton has advanced 2½ per cent, and brown sheetings have started upward. The improvement in iron, if not quite up to the enthusiasm with which the "turn of the lane" was welcomed, is very encouraging to the manufacturers. In drygoods and general merchandise, the feeling reported from Philadelphia is true of this market; it is "uniformly more hopeful than at any time during the past year," although, as was said at the start, no "boom" is looked for, nor indeed desired, by those who realize what it means.—Boston Advertiser.

Northern Notes.

[Fort Macleod Gazette, 25th ult.]

Macleod citizens banqueted Col Irvine on his return a few days ago.

The railway will reach Leithbridge tonight. A big time is expected there tomorrow. In view of the completion of the road, town lots have taken a boom. Twenty-three were sold yesterday, and six this morning.

The taking of the census in Manitoba and the northwest is to go on at once. Wm. White, Regina; Thos. Spence, Winnipeg; J. O'Reilly, Calgary; and Rev. Father LaCombe, were gazetted commissioners on the 8th.

The Calgary Herald says that the Blackfoot Indians have a deeply rooted idea that at attempt will be made to disarm them shortly. When the police under Col. Herchmer, visited the Blackfoot reserve to make some arrests, the attitude of the Indians was anything but friendly. The government should constantly bear in mind the very strong probability of serious trouble with these Indians in the near future.

Shall We Have a Fall Term of Court?

This question is now being agitated by some of our citizens, and the feeling among our leading tax payers is that there is no necessity for holding a term. It is estimated that the county would save from \$5,000 to \$8,000 by not holding the fall term, and it is believed there is no urgent business, either criminal or civil, that demands immediate consideration. The commissioners, at their meeting this week, will consider the matter, and we understand Judge Wade will act in accordance with their wishes in the premises.

Fergus County Facts.

[Argus.]

R. L. McCulloch, post trader at Assinaboine, spent this week as the guest of C. J. McNamara, at Fort Maginias.

Chas. Johnson, brother to A. C. Johnson, manager of T. C. Power & Bro.'s Benton house, was in town Tuesday, the guest of Mr. Henry Brooks.

About 1,100 wethers belonging to Griffith & Ingersoll, of Fort Benton, were driven through the gap this week on their way to Billings for shipment.

The government steamer Josephine, employed in improving navigation on the upper Missouri, is now at work on the Dauphin rapids, about ten miles below Judith Landing.

Chas. Barney, stock inspector, returned from Benton and reports "all quiet along the Potomac." To insure this desired quiet, however, two or three trusty range riders will patrol the Piegan line in the future.

We learn through private sources that a military telegraph line from Fort Maginias via Judith Landing to Assinaboine is one of the possibilities of the near future. Such a line will prove of inestimable value to the service and a great relief to settlers.

Some surveyors, presumably in the employ of the N. P. railway, have been taking geographical observations of the country from here via Judith Landing to Assinaboine and the Canadian Pacific. They are on a still hunt and give out no pointers, yet we feel confident they are looking for a natural route for a railroad connecting the N. P. with the C. P. roads and passing through the great Judith country.

Some Pertinent Questions.

Editor of the River Press:

Is it right for a white man, who is supposed to be civilized, to live with a squaw without the least semblance of a marriage ceremony?

Is it not a crime against the laws of both God and man?

Has the man who will do it any respect for himself, his sisters or the mother that bore him?

Is he not lost to all sense of decency and honor?

Is it not a stain upon a community that a man is allowed to live, in open violation of the laws of civilization, by keeping a mistress, whether she be white or colored?

Should he not be given to understand that his actions bar him out of decent society?

What is the duty of the Indian agent in this matter?

Should not the grand jury have something to say upon this subject?

Are the local officers of the law justified in passing this thing over in silence and ignoring its existence?

Who cares to bring his mother, sister or wife into a community where such things are allowed?

QUERIST.

Upper Marias, September 3, 1885.

What They Say.

Red Buckland says that notwithstanding his face is swelled up with neuralgia, he completed his harvesting on Saturday last.

Range men, farmers and others say that such a season for grass was never known before. The prairies are as green as in the spring, the only fear is that it will freeze before the grass is cured, in which event stock will suffer for want of nutritious food.

Mr. Paris Gibson expresses the belief that Montana will yet be the great wheat producing section of the northwest; that the bench lands are more productive than the lands on the bottoms and the yield, especially with a season like the past, will be greater owing to the soil being warmer than in the bottoms. This belief is confirmed by farmers who for the past two or three years have been experimenting with grain on the bench land with results that have astonished them.

The proprietors of the Cataract roller mills at Great Falls say they will be ready

for work as soon as the wheat begins to arrive. The machinery is nearly in position.

Wm. Rowe says his \$3,000 English Shire stallion is the finest animal in Montana. We saw the horse yesterday and are inclined to the same belief. He stands 18½ hands high and is a magnificently put up animal.

The new road to Great Falls from Red coulee is said to save a distance of eight miles. It was laid out this spring. There is not a bend in it for a distance of fourteen miles.

A Substitute for Buffalo Robes.

When it became apparent that the buffalo was undergoing a very rapid process of extermination, dealers in and manufacturers of robes began to cast about for a substitute for the robes which had formed such a universal protection against the rigor of northern winters for so many years. Many different kinds of pelts were brought into market, the most acceptable being a Russian dog skin which obtained favor both with manufacturers and consumers, but this is now in danger of being supplanted with the hide of the Galloway cattle, which aside from the defects occasioned by branding is nearly the equal of the famed buffalo hide. The striking resemblance of the Galloway to a buffalo is the subject of constant remark, and it would not be strange if they succeeded the bison in supplying the world with its winter protection. They have the advantage of the buffalo in color and texture of fur to begin with.

