

WOOLSTONS WORDS.

Interesting Interview With The Gentleman Concerning Fort Benton and Her Future.

Wednesday a RIVER PRESS representative found Mr. Geo. F. Woolston at leisure and inquired. "How are you getting along with the water works and electric light plant?"

"Splendid," was the reply; "everything is progressing as rapidly as the most sanguine could desire."

"When do you expect to turn on steam?"

"O, probably in ten days or two weeks. Delays and accidents of course will occasionally happen and possibly something may occur to hinder us though I don't expect it."

"Have you taken the trouble to investigate the resources of Fort Benton?"

"Yes."

"What do you think of her future?"

"Why, it's plain as A, B, C. The town is a natural center of trade; it always has been since white men entered the country, it always will be; but I look to see it a manufacturing place also; you have here a water power superior to that of Great Falls, which we hear so much about. All your people have to do is to decide to act upon any one of the various manufacturing enterprises that are practicable and then go ahead. If I live to be five years older and do not see flouring and woolen mills in operation at Fort Benton I shall lose all faith in my own judgment."

"You then feel sure such manufactures will be built inside of five years?"

"Well, it's 'money makes the mare go,' as the old saying has it. If the project is started I am prepared to take stock in either a flour or woolen mill. Aside from the indirect benefits you would receive from the organization of such projects in the shape of increased population, etc., I think inside of two years the capital invested would be returned."

"Then you look to see this town grow very rapidly?"

"Certainly. Taking no account of manufacturing industries, you don't want to forget that Fort Benton is located at the head of navigation on the Missouri, which is a factor that enters into every calculation on freight tariffs in Montana. No, there is no necessity for discussing the matter. To my mind the future of this city is so manifestly plain that a school boy ought to be able to grasp the situation at a glance."

Here the gentleman was called away to the pump house and the reporter reluctantly withdrew.

Accident Near Williston--Seven Railroad Employees Severely Injured.

From private sources we learn that the east-bound Manitoba train which passed here last night about 9 o'clock was thrown from the track this afternoon by a broken rail and hard snow near Williston. Seven employees of the road engaged as snow shovelers were badly injured. They are receiving every attention possible and are as comfortable as could be expected under the circumstances. The locomotive and trucks and two box cars are off the track and three rails torn up. No one was killed. No further particulars can be secured this afternoon.

Still Cutting.

Yesterday a telegram was received by General Agent Stokes of the Northern Pacific, announcing that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul yesterday quoted freight rates from Chicago or Milwaukee to St. Paul as follows: First class, 20c.; second class, 20c.; third class, 14c.; fourth class, 13c.; fifth class, 12c.; sixth class, 8c. Later Mr. Stokes was advised that the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City, and the Chicago, Burlington & Northern roads had met the cut freight rates announced by the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul. Shippers are informed that these rates are governed by either the Western or official classifications, whichever makes the lowest rates. Particular attention is called to the fifth and sixth class rates (12 and 8 cents), which include such articles as apples, beans, beef and pork, canned goods and many other kinds of grocers' articles, many kinds of drugs and hardware, boots and shoes, brick, glass and hides.--Independent 12th.

The Work of Young Hoodlums.

One of the meanest acts that has been made public in this vicinity for some time occurred at John O'Marr's slaughter house a few days ago. The butchers had been slaughtering beeves and went to dinner, leaving the house open as was their usual custom in the day time. Returning they found that some one had entered the house and with knives had tried to see how much mischief they could do. Using the butcher knives they had mutilated a number of beef hides by cutting them into strips, and the beeves hanging on the gambles were hacked and cut in every conceivable shape, totally unfitting it for the market.--Husbandman.

The Billings and Benton Railroad.

Mr. John H. Conrad, a leading merchant and cattleman of eastern Montana and Wyoming, was in the city yesterday. He has large mercantile establishments at Billings and Miles City in Montana, and at Buffalo and Sheridan, in Wyoming, each of which does an extensive wholesale and retail trade. Mr. Conrad expresses unlimited confidence in the rapid growth of Billings from this time forth. He is well acquainted with the mineral resources tributary to that city, and believes the development of the great coal

banks on Rock creek will be of immense advantage to it. He says the construction of the Benton & Billings branch of the Northern Pacific will be commenced at an early date.--Daily Miner.

Jack Garland Finally Arrested.

