

The River Press.

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FOR A GREATER MONTANA.

In acknowledging the receipt of a sample of the first Montana sugar produced at the new Billings factory, the Helena Independent says the product derived from beets raised by Montana farmers who are "new" at the business is better in quality, density and value than any that has as yet been produced under similar conditions.

If Montana will look to its agricultural opportunities it will become the banner beet sugar producer of the world. The land is here and it has been pronounced by all experts as singularly adaptable to the raising of the saccharine root.

The history of states with reference to their commercial development is singularly suggestive of the widespread neglect of agriculture. Ask the average man, for instance, what is the chiefest source of Colorado's wealth and he will say "mines."

The best informed mining statisticians of the world have shown by facts and figures that more money has been sunk in mining enterprises, risks, chances and "fakes," than has been taken out of the ground in real profits.

Our agricultural resources remain practically untouched. The wealth of our native coal fields has not been so much as prospected. We have coal to burn and to sell. We have oil that has not been exploited or advertised.

It is time for Montana to realize upon its agricultural possibilities. It is time that the world should be advised that in Montana can be found the best grain lands, the finest fodder fields and the richest ranch lands that were ever developed.

It is time for the whole state to wake up and project before the world its own inherent advantages. Kansas did it. Colorado did it. Oregon did it. Washington did it. Oklahoma is doing it.

What will Montana do in its own behalf?

WOULD LEASE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

A Washington newspaper correspondent "views with alarm" the public land policy of the federal authorities. Whether his alarm is justified or is without reason will develop in due course, but recent wholesale withdrawals of public land in Montana certainly go to sustain some of his allegations.

If congress adheres to the recommendation of Secretary Hitchcock the livestock interests of the west will be compelled to pay tribute to the government for the use of the public domain of the western states of upwards of fifty million dollars per annum. There are upwards of five hundred million acres of land in the western states known as public lands.

The following is an exact copy of a bill forwarded by Secretary Hitchcock to the senate and house March 27, 1906, with a strong recommendation that it be enacted into law:

Draft of bill to authorize the secretary of the interior to lease certain lands for grazing purposes:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the secretary of the interior, be, and is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to withdraw from public entry and to lease for grazing purposes, upon terms of payment to be fixed by him, any unoccupied government lands in any state or territory wherein he deems it for the public interest so to do, preference being given to owners of stock who are settlers or residents in the vicinity, and particularly to such as are owners of small bands of stock; provided, that no lease shall be made for a period exceeding five years; and provided, further, that the proceeds derived from the lease of said lands shall be covered into the reclamation fund established by the provisions of the act of June 17, 1902, known as the reclamation act, and be subject to use for the purposes therein.

"Sec. 2. The secretary of the interior shall provide for the classification of lands to be leased under the provisions of this act and shall be authorized to determine the areas suitable for leasing as separate tracts with reference to the water supply. At the expiration of any lease the secretary of the interior shall be authorized to reclassify the lands and exclude from such grazing areas the tracts which, in his opinion, should be subject to entry or settlement under the public land and mineral laws of the United States.

"Sec. 3. That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized to perform any and all acts and to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into full force and effect."

While the act itself gives the secretary discretionary power to withdraw any land he may see fit from entry and to lease it for grazing purposes, no one familiar with the forestry policy of the government doubts for an instant that he would withdraw the entire public domain.

He has included in forest reserves under the national forest reserve act more than 110,000,000 acres; he has withdrawn from entry for the purpose of ultimately including in the forest reserves more than 50,000,000 acres additional. And the withdrawals for inclusion in forest reserves are going on almost daily.

While the secretary of the interior is busy trying to deprive the western people of the use of the public domain, the president has recommended to congress the enactment of a law to withdraw all coal lands from entry under the mineral law of the United States.

According to recent advices from Washington, there is likely to be a clash between the tariff reformers and the "standpaters" at the coming session of congress. One of the rumors relating to this matter is given publicly by the Chicago Tribune to this effect:

Immediately after congress convenes next month Senator Cullom of Illinois, will introduce a joint resolution in the senate providing for the appointment of an expert tariff commission to consider and report on those schedules which should be revised.

Such a commission, according to the senator, should be absolutely non-partisan and should treat the subject solely in accordance with the needs of business and labor interests of the country.

In the judgment of Senator Cullom the time has come to eliminate the tariff from politics and to make it what it should be—a practical business proposition. He has no sympathy with the view of the "standpaters" that the tariff is like an endless chain and that the modification of one schedule necessitates the remodeling of the entire system.

What he wants is a law which will enable a change in a particular schedule, either increase or decrease, as the interests of working people require. Senator Cullom feels that if any action at all is had on the tariff it should be taken long before a presidential election and thus eliminate the subject from a political campaign. He suggests the advisability of President Roosevelt calling an extra session next spring. When the president returns from Panama Senator Cullom probably will talk to him along this line.

