

The River Press.

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BIG DEMAND FOR LAND.

The extent to which the public domain in northern Montana is passing into private ownership, is indicated in the report of the United States land office at Great Falls, which has just been completed. The report covers a period of twelve months, ending June 30, 1909.

In that portion of Chouteau county included in the Great Falls land district the appropriations during the past year amounted to 112,465 acres, a remarkably good showing in view of the fact that most of the desirable land was appropriated by settlers in previous years. In Teton county, the public domain was decreased to the extent of over 408,000 acres, more than one-half of that area having been selected by the state under the Carey irrigation act.

The total appropriations in the Great Falls land district during the year amounted to over half a million acres. Of this vast acreage over 200,000 acres were taken as homesteads, over 100,000 acres were taken up as desert entries while state selections of land to be irrigated under the Carey land act amounted to nearly a quarter million acres. At the same time the cash receipts of the office were heavier than ever before and reached the figure of \$132,000.

The total area of land embraced in the Great Falls land district is 10,097,232 acres, divided by counties as follows: Cascade, 1,732,000; Chouteau, 5,756,632 acres; Teton, 2,513,280; Lewis and Clark, 70,320; Fergus, 25,900.

On June 30, 1909, the unappropriated public lands in the district were as follows: Cascade, 429,626 acres; Chouteau, 4,257,429 acres; Teton, 1,236,233 acres; Lewis and Clark, 29,310 acres, and Fergus, 20,029 acres, a total of 6,042,627 acres of public land unappropriated and open to entry. There are 619,240 acres of land reserved, these lands being almost entirely included in forest reserves, Fort Assiniboine military reservation, and several large reservations for reservoir sites for government irrigation projects.

About two-thirds of the area of the Great Falls land district remains open to entry, the total appropriations to date aggregating 3,435,305 acres.

MONTANA FREIGHT RATES.

That bugaboo, known as high costs, which the railroads have dragged out of their closets, and paraded before the people for more than two decades, has been relegated to the rear.

The hearing before the state railroad commission Thursday, demonstrated that the railroads of Montana are constructed for less money, are operated for less and return higher profit than the average for the entire country.

When the rail lines were completed into the treasure state, the answer to the excessive freight rates was high cost. High cost, like a relative of the past, was something the people seemed to shy from. It has been used as a club in the hands of the great railway corporations for years, to silence opposition to the oppressive rates that have been fastened upon the shippers.

Railroad men told and repeated the story, and finally it was accepted as a fact, unchallenged for years.

But light has been shed upon the situation. The closet door has been opened, only to ascertain that the apartment has been minus a high cost skeleton all these years.

Really, it requires less to operate a railroad in Montana than in the prairie states.

It is surprising, but it is, nevertheless, a fact, and the figures that prove this statement were furnished by railroad men themselves, and incorporated into a formidable book of statistics, that all who run may read.

While the railroad men insist that high cost continues, they were unable to produce a single figure bearing on operation in this state, or in any other state. They did not know, and could not venture an opinion, for that matter, on the question.

For two years the railroad commission has sought to have the roads furnish the figures, showing what to be the case, in order that the companies might be protected against unreasonable demands on the part of unreasonable shippers. The mere fact that the lines have failed to furnish the data must be interpreted as proof that the figures presented, and which the railroad men have not refuted, are a fact.

It costs less to operate railroads in Montana than in prairie states. That being the case, there is no earthly reason why Montana shippers should be compelled to pay a rate in excess of the rate charged in Iowa, Illinois or Nebraska.

If there is, it is up to the railroads to produce the evidence.

The people of Montana have no desire to treat the railroads unjustly, but when the statement is made that

It costs more to operate here than elsewhere, we want to be shown.

Instead, we witness the railroads fighting every step to bring about a fair rate and to maintain the present prices, in which, if they are successful, they will strangle the industries which the people of the state are endeavoring to foster.—Billings Gazette.

FAVORS INHERITANCE TAX.

