

THE RIVER PRESS.

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THERE is nothing small about Bozeman. The Chronicle, of that place, says: "Bozeman will hang up both her stockings on Christmas, and expects to get the capital in one of them."

AN eastern exchange says: "A newspaper man in Montana is said to be the richest person in the territory, but he made his money speculating in mines." The person referred to is doubtless Brother Deland, of the New Idea.

EFFORTS are being made by the good people of Helena to save the Y. M. C. A., of that city, which seems to be in very straitened circumstances. It is hoped they will succeed. Helena, the boasted religious center of Montana, should not permit the association to die upon its hands.

GREAT FALLS seems to have a corner on fires, and enjoyed the luxury of another one last Monday morning. Two or three saloons went up in smoke and something less than fifty of the residents of the place went up to the calaboose for fighting in a row which grew out of the fire. Great Falls does everything after a heroic plan, even in fighting.

BUTTE has, for the twentieth time, been victimized by a fake slugging match, and now the same old howl, "We won't be fooled again," goes up all along the line of the duped. The resolution will be kept until another hippodrome affair presents itself, when the same suckers will break their necks running over each other to pay their dollar or two to see it. Vive la lumbing.

THE question of car-heating is being discussed among the several railroad managers of the country. The relative merits of coal stoves and steam heaters are being canvassed with the object of reducing to the minimum the danger to passengers in case of accidents. It seems the point to be determined is which is the more preferable—death by roasting in fire or by cooking in steam.

NEXT Monday the county officers elect at the last election will, except the treasurer, assume the duties of their respective offices. At the same time the new salary and fee law will go into effect. It depends altogether upon the amount of business done whether the office will be worth more or less under the new law than under the old. It may be taken for granted, however, that none of the county officers of the territory will resign on account of insufficiency of pay for their services.

THERE were six hundred convictions of Mormons under the law prohibiting polygamy during President Cleveland's administration. It is a good record. About all that has been done toward squelching Mormonism has been accomplished under democratic administrations. The first effective move made against them was made by Buchanan in 1856-7. President Cleveland has put on the finishing touches within the past three or four years. These are the reasons why every Jack Mormon in the territory hates the democratic party.

A REPUBLICAN territorial exchange opposes the proposition to elect the president and vice president by a direct vote of the people upon the ground that it would take too long to count the votes and that the business of the country would suffer under the suspense caused by the long waiting to learn the result. The arguments, if they may be called such, are too light-waisted to stand, especially in view of the fact the country survived a two months' strain while Hayes was being counted in. The suspense bug bear won't scare. It is too gauzy even to attract a moment's attention.

AN extra session of congress is talked of. One of the principal reasons given why it should be called is that something must be done to relieve the national treasury of the surplus which is constantly flowing into it. It strikes us that the surplus of democrats in office troubles our republican friends more than the surplus in the treasury. An extra session that would keep the senate in session for a couple of months after the 4th of March to confirm all of Mr. Harrison's appointments would relieve many a democratic federal official of his responsibilities to the intense delight of republican aspirants for their places.

THE Bozeman Chronicle says: "It is learned that an effort will be made to divide Meagher county again at the forthcoming legislature." The River Press believes it reflects the views of nine-tenths of the people of Montana in saying that the incoming legislature should ignore every county-division scheme which may come before it. Montana will become a state in the not distant future, and among one of the most important duties which will devolve upon its first legislature will be the re-adjustment of county boundary lines so as to conform to the needs and necessities of the people thereof. We do not believe the interests of the people will suffer if the consideration of all county division matters be deferred until that time.

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ABOUT STRIKES.

The recent strike of the engineers at Butte and the immense loss which threatened that place and Anaconda through it, adds another link to the long chain of evidence that arbitration is much the better method for all parties concerned to settle whatever misunderstandings which may arise between the employer and employe. The history of strikes shows they seldom accomplish the object sought. That is generally brought about by a compromise when their inevitable corollary—losses, destitution and suffering—have gotten in their work. The latter can never be measured by dollars and cents, but the losses by strikes have been pretty accurately summed up.