Jack Garland, who has been in this vicinity about six months, was arrested on Wednesday by Deputy Sheriff Merrill, of Wickes, on the charge of attempted highway robbery at that place about a year ago. It seems that Jack's partner in the transaction stood trial at Wickes and was acquitted, but Jack twice escaped from Sheriff Merrill before the trial, the last time by knocking him down, and made his way to the Northwest territory, whence he came to Choteau. To make sure of his prisoner this time Merrill put him in irons and left on Thursday's coach for Helena. The Claude Duval business evidently doesn't pay in these parts.--Calumet.

WHAT SANDERS SAYS.

The Attorney of the Northern Pacific Does Not Object to the Helena Convention.

Colonel W. F. Sanders, of Helena, was in Butte yesterday, and being asked by a Miner reporter, his opinion of the agitation against patenting mineral lands to the Northern Pacific, said: "It is as well that this matter is being agitated, as it will lead to a determination of the mineral and agricultural lands in Montana. At the same time there was no danger of any patents being issued for the lands in question, as there was no action being taken to secure patents, and no definite prospect. In the meantime mineral locations made on railroad lands are just as good as any where else, and if the company undertook to defeat such locations, the burden of proof would be on the company. Title does not rest in a corporation as it does in an individual who patents a homestead or pre-emption, and it would be more difficult for a corporation to hold lands not intended in the grant. As to whether the company would obtain indisputable rights to minerals other than iron and coal, by patent, that is a question of law that I am not now prepared to give an opinion on."--Miner.

Plucky Juvenile Hunters.

One day last week a couple of J. M. Holiday's young sons, one twelve years old and the other younger, were out hunting bobcats, when in rambling through the willows their dog bayed something which proved to be a mountain lion. Not thinking it prudent to attack the king of beasts with a shotgun, the oldest boy took the gun and stood guard until his brother went home and got a rifle, determined to fire upon his game if it attempted to move away, but the dog was sufficiently interesting to detain the master of the mountains until the little fellow arrived with the rifle, one shot from which laid the lion cold. This was pretty good pluck for boys. The day following they killed a lynx, and that night some animal got hold of their dog and tore him up fearfully, and the boys think they have a show of finding another lion.--Missoulian.

Two Omaha Men Happy on \$12,500.

Yesterday the two happiest men in Omaha were at the restaurant of F. Poppendick, at the corner of Howard and Thirteenth streets. Poppendick, the genial host, and Robert Price, wholesale butcher of Tenth street, were the joint winners of a fourth share of the second capital prize of \$50,000 in the Louisiana State Lottery. 21,301 was the lucky number.--Omaha, (Neb.) Bee, Dec. 20.

A BRACE OF LIONS.

Two of the Royal Rocky Mountain Beasts Killed in Deer Lodge County.

Ed. McKinstry has been prospecting in the mountains about half way between Butte and Deer Lodge, and has a cabin built there, says the Inter Mountain. He lived alone, with the exception of the company of a setter. A few mornings ago, while he was getting breakfast, he left the cabin door standing open, and presently his dog made its appearance in the door in a condition of great excitement. The dog faced about, the hair on its back stood straight up, and it gave vent to low growls of mingled anger and fear, which brought Mr. McKinstry quickly to see what was the matter. On looking out of the door he was startled to see two immense mountain lions out in the timber close to the cabin. One, the female, was crouched as if about to make a spring towards the open door, while the male was a few feet further away behind a log, which partially concealed him.

Mr. McKinstry recognized the danger of the situation at once, and hurriedly seizing his Winchester, and with quick, direct aim, he sent a bullet through the lioness's brain. Throwing another cartridge into position, he fired next at the lion, only the upper portion of whose body was visible above the log. The beast drew down out of sight, and Mr. McKinstry could not tell whether he had killed it, or whether he was "laying for him." The dog made a dash around the log, however, and as it did not appear again, McKinstry carefully reconnoitered. He found the dog hanging on the lion's throat and tusseling with him. The lion had been shot through the shoulders, and both of them were broken, so he was trying to get at the dog with his hind claws, and in the meantime they were having a lively fight with the dog getting the best of it. McKinstry, with another well directed shot, put the lion out of his misery.

Both of the beasts were very large, and the male was especially so. They would make fine specimens if properly preserved.

MYSTERY SOLVED.

The Remains of James Williams Brought to Town and Identified--The Coroner's Inquest--His Career in Montana--The Burial.