The proposition to tax the estates of wealthy men that are inherited by relatives or other beneficiaries, was the subject of extended discussion in the United States senate during the consideration of the tariff bill, but until the Payne-Aldrich measure becomes a law it will not be definitely known what disposition was made of the proposed new source of revenue. An interesting contribution to the debate was made by Senator Dixon, of Montana, who favors the imposition of an inheritance tax, and who outlined the situation as follows:

While all taxes are naturally repugnant to those who are compelled to pay them, it is my belief that the general desire and intent on the part of the tax payer to avoid the payment of taxes largely arises from the almost universal belief that they are not levied with an even-handed and exact justice.

Any tax levied upon the property or the income of a person who has earned and saved that income or property is a direct burden placed upon that person's individual effort and thrift, and to that extent takes from him the net results of his effort.

The proposed tax upon inheritance levies no burden upon the man from whom it is taken. In no case does it work any hardship for it merely takes slight toll from him who receives wealth which he in no way helped create.

The man who inherits wealth does so by the accident of birth. The very fact that he inherits unearned wealth gives the beneficiary a large advantage over his fellow man in the struggle for existence.

The fact that the state itself by law, and not by natural right, creates and maintains at a large cost the right of inheritance, gives the state the right to take large toll for the privilege of inheriting wealth that the beneficiary never created.

During the past few years the inheritance tax idea has appealed most strongly to thinking men. Practically every civilized nation except our own has adopted it as a permanent part of its national revenue.

The inheritance tax has been imposed by the United States government temporarily on three separate occasions. First, by the act of July 6, 1797; second, by the act of July 1, 1862; and more recently by the act of 1898, that was repealed four years later.

President Roosevelt in his message to congress on the 4th day of December, 1906, said, in reference to inheritance and income taxes:

There is every reason why, when our next system of taxation is revised, the national government should impose a graduated inheritance tax, and, if possible, a graduated income tax. The man of great wealth owes a peculiar obligation to the state, because he derives special advantages from the mere existence of government.

Enormous Wooden Pipe Lines.

The water pipes of centuries ago were made of wood and during recent years modern methods have caused a revival of the industry. In earlier years wood pipes were made from logs by the slow and rather uncertain process of boring. Such pipes were only used for low pressure service. Today, wooden pipes are made of selected staves, manufactured with mathematical accuracy, each stave being a perfect segment of the whole circle.

Douglas or Oregon fir, obtained in Oregon and Washington, is the wood best adapted for the manufacture of such pipe, this timber, when saturated with water and protected from outside influences, being practically everlasting. Popular mechanics describes the methods used in handling the staves into pipe, and says:

"Nearly 11,000 feet of this type of stave pipe, 8 1/2 feet in diameter, has also been placed in operation to furnish water for the turbines of the electric plant that furnishes the power to draw the trains of the Great Northern railroad through its tunnel in the Cascades. The plant develops 16,000 horsepower. The maximum head carried by the pipe is 168 feet.

"The wooden pipe for this line was delivered on special railroad trucks, and consisted of 65 cars of staves of 1,500,000 feet board measure. The steel bands, weighing nearly 2,000,000 pounds were carried by 37 cars. The malleable cast iron shoes required for anchoring this enormous continuous pipe line required five large cars."

Terms of District Court, 1909.

CHOUTEAU COUNTY.
Tuesday, August 24.
Tuesday, November 23.
VALLEY COUNTY.
Tuesday, September 21.
Tuesday, November 16.

A SPIRIT TELEGRAPH

How W. T. Stead Expects to Send Messages to Other World.

CHICAGO GHOST IN CHARGE.

Whole Scheme, According to London Editor, is Idea of Mrs. Julia A. Ames, Once Editor of Union Signal, A. W. C. T. U. Organ—Consolation For Mourners and Joy to the Mourned.

William T. Stead, the noted English editor, acting under the direction of the spirit of a well known Chicago woman who died seventeen years ago, has established a spirit telegraph office in London where mortals can communicate with the shades of departed loved ones.

Mr. Stead has relinquished all business affairs to give himself entirely to the work. He declares that he is merely the servant, acting under the complete direction of the Chicago woman's shade.

The spirit is that of Miss Julia A. Ames, formerly editor of the Union Signal, the official organ of the W. C. T. U. in Chicago. According to Mr. Stead's statement, he has been discussing means for the spirit telegraph bureau with her ghost for fourteen years.

Mr. Stead in explaining the whole scheme declares that the bureau would be at the disposal of any one who wanted to talk with dead friends or relatives in the other world.