From the recent report of the secretary of the interior, it appears that during the past seven years there were 22,304 establishments involved in strikes, affecting 1,323,203 employes. The strikers were successful in 46.52 per cent. of the whole—less than half. They were partially successful in 13.47 per cent. of them, and made complete failures in 39.95 per cent. During this time the strikers lost \$50,972,440 in wages, and the employers \$34,163,814 in business. If anything more is needed to convince a thinking man of the cruelty as well as the utter folly of strikes he will find it in the tears of women and children when their husbands and fathers are thrown out of employment.

A loss of over \$94,000,000 to the labor and business of a people in a few short years affords matter for serious thinking, and when that loss can be avoided an incentive is added to efforts looking to the settling of difficulties by means other than strikes. They are too far reaching in their disastrous effects to be longer favorably regarded as a solution of them.

THE BIRMINGHAM AFFAIR.

Latest advices from the scene of the recent conflict between a mob and the officials of Birmingham, Alabama, says that Hawes has made a confession of his crime but the statement lacks confirmation. Business is now going on as usual, except all the saloons are closed by order of the commander of the troops stationed there. The jail is still guarded and artillery covers every approach to it. It is said that no attempt will again be made by a mob to break down the jail.

Sheriff Smith is in jail, under arrest for murder, and the chief of police is out under \$10,000 bonds. The worst feature of the whole affair is that all the members of the mob who were shot were shot in the back, showing they were going away from the jail in obedience to orders when the command was given to fire. Governor Seay, who has been on the ground, thinks Sheriff Smith did his duty in the matter. The whole matter, however, will be investigated. It was a terrible affair, but it must be admitted that the law is with the officers. They may have been too hasty, and so are mobs. A body of men necessarily take desperate chances when it attempts to overpower officers sworn to do their duty, and if bloodshed follow, the blame rests upon the aggressors.

INTERTERRITORIAL CONVENTION.

It is suggested that a convention of representatives from the several territories which have taken steps for admission as states be held, and Helena is named as the proper place at which to hold it. The object of the convention, as we understand it, is to formulate measures whereby, through concerted action upon the part of all the territories interested, speedy admission may be gained.

At this distance we cannot see how Montana can be benefited by an interterritorial convention. This territory has already adopted a state constitution. The lapse of three or four years suggests no change in its provisions and she now simply awaits the pleasure of congress to admit her or reject her under it. She is fully able to stand upon her own bottom and paddle her own canoe toward statehood. She can gain nothing by "entangling alliances" and should not enter into them. She has the population to entitle her to statehood and possesses abundant means to support a state government. She has no desire to bar or obstruct the way of other territories to admission. She is willing to help them in their ambition as far as it lays in her power, but her people do most solemnly protest against any attempt being made to adjust her conditions to suit those of her sister territories and thus jeopardize her own prospects for early statehood.

An interterritorial convention may propose, but it is congress that will dispose of the matter of admission at last. If that body is disposed to be just to Montana it will admit her in the Union at the earliest possible moment. But if her reasonable petition be weighed in a partisan balance and determined from a partisan standpoint she will not get into the Union this year or next if an interterritorial convention be held at Helena or any other place every month for the next decade.

Montana should let well enough alone. She is at present regarded with favor at Washington. Her delegate is doing all he can or all that any one else can do for her. His hands should not be tied by any convention of territories. The history of the present admission bills shows they have been urged by their respective backers upon the rule or principle of "every one for himself and the devil take the hindmost." If Delegate Toole be not handicapped in the race by interterritorial meddlers he will see that Montana keeps right along abreast of the procession and passes under the wire a good first.

UNIMPEACHABLE TESTIMONY.

