

ANOTHER RICHMOND IN THE FIELD.

The Manitoba Railroad Comes to the Front With Rates for Carrying Out the Wool of Northern Montana.

The wool growers of northern and eastern Montana heretofore have only had the advantage of the competition between the river and the Northern Pacific railroad in the shipment of their wool, but this year the Manitoba, which will have its line completed to Fort Benton by the 1st of September, proposes to have a finger in the pie, and to the decided benefit of the shippers. The following letter in response to one of inquiry in regard to wool rates explains the situation:

ST. PAUL, May 20, 1887. E. Collins, Esq., Fort Benton, M.T.: I am instructed by Mr. Hill to give you rates on wool to Boston and Chicago. The rate from Fort Benton to Duluth or St. Paul will be \$1.25 per 100 lbs.; rate via the Great Eastern line from Duluth to New York, including insurance, 75c.; Boston, 50c. Consign care Duluth & St. Paul line. Pressed in bales, in carload lots, will be able to bring it from Fort Benton to St. Paul at \$1.05. The rate at present from St. Paul to Chicago, pressed in bales, is 50c. The rate, however, St. Paul to Chicago, will probably be reduced within a month.

W. S. ALEXANDER, Gen. Traffic Man. While the rate offered by the river is the same as that of the Manitoba, \$1.25 per hundred pounds to Duluth, the insurance on the river amounts to something like one hundred pounds, making the Manitoba rate that much lower than the river. Verily, with the advantages of river and rail competition it enjoys, Fort Benton will be more than ever before the wool shipping point of Montana this season!

The Manitoba's Progress.

A reliable gentleman, just from the end of the Manitoba, give the Independent an account of how fast work is being pushed there. Barring accidents, the rails should be laid to Little Muddy to-morrow. Work is being pushed at the rate of five miles of tracklaying per day, of eleven hour's work. More hours will be worked as the days get a little longer, and two shifts may be employed. Business goes along like clock work. Four thousand teams are strung along the grade and 350 are employed at hauling ties and bridge timber to the front. Water tanks are built at distances of ten miles ahead of the track, and six heavy locomotives employed at the front have double tanks, so that there will be no delay in getting water. Thirty-two spikers are employed constantly and six cars in dropping rails. Trains are moving to the front constantly. The boarding houses and company stores are all on wheels. Low wages are paid and pay day comes only once in two months. An excellent class of men, teams and general outfit are employed and there is very little rowdiness or general demoralization such as generally attends a large construction force. Work is pushed in every way. A section contractor is given so much time in which to do his work and if it is not finished in the allotted time the construction company puts men and teams on the job and finishes it up quickly, charging the expense to the contractor. Push, push, push, is the constant order and nothing is spared to carry out the policy. Money is scarce, and it is not a very enticing country for anyone who does not care to engage in real hard work.

Coal Field Notes.

Messrs. H. J. Wackerlin & Co. have received from Mr. Millard of the Belt creek coal mines a sample lot of most excellent looking coke, which they propose to put to a practical test to determine its quality. It seems to possess all the requisites of a first-class article. The Belt mines can, when required, turn out any quantity of this desirable and necessary fuel, and is one of the many mines of the same character that surround Benton on all sides.

The RIVER PRESS has a sample of the coal taken from Black coulee, on Milk river, near Assinaboine. This is the coal which will be supplied to that post in the future instead of wood, the quartermaster having already advertised for 920 tons to be delivered there this summer. One of the officers of the post, speaking of the different tests to which it was put, before it was determined to accept it for fuel, says that a large coal stove was filled with it and kept red hot for twenty-four hours, and the fire then allowed to die out. Not a "clinker" or piece of slag was found; there was only ashes left. The coal burned freely all the while, and produced an intense heat. It has the appearance of first-class canal-coal, showing a hard polished surface, is light, and can be handled with white kid gloves without soiling them.