"The world into which we pass at death is neither up nor down, as the ancient theory had it," declares Mr. Stead. "It is very near to us. In fact, it is right here. We have a veil over our eyes, so that we cannot see it now. At death that veil is lifted, and we come into the other world as a blind man would come into the light were the shadow lifted from his eyes.

"People who die go on living with the same personality that they had in this world. We are merely unable to perceive them, though they move in our midst. The bureau will establish communication between the two worlds.

"I became well acquainted with Miss Ames some time before her death. Like many another pious soul, she had made a pact with her dearest friend that she would, if possible, return from the other side and manifest herself. She did so.

"Twice she came, and at the second instance I happened to be staying at the castle where her apparition had been seen. As my hand was beginning to write automatically then, I placed it at the disposal of Miss Ames, and she has used it as her own ever since."

Mr. Stead quotes a "letter" from Miss Ames in part as follows:

I wanted to ask you if you can help me at all in a matter in which I am much interested. I have long wanted to establish a place where those who have passed over could communicate with the loved ones behind. At present the world is full of spirits longing to speak to those from whom they have been parted. It is a strange spectacle—on your side souls full of anguish for bereavement, on this side souls full of sadness because they cannot communicate with those whom they love. What can be done to bring these sorrow laden souls together?

What is wanted is a bureau of communication between the two sides. Could you not establish some such sort of office with one or more trustworthy mediums? If only it were to enable the sorrowing earth to know, if only for one day, that their so called dead live nearer than ever before. It would help to dry many a tear and soothe many a sorrow. I think you could count upon the eager co-operation of all on this side.

"I was too hampered by worldly affairs to do anything for a long time," says Mr. Stead, "but now I have given myself to the work. The proposition of the bureau is a serious one. The proposal to construct a bridge across the abyss will stagger most people by its audacity. I think with patience it can be done.

"The spirit of Julia has undertaken to direct operations. When any one who has lost a beloved one desires to communicate with him or her the sanction of the spirit director must first be obtained. Then the applicant, after complying with regulations, will be turned over to experienced mediums, who will transmit messages between the spirit and the mortal. If 10 per cent of the cases prove successful the bureau will be worth while."

MUST ELOPE CLUB.

Members Forced to Run Away and Wed or Pay Heavy Fine.

Elope or remain forever single. That is one of the rules in a club of ten young men of Jersey City, N. J. It is called the Must Elope club, and during the five years of its existence five of its members have eloped.

There is a reason for this obedience to the rule. If a member should be married in the ordinary way he would have to pay \$50 into the club treasury—that is, he would have to do it or move out of Jersey City.

Baby as Hand Baggage.

A tiny baby slept peacefully in a small "telescope" at the Union depot in Kansas City the other afternoon. It was a new method of caring for a child on a long journey. The mother, Mrs. Martha Johnson of Kokomo, Ind., explained that she was going to Los Angeles and found this method saved trouble in caring for the baby. "I have been around the depot eighteen years," George Henry, passenger director, said, "and I have seen babies carried about in all sorts of conveyances, but this is the first time I ever saw a child 'toted' about in a suit case."

Radium in Irish Waters.

Recent experiments show that the sea water of the coast of Ireland is exceedingly rich in radium.

TAX LARGE INCOMES.

Proposed Law Meets With Favor Among Statesmen.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—At a conference at the white house today it was decided that the rate to be levied under the new corporation tax shall be reduced from 2 per cent to 1 per cent and that in redrafting the measure now in conference along with the tariff bill to meet the various objections that have been raised, consideration shall be given the demands of the mutual life insurance companies.

President Taft was the central figure in a number of conferences today. He told several of his callers today that he is finding the conferees conciliatory and that he is hopeful that a satisfactory measure will be presented to him for his signature. The conference report should be available, according to the president's information, by the end of next week.

By the decisive vote of 317 to 14, more than the necessary two-thirds, the house today passed the senate joint resolution which provides for the submission of the income tax question to the states. The negative votes were all cast by republicans. The resolution now goes to the president for his signature.

The debate lasted about four hours.

Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee voiced the sentiment that such a tax would make "a nation of liars." The burden of the democratic speeches was that it was simply a case of stealing democratic thunder, although some of the remarks on that side incidentally touched upon the tariff and corporation tax with no little amount of castigation of the republicans for failing, as was alleged, to keep party pledges.

