

THE RIVER PRESS.

Published every Wednesday morning by the River Press Publishing Company.

The newspaper men of Missoula have been "recognized" in a decided way by the republicans of that county. Will Kennedy, of the Missoulian, has been nominated for councilman and Harrison Spaulding of the Times for member of the assembly. May they both win.

We have received the initial number of the Montana Democrat, published tri-weekly at Miles City. It is a six column folio and presents a very neat appearance. Miles City has had a great many campaign papers from time to time and none of them have ever made a live of it. We trust the Democrat will have a better fate.

The democratic territorial committee have supplemented the excellent appointment of Hon. W. A. Clark for chairman by selecting Mr. Hugh McQuaid for secretary, the best possible choice that could have been made. Hugh has been an active democratic worker in the territory for the past twenty years and knows how to "run the machine" to perfection. He has accepted the trust and will perform the onerous duties it imposes creditably to himself and the party.

The "Casual Listner" of the Pioneer Press furnishes the following morsel of consolation, showing there is some recompense from the dry spell: The physicians tell me that all that has saved the northwest from some plague has been the dry weather. With the frightful heat extremes that have been attained they claim that if rain had accompanied them fevers, bowel complaints, blood diseases, and the infant mortality would have been excessive. So that the seeming curse of the dry spell may have proven a blessing in disguise.

MISS CLEVELAND'S magazine, Literary Life, for September will, in addition to her "Editorial Talks," contain the first of a series of articles on "Talks to Girls on what They Shall Read," by Miss Cleveland. These articles are in the form of a dialogue between an editor, a teacher of history, and a group of young ladies gathered about the old fashioned Yule Log, discussing in conversational style the best books for young ladies to read. Every parent interested in cultivating a correct literary taste in the home circle, will be desirous of placing these articles within the reach of their children.

The Indian commission is doing some splendid work in Minnesota and is doing it thoroughly. The treaty just concluded with the Red Lake Indians is most advantageous to them and will place the tribe in independent circumstances. The intention is to concentrate the Indians of Northern Minnesota at White Earth and Red Lake, the residue of their lands to be sold and invested in government bonds at five per cent. The lands being valuable this gives them a handsome income and one that is entirely secure. This commission seems to take hold of the problem in a more practical way than has ever been done heretofore and good results are certainly to follow their labors. We hope they will bring the same good judgment and common sense ideas to bear in treating with the Indians of Northern Montana.

MESSRS. KIRKESDALL & McCune, Montana Central contractors, are advertising for 500 men at Gorbam, to work on the railroad, showing a determination to push operations in that quarter to the fullest extent during the season. The grade of the M. C. will be finished and ready for the rails from Helena to a point about ten miles down the Missouri, below the mouth of Prickly Pear creek, by the 20th inst., excepting only the big tunnel. The bridge contractors are pushing matters and will soon have the many bridges in that distance completed. Whether or not any work will be done in Choteau county this fall, on the Montana Northern, is still an undecided question and will probably be decided by Mr. Hill on the occasion of his visit to this section next week. That there is to be to "let up" in operations and that the plans are fully matured for the completion of the Manitoba system as far as Helena, and probably Butte, next season, is no longer a matter of conjecture. It is a settled fact.

The Northern Pacific Coal company have closed their mines at Timberline on account of the continued trouble with the miners, or rather the Knights of Labor at that place. Having been recently in that vicinity we sought to ascertain the status of public opinion in regard to the trouble and must say the men are alms universally sustained, and the more so because they have resorted to no acts of violence in their struggle with the company. It should be understood that the issue is not one of wages; the men are content to work for the wages offered by the company, although they have been reduced. The fight is upon the order issued by the company that no person who is a Knight of Labor shall be employed in the mines. This supplemented by the fact that the company had a general store, a saloon, gambling house, etc., at the mines and required that the men should spend their money wholly with them was sufficient to exasperate them in the highest degree and it is not a matter of surprise that they have taken the determined stand now maintained for several weeks. There is a point beyond which endurance will not go and it seems to have been fully reached in this case.

The earthquake in South Carolina and on the southern coast of the Atlantic yesterday was a great disaster. The United States has been comparatively free from destructive earthquakes, although they are of so frequent occurrence in other parts of the world. It is estimated that twelve or thirteen earthquakes, destructive more or less of life and property, occur every year, and in fact the earth is never free from some sensible evidences of the earthquake agency—in some quarter or another tremors or slight shakings are constantly taking place. In the great Lisbon earthquake no less than 60,000 persons perished while in that of Calabria, in the end of the last century, 40,000 people were destroyed. It is estimated that no less than 13,000,000 of the human race have perished in this way! It is probably a matter of interest to the people of Montana to know that scientists agree that districts in which there are extinct volcanoes are not more liable to these visitations than non-volcanic regions.