In a brief talk this morning with Mr. Thomas O'Hanlan, a gentleman of intelligence and extended information, who has been in charge of T. C. Power & Bro.'s business at the Fort Belknap agency for the last fourteen or fifteen years, and who is more thoroughly familiar with the Milk river country than any gentleman in northern Montana, he states that for fifty square miles around Fort Belknap coal can be found in almost every coulee; that for years they have been using it for fuel and have found it a first-class article for all purposes. At the agency blacksmith shop it has been used successfully for all kinds of iron and steel work; for welding the finest iron and steel it is not excelled by any other coal. They simply uncovered one of the many spots where the great vein comes to the surface; removing the soil and using only the surface article. No development of consequence has been made. The vein is from

two and a half to five feet thick. The coal varies in quality, the bulk of it being similar to that found at the renowned Lethbridge and Banff mines of Sir Alexander T. Galt, in the Northwest territory. In the center of the vein has been found a genuine canal-coal that can be lighted with a match and will burn like a candle. Testimony from such a source as this needs no comment.

In talking with some old timers yesterday we were told that near the 24-Mile Springs, on Lonesome prairie, a vein of coal crops out in a coulee. It is exactly the same kind of coal as that found near Assinaboine, and on Milk river in various places. One of the party said that on one occasion, while camped near there years ago, being short of wood, he used the coal for cooking and heating, and it burned freely in the open air.

On Birch creek, near Dupuyer, a vein of excellent coal, similar to the Belt creek article, is exposed. The coal is used at Dupuyer and throughout that section for domestic purposes, and gives great satisfaction. There is no shaft or tunnel on the mine. It is simply dug from the surface where the vein crops out.

The RIVER PRESS would be glad to receive information concerning the location of coal veins in any of the territory tributary to Benton, either near or distant. We desire to publish the facts in order that the outside world may know more of the resources of this wonderful section in that respect. We would like to receive specimen also.

Shonkin Shots.

Although the season has been a notably wet one, farmers, as a rule are about through seeding, and the present weather is highly favorable for growing crops.

Many direful reports went forth two months ago regarding the prospect for grass, some saying that the roots were entirely dead, but if any one hitherto skeptical on that subject will go out a few miles in the country they will be agreeably surprised, for surely never such a stand of this staple article of stock fodder was seen since the days of yore.

There was a very large acreage of grain put in this spring, for all that seed was scarce and high priced, and from the present prospect, considering the cost of seeding, the farmers will barely come out even if they raise a full crop.

A very generous crop of vegetables has been planted, particularly onions, and if the air is not unduly fragrant with the odor of that vegetable next fall it will be a wonder.

The Shonkin post office is one of the institutions of the day and a general accommodation to all. A very large amount of mail comes to this office for distribution, considering the population, and a very creditable cancellation of stamps is reported. Our obliging P. M., Mr. E. C. Leaming, gives general satisfaction, except to chronic kickers, and so far as they are concerned, leave them alone and they will kick themselves to death.

The various schools are running under favorable circumstances. In District No. 6 Miss Lillie Healy, one of Benton's fairest daughters, is acceptably filling the position of teacher, vice E. C. Leaming, resigned. Miss Mary A. Connelly, daughter of Thomas Connolly, has charge of the school in district No. 7, and Miss Mary Johnstone will shortly begin a term in district No. 13, at the head of the canyon. The Shonkin furnished a full quota of litigants, witnesses, etc., this term of court, and the neighborhood wears an air of dejection and sadness over the absences.

The District Court.

The cases of I. G. Baker & Co. vs. T. C. Power & Bro. and Gans & Klein were decided in favor of the defendants. It was held that the mortgage was void and judgment could not be rendered for plaintiffs.

J. B. Terhune vs. D. G. Browne—The defendant confessed judgment in the sum of \$50 and costs of suit.

The case of the Territory vs. D. F. Johnson, for burglary, was continued for the term as the necessary witnesses were not at hand.

Louisa Beckman vs. August Beckman—Decree of divorce for the plaintiff.