Increasing Silver Circulation.

WASHINGTON, September 2.—Treasurer Jordan said to-day that the policy adopted by the treasury department to secure a better circulation of silver coin is meeting with gratifying success. During August there was paid out from the different sub-treasuries \$1,677,444 in standard dollars, and \$1,495,502 in fractional silver coin, which amounts were largely in excess of the issue of silver during the corresponding month of last year. Mr. Jordan says: "The withdrawal of \$1 and \$2 notes from circulation was made necessary by the rapid accumulation of silver in the sub-treasuries. It was expected in this way to create a demand for silver coin. That the plan was successful is shown by the large output during the past month. So far no formal complaints or protests against the withdrawal of \$1 and \$2 notes have been made. Applications have been, however, received for huge quantities of small notes. In each case answer has simply been made that the issue of those notes has been suspended for the present." Treasury officials express themselves as much encouraged by the present state of finances, and predict an improvement in the general business of the country.

Correcting History.

WASHINGTON, September 2.—General Logan and wife have arrived here from the Thousand Islands and report that the highly entertaining story about their narrow escape from drowning while their photographs were being taken is a pure romance. The facts are that while sitting for a photograph with a marine background, some one stepped on the side of the boat and tipped it so it shipped water, but it did not overturn, and the only damage suffered was a wet boat. One end of the boat was on the bank all the time and the water was not more than knee deep anywhere around them.

Death of an Aged Pastor.

IRVINGTON, N. Y., September 4.—Rev. D. Stephen H. Tyng, senior, died at his residence here last night.

Troops Ordered Out.

CHICAGO, September 4.—Gen. Schoofield has ordered three companies of regular troops to Rock Springs, not for the purpose of quelling the riot, but to preserve government property should occasion arise.

Business Failures.

NEW YORK, September 4.—The number of business failures throughout the country for the past seven days were 165, against 189 the preceding week.

Thornton's Recall.

ST. PETERSBURG, September 4.—Sir Edward Thornton to-day presented the Czar his letters of recall as British ambassador. The Czarina received the departing ambassador's family in the saloon of the palace, where she was joined by the Czar, who bade the ladies farewell. The Czar was markedly gracious to all. The Czar and marinka and other members of the imperial family have sailed for Copenhagen.

N. P. Land Sale.

ST. PAUL, September 1.—During August the Northern Pacific sold 77,912 acres of land for \$301,533. In August 1884 the sales were 32,874 acres for \$142,637.

Mysterious Scourge.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., September 2.—A great deal of excitement prevails in Clay county, in this state, over a malignant form of disease which cannot be explained by the local physicians. Every hour brings the news of another death. The malady is thought to be flux, but it is a more fatal disorder, with symptoms similar to cholera. In the family of Squire Sizemore four sons died within a few hours, and others of the family are sick with the disease. It is mostly confined to children, who are attacked with sickness and die in a very short time, being paralyzed with pain. Sycamore creek region, where the disease prevails, is sparsely populated with a hardy class of mountaineers. The disease seems to be of the same nature as that which prevailed in southwest Virginia and the adjoining part of Kentucky last year.

New Postal Cards.

WASHINGTON, September 1.—An installment of 100,000 postal cards from the new contractor arrived at the city postoffice to-day. The new cards differ considerably from the old ones in appearance. The size is exactly the same. The design is printed in light brown color. Instead of the head of the Goddess of Liberty in vignettes in the corner, there appears a fine engraving of Jefferson's head. Instead of the monogram "U. S.," the new card has on it the words "United States" printed at length. On the address side of the old card were printed the words, "Nothing but the address can be placed on this side." The expression has been changed on the new card so as to read, "Nothing but the address to be on this side."

The Water Ways Convention.

ST. PAUL, September 2.—At the meeting of the friends of Missouri river improvements, representing the states of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska and the territories of Dakota and Montana, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the parties to this caucus hereby pledge themselves to support all resolutions that may come before the convention looking to the improvement of the Missouri river, and that they will demand that it receive just recognition at the hands of this convention, being, at the same time, in favor of the other water ways of the northwest, but deeming the improvement of the Missouri of the first importance.

The following committee was appointed to look after this matter: T. B. Bulene, Missouri; W. H. Beadle, Dakota; J. C. Arthur, Kansas; J. S. Tooker, Montana; F. M. Conall, Nebraska, and T. I. Caldwell, Iowa.

Iron Orders for England.

ELK RAPIDS, Mich., September 3.—The Elk Rapids Iron Co. received an order for 400 tons of charcoal iron to be shipped to England. This is probably the first iron from a western manufacturing company ever shipped from this country.

Rumored Purchase of the New York Herald.

NEW YORK, September 3.—The Tribune says: A report is current that John W. Mackay is negotiating with James Gordon Bennett for the purchase of the New York Herald, with the intention of putting John Russell Young at the head of its editorial staff. Mackay is interested with Bennett in the Bennett-Mackay cable, in the construction of which \$8,000,000 is said to have been sunk for Bennett's share of the enterprise. Mackay is reported to hold a mortgage on the Herald. Mackay's wealth is much talked about in this connection. He is said to have \$21,000,000 in securities locked up in his strong box, bringing from four to eight per cent interest, in addition to his cable investment and his interest in the bank of Nevada. Gossip runs that he would be able to back the Herald with \$30,000,000.

Prize Fight.

PITTSBURG, Pa., September 4.—The prize fight for a purse of \$200 between Jack Beck and James Wiert, local pugilists, which was fought on the Perryville road early this morning, resulted in Wiert being knocked out in the thirty-fourth round. About 150 persons witnessed the mill.

A reception will be tendered Dominic McCaffrey upon his arrival here to-morrow morning.