We hail with delight the approach of all completing lines of railroad within our borders, and condemn with our unqualified disapproval the attempt of any railroad company to dominate the politics of Montana.

The foregoing is one of the planks of the platform adopted by the democratic territorial convention, recently held at Helena. It is directed at the Northern Pacific railroad company and refers to the futile attempts of that corporation to shut out the Montana Central, with a reminder and a rebuke of the concerted action of the N. P. two years ago to defeat Toole—the latter not carrying a single precinct on the line of the road from Glendive to Missoula. There are strong indications that the railroads will cut something of a figure in this campaign, with the Northern Pacific fighting for Sanders and the Montana Central for Toole.

In his letter of instructions to the Indian commission, the commissioner of Indian affairs recommended the removal of the Indians of northern Montana to other agencies as their location with reference to the international boundary line is unfortunate and has been the occasion of no little embarrassment to the service. While this is true and the removal of these Indians is much to be desired we fear it will be difficult of accomplishment. The Pie-gans, particularly, are on their native heath, "the land of their fathers," and would be loth to leave it. The same is true in a measure of the Gros Ventres. But there need not be the least difficulty in securing from them the cession of a large portion of their reservations and even this result will be of great importance and benefit to Montana, and as well to the Indians.

SOME of the territorial papers have been led into error in regard to the effect of the "special legislation" act of congress on the salary law. They claim that the provision prohibiting the changing of fees, emoluments or allotments of county officers during the term for which they have been elected will operate to maintain the salary law for two years longer, as the officers elected in November will be operating under the salary law, and hence no change can be made during their term, or if made it must be to take effect two years hence. It is undoubtedly true that no special legislation of the character indicated can be enacted by our legislature, but there is nothing to prohibit them from passing a general fee bill, thus knocking the pegs from under the salary act. This in all probability is what will be done.

MR. GEORGE STELL, of Sun River, announces in the Helena Herald that he will be a candidate for the office of assessor of Lewis and Clarke county, subject to the decision of the republican convention. The RIVER PRESS would be pleased to see Mr. Stell secure the nomination, which in his case will be equal to an election. Mr. Stell would make an excellent officer, and his party owes him this much and a good deal more.

THE powder magazine of Laffin & Rand, Chicago, was struck by lightning on the 29th ult., resulting in an explosion that shook the Lake city from center to circumference. Property to the value of \$75,000 was destroyed and some twenty-five persons were more or less injured.

It is not probable that the democratic campaign will "open" until the republicans make their nomination for delegate to congress on the 15th inst. If Sanders is the choice of that convention, and it is almost certain that he will be, a lively contest will ensue "all along the line."

Loss, \$15,000.

Special to the River Press. MISSOULA, September 2.—T. C. Power & Co.'s loss by the burning of their agricultural establishment is \$13,000; no insurance. The valuable papers and books were saved and a small portion of the stock.

A War Cloud and a Battle.

Special to the River Press. PARIS, September 2.—The correspondence between the Czar and Prince Alexander has created a great sensation here. It is feared that war will ensue unless Bismarck interposes.

BERLIN, September 2.—A private telegram received here this evening states that a battle took place in eastern Roumania between a regiment loyal to Alexander and regiments siding with the revolutionists. The latter were defeated with heavy loss.

THE SONS OF MALTA.

A Gigantic Sell of the Most Ludicrous Type—Outward Solemnity.

When at its height the Sons of Malta had lodges in every city of prominence throughout the country, and numbered its initiates by the thousands. Its secrets were exposed in 1860 by Frank Leslie's Journal, and the order several years later met an untimely death. It was nothing more nor less than a gigantic sell, of the most ludicrous and original type. Who founded it is not known and the name of the wily man who probably remains forever unheralded while the work which he left behind will pass down into history as the most marvelous hoax of the nineteenth century. The ritual was from the pen of George D. Prentice. Its birth place is conceded to New Orleans. Some ascribe its origin to the filibustering army of Gen. Walker which in 1835 or thereabouts was preparing a raid upon the island of Cuba with a view to annexation. Others ascribe its rise to the idea of some humanitarian whose intention was to divert the mind during the terrible rages of yellow fever in the south and at the same time to raise funds for the benefit of the epidemic sufferers. Certain it is that large sums of money, not inordinately large sums, were expended by the order each year for charity and the amount of good the strange order accomplished each year on that account can not be overestimated.