BUTTE, Nov. 15.—As the result of injuries sustained while trying to save her little daughters from the fire that was consuming her home, Mrs. Joseph Bellise of this city lies dead. She leaves three children and a husband, who lately returned from Idaho.

THE ART OF LOSING.

For every winner in a political contest there is a loser, each with a following to share the experience, says the Globe-Democrat. Nearly 400 men were elected to congress last Tuesday and are receiving congratulations, while their supporters jollify and enjoy the incense of victory.

This spirit of manly acceptance is characteristic of the people of the great republic, who have the intelligence to see that the ballot, unless the judgments rendered by it command respect and obedience, is a mockery. It is right here that the Latin republics meet with so many difficulties. Elections are held, but often the minority, finding the ballots against them, resort to revolution.

Elections are frequent in the United States and losers have not long to wait until they can submit a cause anew. If it is good, they need not fear, since nothing is settled until settled right. Many of the most momentous issues have had small and discouraging beginnings and yet at length forced their way to just conclusions.

What is a Man? "All the constituents of a 150-pound man are contained in 1,200 eggs," said the chemist.

"There is enough gas in a man," he went on, "to fill a gasometer of 3,649 cubic feet. There is enough iron to make 75 nails. There is enough fat to make 75 candles and a large cake of soap. There is enough phosphorus to make 8,004 boxes of matches."

Rainiest Places On Earth. Recent information indicates that Cherrapunji, in Assam, and Debnunja, in the Kamerum, hold the record for heavy rainfall.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—About 40 prominent railroad men representing the freight departments of their respective roads were present at the interstate commerce commission's offices and conferred with Commissioner Clark on the subject of posting rate schedules or tariffs.

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CHEYENNE, Wyoming, Nov. 14.—A sanguinary battle occurred on the streets of Cheyenne last night when a detachment of artillerymen from Fort Russell attacked a number of infantrymen, all on leave.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Charges of alleged attempts at bribery of the members of the petit jury who sat in the probate court here in September, during the prosecution of the Standard Oil company, are being pressed at an adjourned session of the grand jury which was convened today.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Some of the Cuban generals who have been assisting the Americans in the effort to disarm and send to their homes the insurrectionists in the late revolutionary movement, appear to have dignified and legalized the crime of horse stealing in the most ingenious manner.

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CONGRESS WILL BE BUSY.

Many Matters of Importance Await Action at Coming Session.

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President Roosevelt will, as is well known, bring to the attention of congress a number of ideas which he entertains regarding the needed legislation of a regulatory character. These ideas include additional measures along lines of taxation, and for further curbing the large combinations which restrict trade in interstate commerce.

Proposals for Care of County Poor, and for Medicines. Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the county clerk of Chouteau county, Montana, up to the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m., Monday, December 3, 1906, for the performance of the following services:

Horse Stealing Legalized in Cuba.

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Comparing Freight Rates.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 13.—In the hearing of the Burlington maximum freight rate case today the state of Missouri introduced the testimony of two veteran railroad builders to controvert the assertion of the Burlington that its tracks in Missouri cost at least \$47,000 a mile.

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Proposals for Medical Attendance on County Patients.

Bids will be received until 2 o'clock p. m. on December 3d, 1906, for the performance of the following services, to-wit:

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STOCKMEN'S NATIONAL BANK OF FORT BENTON, MONTANA. Capital Paid Up \$200,000. Undivided Profits \$185,000. CHAS. E. DUER, Pres. J. V. CARROLL, Vice-Prest. LOUIS D. SHARP, Cashier.

CONRAD BANKING COMPANY, GREAT FALLS MONT (Incorporated). PAID UP CAPITAL \$100,000. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY \$2,000,000. W. G. CONRAD, Pres. JAMES T. STANFORD, Vice-Pres. and Manager. A. E. SCHWINGEL, Cashier. OMAR J. MALCOLM, Asst. Cashier.

WHENEVER YOU WANT Up-to-date Stationery, School and Office Supplies, The Freshest of Fruit and Candies, Tobacco and Cigars, The Latest Magazines or Novels, COME TO THE Post Office Store. Benton :: Stables.

WALTER M. SEXTON, Prop'r. Livery, Sale and Feed Stables. Light and Heavy Turnouts by the day, week, or month. FINE TEAMS A SPECIALTY. Horses, Wagons, Buggies and Harness on hand at all times, and for sale at reasonable prices.

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THE ENTERPRISE RESTAURANT. LEE GEE & BRO., Proprietors. Front Street - Fort Benton

F. A. FLANAGAN, Fort Benton. The New Overland HOTEL, J. F. KEHOE, Proprietor. First-class service. Central location. Hot and cold baths. Furnace heat. Electric lights. Lunch at any hour, day or night.

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