

The River Press.

Published every Wednesday Morning by the River Press Publishing Company.

THOSE INTEREST SUITS.

The recent action of Attorney General Galen in requesting the court to dismiss one of the suits he commenced last fall, to recover interest on public funds, impresses the Yellowstone Journal and other observers as somewhat peculiar. It is generally understood that the statute of limitations does not apply to a crime that has been concealed, but that is one of the reasons advanced by the attorney general in this particular case. Other features of the proceedings are the subject of this comment by the Miles City newspaper:

Do you remember the dissolving views that were quite a fad before the moving pictures came in? They were stereopticon pictures, thrown on a screen and while you looked at them they would "dissolve" and in a little while there was nothing left and your attention was taken up with something new. Reading the news from Helena last week one is prompted to wonder, if not to ask, is this "dissolving" process to be the end of the suits that were so zealously instituted against the state treasurers of the past decade, for the recovery—or at least an accounting—of the "slush fund" that has rolled into the state treasury for so many years, in the way of interest on the state funds, and which has no representation on the official records of the treasurer, for in the Helena papers we read that the attorney general has recently filed some sort of a paper—the proper one of course—in the district court of Lewis and Clark county, requesting the dismissal of the suit of the state against Timothy E. Collins, a former state treasurer.

The reasons assigned by the attorney general for this procedure are interesting. After reciting that suits were brought against the present state treasurer and his predecessors, Barrett and Collins, to recover sums of money alleged to have been wrongfully retained by these officials, the same being the interest rate-off, amounting in the case of Mr. Collins to some \$45,000, in which the bondsmen were also included, the attorney general is quoted as explaining "that he is not possessed of sufficient evidence to prove a case and obtain a judgment for a definite amount against the defendants (Collins and his bondsmen) upon the complaints filed, that if possible to secure judgment at all it would be a matter of great expense" and further that the action against Collins is barred by the statute of limitations.

We submit that this does look right. It may be that the attorney general is misquoted but if not, why was the action brought if it was barred by the statute of limitations and if so barred, why these other excuses for dropping it. And in the name of the sovereign state of Montana, what has "expense" to do with the question of plugging a graft and laying the graft by the heels. Another high-priced deputy has just been added to the attorney general's office by courtesy of the legislature, so it would seem there ought to be no dearth of attorneys to prosecute, and, owning the courts and the machinery of the law, if Montana cannot protect herself from open robbery because of the "expense," the outlook is poor indeed.

Another grievous wrong that is being inflicted because of the pendency of this suit and another reason why it should be dismissed—so runs the news item from Helena—is that the bondsmen of Mr. Collins are so much embarrassed because of their liability on his bond, "that in all fairness and justice to the parties, and in the interest of the public service, it appears that the suit should be dismissed without prejudice to the institution of another similar case should it seem necessary hereafter."

The layman will naturally ask why the bondsmen should be concerned because of an "outlawed" liability, and why should their embarrassment be a reason for the state to let go of its security, if not outlawed? The promise to institute another suit "should it be deemed necessary" is to say the least a queer suggestion. If it should appear to be necessary so to do, what would such a suit amount to with the security released? What are bondsmen for if not to hold to account when it becomes necessary? Imagine a plain citizen dismissing a suit in which he had security for his claim and then "instituting" another one!

To this paper it did not look as if this case against ex-Treasurer Collins amounted to anything when it was filed, but men learned in the law have argued that there was a continuing liability on the part of the bondsmen and that it was in that respect that the attorney general was going to count. Now he wants to drop it because (1) he cannot obtain a judgment for a definite amount; (2) because it will be "expensive"; (3) because the bondsmen are "embarrassed" and finally, that the darned old case is outlawed, anyhow.

In this a "dissolving view" and are there to be others?

A MONTANA CENSORSHIP.

There was not much freak legislation enacted by the tenth Montana assembly; the guiding spirits of that body were conservative and careful. But there were a few measures that passed the house and senate and afterward became laws, that are at least peculiar, if they are not freaks, says the Missoulian. One of these prohibits the publication by newspapers of certain advertising matter and also forbids the printing of news relating to certain crimes mentioned in the law; the act goes further than this and says that Montana newspapers shall publish no account of the doings of immoral men and women, or any interview with this class of people.

There is, perhaps, good and reasonable ground for the suppression of some of the advertising that is displayed in many of the newspapers, not only in Montana, but in other states. Concerning the suppression of news which deals with the doings of immoral men and women, there is certain to be a wide difference of opinion. None of the yellowest journalism sanctions the bold display of this class of news; it is news that should be printed in conservative form if it is to be printed at all—and the newspaper men of the state and the peace officers will say that this class of news should be printed, not for its sensationalism but for the protection of the community and for the fear that "immoral men and women" have of publicity.