Arthur Sing Lee, indicted for keeping an opium den, was fined \$50 and sentenced to jail for six months. The sentence of imprisonment was suspended and its enforcement will depend on future violations of the law in that respect.

In the celebrated Cobell-Connelly water right case the defendants were enjoined by the court not to interfere with the use and enjoyment of the plaintiff to that amount of water he can use through his ditch as it was in 1883; judgment for damages for Cobell in the sum of one cent was also rendered.

Territory vs. Mary Nequette, for assault with a deadly weapon—The demurrer was sustained and the indictment held as a misdemeanor. The case was dismissed.

Judgment in the sum of \$80 and costs of suit was rendered in the case of Horton vs. Jenkins & Chichester.

Territory vs. Connelly—The defendant pays the costs and is discharged.

Since last report, Dan O'Reilly, Dennis Halpin, Michael Connelly and Daniel Holland have been made full fledged citizens of the United States.

Julius Caesar Bly who was indicted by the grand jury for assault with a deadly weapon was tried by a jury to-day and acquitted.

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GEORGE RICHARDS, Proprietor,

Order to Show Cause.

In the Probate Court in and for the county of Choteau, Territory of Montana.

In the matter of the estate of Elizabeth Smith, deceased.

Charles Rowe, the administrator of the estate of Elizabeth Smith, deceased, having filed his petition herein praying for an order of sale of so much of the real estate of said deceased as may be necessary for the purposes in said petition set forth, it is therefore ordered by the judge of said court that all persons interested in the estate of said deceased appear before the said probate court on Friday, the 27th day of May, A. D. 1887, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at the court room of said court, in the city of Fort Benton, in said county, to show cause why an order should not be granted to the said administrator to sell as much of the real estate of the said deceased, Elizabeth Smith, as shall be necessary.

J. N. W. TAPPAN, Ex-Officio, Clerk.

Notice to Creditors.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned administrator of the estate of Conrad Gotzain, 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 at Fort Benton, in the county of Choteau, Territory of Montana.

T. E. COLLINS, Administrator of the estate of Conrad Gotzain, deceased.

Bulls for Sale.

I can furnish from 100 to 300 good grade Shorthorn, Hereford or Polled Angus Bulls, one and two years old, for \$60, and picked animals, same age, etc., for \$75. These bulls will be selected at Kansas City, as I think they will be better adapted for the northern ranges. Correspondence solicited.

W. P. TURNER, Nashville, Tenn.

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CHAS. S. GIBSON, Fort Benton, M. T.

Want Sheep on Shares.

The undersigned, who are running a small band of sheep on shares, would like to secure from five hundred to one thousand head of breeding ewes to run on shares, or as so much as head per annum. We possess ample facilities for managing the aforesaid number, possessing an excellent range and a good hay meadow, and will provide good shed accommodation. Parties having sheep to let as at-tenant should apply to the undersigned without delay.

HLISS & BRO., et al., Robarre (Birch Creek), Choteau County, M. T.

\$15 Reward.

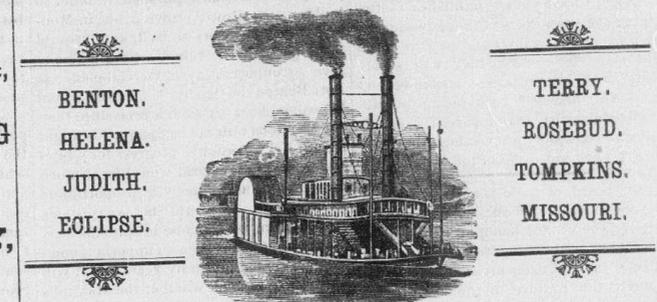
A light bay horse, weight 1,000 pounds, branded JC on the shoulder, strayed from the undersigned at Fort Assinaboine on the 28th ult. The animal is probably returning toward his former home in Idaho. I will pay \$15 reward for recovery of the horse, or \$5 for information that will lead to the same.

H. B. PENLAND, Fort Assinaboine, M. T.

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