A leading member of the Shonkin stock association and one of the principal cattlemen of Choteau county adds his testimony to the scores of others in northern Montana, interviewed by the River Press, as to the losses sustained by stockmen through the depredations of wolves. The gentleman, whose name is a sufficient guaranty of the truthfulness of what follows, does not hesitate to state it as his belief that individual stockmen or individual stock associations are utterly unable to cope successfully with the ravenous beasts that infest the ranges of northern Montana.

Some of his own experiences, which are in the line of those of many others, that have been related in these columns, are to the point and hence we notice them here. Not long since while riding the range, he saw four wolves circling a yearling heifer. Before he could reach them the animal had been hamstringed and was at the mercy of the hungry beasts. Having nothing with which to put the poor brute out of its misery he was compelled to leave it to the mercy of the wolves that were watching their prey from a safe distance to which they had retreated. A few days afterwards he had occasion to pass the spot where the heifer had been left. The head alone was all that remained of the unfortunate, every other part, including the bones, had been carried away.

Soon afterwards he noticed an unusual commotion among a bunch of horses upon the range. An investigation showed that the watchful animals were surrounding a nine-month-old steer that had just been fatally wounded by wolves, the young brute evidently having run to the horses for protection. Again nothing could be done to save the animal.

As an evidence of the amazing multiplying qualities of these range pests the gentleman related an instance where a sheep herder followed a wolf that had taken a lamb from his flock, almost under his nose. Discovering the wolf's lair he procured help and the party unhurried and killed the grown male and female wolves and with them nine half-grown whelps, for whose consumption the lamb had been captured and taken.

These are but individual instances, but they could be indefinitely multiplied from the experiences of other stockmen in northern Montana. But the most telling proofs of the stock-destroying capacities of wolves are yet to be shown. For several years our informant has carefully and systematically recorded all operations in connection with his business. Although he is one of the largest stock-growers in northern Montana, as his cattle shipments prove, he can at any time show the condition of his business for any month during the past ten years. He knows his calf crop to a head every year, and knows his shipments of beeves. His shipments are composed of three and four-year-olds, but at no year do they exceed 60 per cent. of the crop raised from the brand of any given year. In other words he loses 40 per cent. of his stock by the time it reaches the age of three or four years.

Some of them are lost through accidents or from castration, and some die from natural causes, but he attributes at least 30 per cent. of his losses to wolves and other stock-destroying animals. As this estimation is based upon careful observation and upon an accurate understanding of every detail of the business, including its risks from all causes, it may be regarded as approximately correct. Therefore it may be seen at a glance that from seven and a half to ten per cent. of his annual stock losses must be charged to the account of stock-destroying animals.

We have been thus particular in stating these facts because the experience of the gentlemen referred to, is the experience of about every other stockman in northern Montana, and hence they give a very intelligent view of the disadvantages under which our stockmen labor. The gentleman, whose name will be given if necessary, regards the wolf pest as a very serious one for stockmen, as their breeding grounds are so near and yet so difficult to penetrate. The deep coulees and broken surface of the bad lands bordering the Missouri are full of their lairs and it requires experienced wolfers to get at and capture them.

The Shonkin Stock association has an outfit of wolfers in its employ about all the time. It gives the wolfers carte blanche to kill all the cattle belonging to it necessary for poisoning purposes, but as other stock associations do not co-operate with it, but little headway can be made against the numbers of the devouring beasts. With their breeding grounds close at hand and the capacity of each pair to add annually fifteen or twenty to their number, the wolves have the best of it all along the line. Nothing short of a persistent and systematic warfare against them will rid the ranges of their presence.

DELEGATE DUBOIS has introduced a bill in the house for the admission of Idaho as a state. That territory wants to be right along in the procession with its sisters in their march toward statehood.

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APPROXIMATION PRIZES: 100 Prizes of \$1,000 are \$100,000 100 Prizes of 800 are 80,000 100 Prizes of 600 are 60,000 THREE NUMBER TERMINALS: 99 Prizes of \$800 are \$79,200 99 Prizes of 400 are 39,600 TWO NUMBER TERMINALS: 990 Prizes of \$20 are 19,800 990 Prizes of 100 are 99,000

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