It is a fact that is admitted by those whose duties have made them familiar with the conditions of the underworld that these people have greater dread of publicity than they have of the police. The newspaper is a greater deterrent to vice than are the officers of the law. The fear of getting into print has kept many a man out of jail, when his moral sense was nil and only the dread of publicity has prevented him from committing crime. The veteran officer of the law will testify that, in nine cases out of ten, the first request of an arrested person is that his offense be kept out of the newspapers. The veteran reporter can tell you of the scores of instances in which men have threatened, begged and wept with him in the endeavor to secure the suppression of the story of a crime. Publicity is the foe of vice.

The bill which was enacted into this law was introduced in the lower branch of the legislature by Miller, of Park county; its title states that the introduction was "by request." Whoever made the request and framed the bill had slight knowledge of criminal matters. Mr. Miller has had experience as county attorney; he should know that the law is opposed to public interests. It is doubtful, indeed, if this particular provision can be enforced. There is a constitutional guarantee of the freedom of the press.

EMBARRASSED BY PROSPERITY.

Officers of the government reclamation service complain that the development boom in the west is causing them serious trouble. In a circular letter to the press it is set forth that the government finds itself seriously handicapped by its inability to secure reasonable bids for constructing its big irrigation works. The large contractors are all loaded up with railroad work which will occupy their attention for many months to come, while smaller contractors have all they can possibly do to take care of the local demands of cities and towns.

Many of the contracts of the government have been advertised several times without securing reasonable bids. The government is confronted with the proposition of doing the work by force account or of postponing it until there is an improvement in conditions. The present time is most unpropitious for the government to undertake doing the work itself. There is an unusual scarcity of labor. Wages are from 40 to 60 per cent. higher than two years ago, while efficiency has been decreased rather than improved by the unlimited demand for laborers. Owing to the remoteness of much of the government work from cities and towns, labor is not attracted thereto, and as a rule the government gets only the leavings or the most undesirable class of laborers. The steady and skillful workers are all busy.

The cost of all kinds of material has increased enormously. Take cement, for instance, which enters so largely in the construction of dams and headworks, and for which the government is asking for hundreds of thousands of barrels, it has been compelled to accept bids at prices nearly double those paid two years ago. Even at the present high price only a few manufacturers are competing, and today the cement required for Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas is shipped from Chicago.

Lumber has nearly doubled in price, and horses and mules now cost fully twice what they did three years ago. As an illustration of the material increase in the cost of construction the following examples are cited: In 1904 and 1905 the average cost of earthwork excavation was about 13

cents per cubic yard. Today the prevailing rates for similar work are from 20 to 30 cents. A large contract for grading was let at 13 cents per yard, and the contractor executed the contract and furnished the required bond. When he came to secure the necessary machinery, animals and labor, he found the work cost so much more than his bid that he threw up his bid and forfeited his bond. On readvertisement the bid was again let at 24 cents per yard, and the contractor is said to be losing money at this price. Reinforced concrete in 1905 averaged \$8.50 per cubic yard, while the responsible bids this year are from \$16 to \$21.

The increased cost of construction has compelled a revision of the original estimates on all of the large projects, and if there is not a material improvement in conditions it may be necessary to postpone further construction work on some of these projects for an indefinite period. Any further increase may render some of these projects so expensive that difficulty will arise in getting settlers to take the lands.

Curious Problems of the Farm.

Farmers find many curious things happening around them every day which they cannot understand, and nobody, even the scientists, can explain for them. Why, for instance, does a horse strain a drink of water through its lips? Why does a cow poke her entire face into the bran mash, eat all she can, then lick her nostrils with her tongue? Why does the chicken drink exactly opposite to the horse and cow, having to hold its head up when it swallows a drink of water? Then note the pigeon, of the same feathered family, as it keeps its bill immersed while drinking. But a dog laps the water in its mouth. This animal, moreover, never chews its food, while the cat, his companion household pet, always chews thoroughly before swallowing. How is it that falling to masticate does not hurt a dog, while in case of all other animals, including man, unchewed food causes dyspepsia. Why has a cow a cud and why can a horse shiver its hide to drive away flies? These questions and many more like them that might be asked will show us that we are far from knowing it all.

Magic Number Seven.

There are a surprising number of curious beliefs and superstitions concerning the number 7 that have been noted in all parts of the world.

It is claimed, in fact, that a narration of them would fill a volume; but here are a very few of the most notable:

From the very earliest ages the seven great planets were known and ruled this world and the dwellers in it, and their number entered into every conceivable matter that concerned man.

There are seven days in the week. "Seven holes in the head, for the master stars are seven."

Seven ages both for man and the world in which he lives.

There are seven material heavens, and in the underworld described by Dante the great pagan dead who were not good enough for hell reposed in a seven-walled and seven-gated city.