Charity and diversion were undoubtedly both the objects of the organization and both were certainly accomplished. "I was a little fellow weighing only 140 pounds," said a prominent citizen to the writer not many years ago, "but I laughed so much during my membership, that I actually grew fat and ascribe my good health, to some degree at least, to the famous 'Sons of Malta.' To the outsider there was nothing in the order which varied upon itself. All its public demonstrations were of the most solemn sort. The members appeared in long black and white gowns which the older citizens of Mansfield well remember. On the front of the white gowns was a large cross in black. The crosses were of the peculiar style which every one knows as the Maltese cross.

Over the head a hood extended with nothing to make known the identity of the wearer save two holes for the eyes around which were fringes of black on the white gowns and white on the black ones. The public parades which were often given always took place at night. The procession marched slowly to the solemn music of the dead march, while weird torches lighted the way, and the members hummed to the music. The impression of unusual solemnity was thus given out, and not a single glimpse of the interior workings was ever allowed to come to the public notice. The fun which the members got out of the order was in the initiations.

In fact the initiation was all there was in the order and its workings. It was the single and sole business of the members. The ceremony was complete with a series of "sells," which must have taxed the genius of the inventor to the utmost. The outward solemnity was kept up as far as the candidate was able to judge from the beginning to the end of the whole ceremony, but the candidate was met at every turn with some inexplicable burlesque, which half maddened and half frightened him. Where he expected the most solemn and impressive scenes he found only a ridiculous farce. At last, when he had reason to expect that finally he had come to the stage in the proceedings where the real ceremony of initiation was to begin, the scales were lifted from his eyes and he was made to see himself as others saw him—a very badly sold man.—Mansfield (O.) News.

The Abysses of the Ocean.

The deepest valley on the bottom of the seas has been found near the northeastern extremity of Dampier strait, about 120 miles north of New Guinea. For a distance of six leagues the soundings showed a depth varying from 30,320 to 31,600 feet, or considerably more than five miles. Another sea abyss of almost equal depth, though not of the same width, has been discovered in latitude 18 north and longitude 65 west, near the Tortola group of the Virgin archipelago, in the West Indies. The submarine banks of Newfoundland sink abruptly from 200 fathoms to a depth of more than four miles, and southwest of St. Helena a vast basin maintains an average depth of 21,000 feet. Yet commander Tenman, of the Prussian navy, reminds the topographers of the sea that the records of all soundings and dredgings of the last 150 years represent only dotted lines, traced here and there over the surface of an immeasurable area, and leaving as many unexplored interspaces as if our topography of the North American continent were limited to the lines, or rather stations, of the American railway system.—Dr. Felix L. Oswald.

Oldest Fire Engine in the Country.

The oldest fire engine in the United States and probably in America is in possession of the William Penn Home company, of Philadelphia. The tub is 3 feet 8 inches long, 1 foot 8 inches wide and 1 foot 8 inches deep. The wheels are solid blocks of wood, 1 foot 8 inches in diameter and about 4 inches thick. The cylinders are 4 1/2 inches in diameter, with a stroke of 6 1/2 inches. The internal construction is the same as in the hand engines of the present day, with air chamber, waterway and suction. There is no maker's name on it, but it was built by either Newsham or Fowke, of London. The engine was accepted by the company in Salem, April 2, 1749, and the company took the name of the Union Engine company. It was kept in use until April, 1789, a half century of active service, when one called the Essex took its place.—Chicago Herald.

Affected by a Dry Atmosphere.

An Indiana man who, under the last administration, held the position of Indian agent in Dakota, told me recently that the excessive dryness of the atmosphere there affected his health, causing him to have the rheumatism so badly that he was not able to walk half a mile, though he was never thus afflicted at home. A subsequent transfer to the Indian territory caused a great improvement in his health. He said he knew of many persons having to leave Montana also on account of similar rheumatic troubles.—Chicago Journal.

Solemn and Impressive Language.

A bricklayer who had come to his death by being hit on the head with a brick was the subject of eulogy by the member of a fraternal society. The desire of the orator to be solemn and impressive was greater than his ability to express the few ideas that he had. "My friends," he said, "I looked out once on the beauties of nature, and all was c-a-a-alm. Our diseased friend here was layin' a brick. I looked out once more; still all was c-a-a-alm, but our diseased friend all was no more. He was layin' a cawpse!"—The Argonaut.