On Sunday, January 22nd, as Messrs. Thos. Lacy and W. J. Packard were coming into Fort Benton from their homes on the Shonkin, they were astonished at finding a valise on the prairie near the junction of the Highwood and Shonkin roads. The RIVER PRESS of the following Monday in speaking of the matter said: "It (the valise) was discovered in the snow some distance from the traveled road, and resting right end up as if it had been set there by the owner. Attached to the handle of the valise was a short piece of cotton rope doubled and just about long enough to go over the shoulder. The gentlemen who found it are at a loss to account for the manner in which it came there, as it was too far from the road to have been dropped from a wagon or pack animal. They brought the valise to town and it was opened to see if the owners' name could be ascertained. A statement of account made out in the name of 'Henry Williams' by H. R. Masy, of Forsythe, Montana, bearing date May 6th, 1887, was the only paper found.

The mystery of the valise was soon after, to some extent, cleared, by the information that Williams had passed the ranch of Mike Lynch a few days before on foot, and en route to Fort Benton. The day was severely cold and stormy and Mr. Lynch invited Williams to stop and take dinner, which he declined, saying he was not hungry and was in something of a hurry to reach town. This was the last seen of the unhappy man alive.

SEARCHING PARTIES.

were at once organized and every possible effort made to rescue him if living or to discover his remains if dead, but all to no purpose. Investigation showed that he had been at the ranch of Wm. Stedman, to whom he had loaned a small sum of money, and who had paid him by an order on the well known sheep firm of Peck & Lacy, and that he had set out on the return trip the day following. The mystery of his disappearance remained unsolved until yesterday, when the body was discovered as reported in Thursday's issue.

Under instructions from Justice of the Peace Geo. W. Crane Messrs. J. L. Adams and P. Smith immediately went to the scene and brought in the body, which was taken to the undertaking rooms of the latter to await the action of a coroner's jury. This morning the jury was summoned. On viewing the remains, they were found though somewhat discolored, to be in a perfect state of preservation. About the eyes a handkerchief was found, which would lead to the supposition that previous to death the deceased had either been suffering from snow blindness or had become delirious. The pockets were examined and a purse containing one dollar and ten cents in silver found, together with a pipe, several plugs of tobacco, a knife and other articles of trifling value. Mr. Adams stated that the body lay exactly one hundred and six paces to the left of the Highwood road, with hat and box of matches beside it. The body was well dressed, and boots and a pair of arctic overshoes protected the feet. After fully investigating all facts relating to the case the following verdict was returned.

TERRITORY OF MONTANA, } ss. COUNTY OF CHOTEAU. }

An inquisition holden at Fort Benton, in the county of Choteau, on the 17th day of February, A. D. 1888, before me, Geo. W. Crane, a justice of the peace, acting coroner of said county, upon the body of Henry or James Williams, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed, the said jurors upon their oaths do say that the said Williams came to his death from exposure on the prairie between Highwood and Fort Benton on or about January 20th, 1888.

In testimony whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid. J. H. Caldwell, J. L. Adams, Clark Tingley, Fred. M. Wilson, Geo. D. Patterson.

A feature developed by the examination was that when the body was discovered by Messrs. David Morrow and Alfred Shanks a steel watch chain depended from the vest pocket, to which a watch was presumably attached, as the deceased was known to carry one; but when Adams and Smith reached the scene the chain had disappeared and no watch was found at the inquest.

The following note, written on a piece of manilla paper, was received yesterday: Messrs. T. C. Power & Bro:

I think I have found the man that got lost in the storm last winter on his road to the Shonkin. I am camped close by the wire fence. Send coroner out and I will direct him to the place. Send tonight. CHAS. MUGGA.

Mr. Clark Tingley identified the deceased as James Williams and said he had known him since 1863, at which time he arrived in Virginia City with the notorious Jack Slade, who afterward figured so conspicuously in the history of the Vigilante operations of those times and was finally hung by them for murder. Previous to this he had worked on the old Overland stage line as a stock tender, and his first enterprise in Montana was working a mining claim in Alder gulch in company with James and John Kelly, Jim Blevens and Mart Taylor. Afterward he drifted down to Cheyenne, where he remained some years, and since returning has worked on ranches in various portions of the territory. He was employed for some months last summer as sheep herder by Peck & Lacy, but was not working for any one at the time of his death. Deceased was about 50 years of age, and so far as known has no relatives in this country.

The body was interred in Riverside cemetery Friday afternoon.

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