There are seven colors in the spectrum, and seven notes in the diatonic octave, and the "leading" note of the scale is the seventh.

Be it noted that the seventh son is not always gifted with beneficent powers. In Portugal he is believed to be subject to the powers of darkness and to be compelled every Saturday evening to assume the likeness of an ass. This is in direct opposition to the belief in this country that the seventh son is the "lucky" child of the family.

Searching the Scriptures.

Governor Hoch, of Kansas, never took any stock in the rainmakers, who in years past picked up a good deal of money from farmers in the Sunflower state. At one time the residents of Marion were subscribing to pay for some rainmaking experiments. Mr. Hoch declined to chip in, and an elderly deacon quoted feelingly: "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." Hoch replied: "I recognize the quotation, but let me remind you of another. 'A fool and his money are soon parted.' Don't forget that." "Where do you find that in the Scriptures?" asked the deacon. "Why, in Bartholomew III, 5," answered Hoch, moving away. The deacon and his friends hunted up a Bible and not for some time did they discover that there was no such book in the Scriptures.

Heavy Fines For Newspaper.

NEW YORK, Apr. 11.—Judge Hough, in the criminal branch of the United States circuit court, today imposed fines aggregating \$25,000 against the New York Herald Publishing company; James Gordon Bennett, its proprietor, and Elisha Hale, its advertising manager. The fines were imposed as a result of pleas of guilty to indictments charging the use of the United States mails for improper purposes.

COST HAS INCREASED.

Reclamation Work Delayed By Scarcity of Labor and Material.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—The development boom in the far west is giving the reclamation service a good deal of concern at the present time. With every part of the inter-mountain country enjoying a remarkable building boom, the government finds itself seriously handicapped by its inability to secure reasonable bids for constructing its big irrigation works. The large contractors are all loaded up with railroad work which will occupy their attention for many months to come, while smaller contractors have all they possibly can do to take care of the local demands of cities and towns.

Many of the contracts of the government have been advertised several times without securing reasonable bids. The government is confronted with the proposition of doing the work by force account or of postponing it until there is an improvement in conditions. The present time is most unpropitious for the government to undertake doing the work itself. There is an unusual scarcity of labor. Wages are from 40 to 60 per cent. higher than two years ago, while efficiency has been decreased rather than improved by the unlimited demand for laborers. Owing to the remoteness of much of the government work from cities and towns, labor is not attracted thereto, and as a rule the government gets only the leavings or the most undesirable class of laborers. The steady and skillful workers are all busy.

The cost of all kinds of material has increased enormously. Take cement for instance, which enters so largely in the construction of dams and headworks, and for which the government is asking for hundreds of thousands of barrels, it has been compelled to accept bids at prices nearly double those paid two years ago. Even at the present high price only a few manufacturers are competing, and today the cement required for Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas is shipped from Chicago.

Lumber has nearly doubled in price, and horses and mules now cost fully twice what they did three years ago.

As an illustration of the material increase in the cost of construction the following examples are cited: In 1904 and 1905 the average cost of earthwork excavation was about 13 cents per cubic yard. Today the prevailing rates for similar work are from 24 to 30 cents. A large contract for grading was let at 13 cents per yard and the contractor executed the contract and furnished the required bond. When he came to secure the necessary machinery, animals and labor, he found the work would cost so much more than his bid that he threw up his bid and forfeited his bond. On readvertisement the contract was again let at 24 cents per yard and the contractor is said to be losing money at this price. Reinforced concrete in 1905 averaged \$8.50 per cubic yard, while the responsible bids this year are from \$16 to \$21.

Receive Higher Pensions.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—While there have been about 300,000 applications for pensions under the new law granting a pension to every veteran on reaching the age of 62, it is estimated that not five per cent. of the applicants are men who had never before applied for assistance from the government. It shows that there is a big "silent army" composed of veterans who will never ask or accept a pension for serving their country.

The pension officials believe that under the new law about all the applications have been made that can be expected. One effect of the law will probably be to cause a reduction of about 500 in the number of clerks in the pension office. The work of handling applications has been reduced to a minimum, and it is not necessary for applicants to have any intervener, all that is necessary being for them to enter an application and submit proof of service.

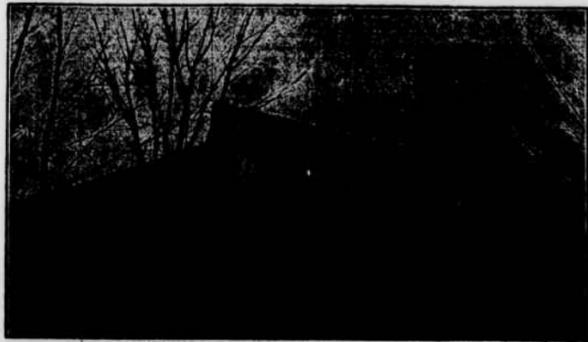
Bankrupted By Babies.