Plum-Duff and Cannon-Ball Pudding.

The captain of a deep-water sailing vessel, as a rule, lives well. Ortolans and truffles do not grace his table, but sea-pie, scouse, and plum-duff do, and a healthy appetite would always prefer the latter combination. A sea-pie is a most savory dish. It is baked in a deep saucepan, and has a crisp brown crust on the top. A sea-pie is made as a three or four "decker," according to the size of a pie desired. The cooks put a layer of scraps of meat and small pieces of potatoes in the saucepan; over that he places a layer of crust and then another of meat and then another of crust, and so on until he has the requisite number of decks on the structure. Then, all hot and juicy, it is placed on the captain's table. After a course of sea-pie nothing goes better for desert than plum-duff. Plum-duff is flour, water, lard, a little salt, and some baking powder to make it light. Raisins are scattered through it, and it is boiled like a pudding. The number of raisins in the duff depends on the generosity of the steward. When there are not many they have an unpleasant way of congregating in that particular slice of duff which the captain gets. Lobscouse is simply wet hash, but a sea-cook has a way of making it that is never attained on shore. Besides the peculiar sea dainties, the captain's table is garnished with all sorts of canned things, and such articles of food as may be kept on a sea voyage. A live pig, and some coops, in which hens lay eggs for the cabin, are generally carried. This is "cabin grub," and the fore-castle lives quite differently. The plum-duff is apt to degenerate there into "cannon-ball pudding," and the sea-pie savors of the scrappings from former dinners. Canned goods are replaced by "salt-horse" and a separate and peculiar brand of coffee, called, "sailors' coffee," is served up, sweetened with molasses.—The Argonaut.

Santa Anna's Last Cigar.

Col. Robert E. Patterson has some interesting relics brought by his father, Gen. Robert E. Patterson, from the Mexican campaign. There are two small, round glass cases of not over a foot in height. One has in it a miniature in wax of a Mexican priest, with flowing vestments of finest black silk, with not the slightest deviation from minute detail in make-up, with close-cropped hair and perfect eyebrows. The companion is a beautiful nun, no less wonderfully made. In the case containing the priest is a large cigar with a history. It is falling to pieces from age and dryness. When Gen. Santa Anna's private carriage was captured at Cerro Gordo a box of cigars was among the things found in it. Gen. Patterson never smoked, but his officers did, and the box of cigars lasted a very short time. The one saved by the general as a relic was one from that box. It is the same sort of a cigar sold nowadays for 10 cents.—Philadelphia Press.

President Grevy's Good Teeth.

President Grevy, now nearly 80 years of age, lost his first tooth the other day. The Paris journals mention the fact as an event, and The Voltaire regards it as an affair of grave political significance. Good teeth, says The Voltaire, are essential to good digestion, and good digestion has played a great role in the history of kings and rulers. "It is lucky for us," it continues, "that President Grevy has such sound teeth. To that fact must be attributed his unchanging calm, his starchy, the perfect equilibrium of his physical and intellectual functions, which have made him the most prudent of statesmen and the most constitutional of presidents."—Chicago Tribune.

Chopin's Powers of Instruction.

Liszt in London told a friend that when he and Chopin were young some one told him that Chopin had a talent for mimicry. Liszt said to the Polish pianist: "Come round to my rooms this evening and exhibit this talent of yours." So Chopin came in a blonde wig. "I was very blonde at that time," says Liszt. Presently an acquaintance of Liszt's came in, and Chopin went to meet him, and took off Liszt's voice and manner so perfectly that the man was completely deceived, and made an appointment with him for the next day. "And there I was in the room all the time," Liszt remarked, laughing.—Chicago Times.

The Trouble About His Umbrella.

"It looks like wain, old fellow. I guess we'd better have a hansom." "What do you want a hansom for? It's only half a dozen blocks, and you've got your umbrella." "Yaas, deah boy. But it's my walking umbwellaw, I cawn't use it faw a wain umbwellaw. I could newaw wap it up again don't you know."—Town Topics.

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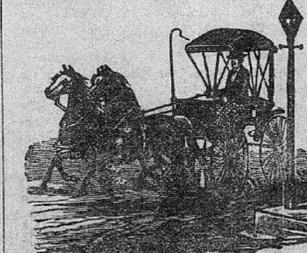
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