BOSTON, April 9.—Swamped by births it was organized to promote, the American Birth Insurance society has gone into the hands of receivers, and the supreme court has been asked to decide the disposition of \$7,000 on hand.

The society started operations about two years ago and was intended to pay \$150 to \$200 upon the birth of a baby in the family of each policy holder, the idea being that many families avoided children because of the expense attendant upon their coming. Though it secured much new business the society was unable to keep up with the births it had to pay for and decided to quit business while still solvent.

Cannot Hold Senatorial Primary.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 9.—Attorney General Ellis in an opinion given out last night declares that "there is no way under existing law that a direct primary for the selection of a



THE NEW CHATEAU HOUSE,

MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE.

JERE SULLIVAN, Proprietor.

FORT BENTON, MONT.

candidate for president or United States senator can be held at public expense."

The opinion was in response to the many queries concerning the legality of the proposed primary suggested by Senator Forsaker, and accepted by the friends of Secretary of War Taft, who have begun a canvass to secure the Ohio delegation to next national republican convention.

To North Pole By Auto.

NEW YORK, April 9.—According to The World, Admiral B. S. Osborne, secretary of the Arctic club, is authority for the statement that six automobiles are being built here for "individual dashes" to the North pole. Two of the machines are being built for Dr. Frederick Cooke of Brooklyn and a third is for Anthony Fiala, the leader of the Ziegler expedition. Admiral Osborne said he was not at liberty to tell for whom the other three automobiles were planned, but he said they were intended for three distinct expeditions.

Admiral Osborne said that the automobiles were either copied after or an improvement on an automobile built by a letter carrier at Atlanta.

"He has a route covering hundreds of miles," Admiral Osborne is quoted as saying, "and he navigates immense bodies of water with his machine, for it is a water traveler as well as a land trotter. The revolving gear which turns the rear wheels while the machine is on solid ice or land is fitted with blades which drop down and propel the 'craft' when open water is encountered."

Notice of Final Proof.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, GREAT FALLS, MONT., April 10, 1907. Notice is hereby given that COLE A. McADAMS, of Fort Benton, Montana, has filed notice of her intention to make final five-year proof in support of her claim, viz: Homestead entry No. 11,119, made May 7, 1900, for the SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4 and E 1/2 SW 1/4 section 5, township 34 north, range 8 east, and that said proof will be made before Jeremiah Sullivan, U. S. commissioner, at his office in Fort Benton, Montana, on Monday, May 20, 1907. She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: John Neubert, Frederick Early, Frank McCreine, Harry T. Jones, all of Fort Benton, Montana. J. M. BURLINGAME, Register.

FIRE INSURANCE.

All Leading Companies Represented.

F. A. FLANAGAN, Fort Benton.

LIVERY AND FEED

STABLES

ALEX BARKLEY & CO.

Proprietors.

Hay and Grain Bought and Sold

Hacks Meet All Trains

FRONT STREET, FORT BENTON

60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS &c. Anyone sending a sketch and description will quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. HARRISON on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the Scientific American. A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year, four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers. MUNN & Co., 361 Broadway, New York. Branch Office, 625 F. St., Washington, D. C.

Conrad Banking

COMPANY,

GREAT FALLS MONT

(Unincorporated.)

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.

This bank solicits accounts, and offers to depositors absolute security, prompt and careful attention, and the most liberal treatment consistent with safe and profitable banking. Buys and sells foreign exchange, drawing direct on all principal American and European cities, and issues its own Letters of Credit. Interest paid on time deposits. The highest cash price paid for approved state, county, city and school bonds and warrants.

(4104)

STOCKMEN'S

NATIONAL BANK.

OF FORT BENTON, MONTANA.

Capital Paid Up - - - \$200,000  
Surplus - - - - - \$200,000

CHAS. E. DUER, Pres.  
J. V. CARROLL, Vice-Pres.  
LOUIS D. SHARP, Cashier.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Chas. E. Duer, Chas. Lepley, Jos. Hirschberg, A. S. Lohman, C. H. Merrill, Jno. V. Carroll, M. E. Milner, David G. Brown, John Harris

TRANSACTS A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS.

Local Securities a Specialty.

Interest Allowed on Time Deposits

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.

LEGAL BLANKS.

Perforated	
Water Rights, for recording.....	.50
Water Rights, for posting.....	.25
Chattel Mortgages.....	.75
Real Estate Mortgages.....	.75
Satisfaction of Mortgage.....	.25
Warranty Deeds.....	.50
Quit Claim Deeds.....	.50
Bills of Sale.....	.50
Promissory Notes, per book of 100.....	.75
Receipt Books, with stub.....	.50

RIVER PRESS Fort Benton