Waterways Are Neglected.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Lack of practical and commercial unity in the entire inland water system of the United States is the principal text of Part I of the report on transportation by water, now submitted to the president by Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations of the department of commerce and labor.

The commissioner dilates in his letter of transmittal upon the facts that while the United States has altogether a total of about 5,800 miles of river navigation of six feet depth and over and more than 2,000 miles of canals, these totals are broken up into a large number of unrelated parts by reason of different depths and different conditions, and that the diverse nature of the floating equipment increases this lack of organization. Many vessels are built for special traffic or local conditions, and are thus often not "interchangeable" over different, even though connecting, routes.

Millions For Panama Canal.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Forty-eight million dollars will be needed by the isthmian canal commission to carry on the work of digging the Panama canal during the fiscal year 1910, according to estimates which have been received by Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh. The appropriation for the current year was \$53,638,000.

Death Followed Slap In Face.

LEWISTOWN, July 12.—Upon a report that Thomas Gear, a well known resident of Stanford, had been killed under circumstances indicating murder, the county attorney, sheriff and coroner today went out to Windham to make an investigation.

The man suspected of having caused Gear's death, Thomas Wilson, has disappeared. It seems that Gear, who was drunk, was abusing his small son, when Wilson interfered and Gear became abusive. Wilson slapped his face with his open hand and went on. In half an hour Gear suddenly collapsed and died. An autopsy revealed the fact that death was wholly due to acute alcoholism and Wilson was fully exonerated from any responsibility.

Infatuation Causes Double Tragedy.

LIVINGSTON, July 12.—Crazed because of his infatuation for Helen Wells, 16 years old, daughter of Nat G. Wells, a well known ranchman residing near Fridley, John Roach, a ranch employe, shot to death the young woman and a moment later ended his own existence by turning the gun upon himself.

The tragedy occurred this morning, when all the hands were out in the fields. At this time Roach returned to the house, secured a shotgun and then called for the girl, who was working in the kitchen, to come out into the yard. As she came through the kitchen door he fired upon her, a charge passing through her chest, killing her instantly. Without uttering a word or moving from his tracks he turned the gun upon himself and committed suicide.

Roach has been employed on the Wells ranch for several years and has always had a good reputation. He was well known about the little trading point, Fridley, and was respected. Those most familiar with the circumstances cannot understand why he committed the act. By many it is believed he became suddenly insane and became possessed with the idea that he must kill the girl and himself.

Notice to Taxpayers.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2547, Revised Codes of Montana, notice is hereby given that the assessment book of Chouteau county for the year 1909 is now completed by the assessor and delivered to the county clerk, and is now in his office open to inspection by all persons interested. The board of county commissioners will meet as a board of equalization on the third Monday in July (July 19, 1909), at the court house in Fort Benton, to examine the assessment of property in the county, and will continue in session for that purpose from time to time until the business of equalization is disposed of, but not later than the second Monday in August (August 9, 1909). Any person having grievances or complaints in regard to their assessments as shown by the assessment book compiled by the assessor, will present them to the board of equalization during the period herein mentioned for that purpose, viz., from the 19th day of July to the 9th day of August, 1909, as they will be thereafter debarred from making corrections in their assessments.

Attention is called to the following sections of the Revised Codes of Montana in relation to the duties of the board of equalization: Section 2574. No reduction must be made in the valuation of property unless the party affected thereby, or his agent, makes and files with the board a written application therefor, verified by his oath, showing the facts upon which it is claimed such reduction should be made.

Section 2575. Before the board grants the application, or makes any reduction applied for, it must examine on oath the person or the agent making the application, touching the value of the property of such person. No reduction must be made unless such person or the agent making the application attends and answers all questions pertinent to the inquiry.

Section 2576. Upon the hearing of the application the board may subpoena such witnesses, hear and take such evidence in relation to the subject pending as in its discretion it may deem proper.

Section 2577. During the session of the board the assessor and any deputy whose testimony is needed must be present and may make any statement or introduce and examine witnesses on questions before the board.

W. R. LEET, County Clerk.
Fort Benton, Mont., July 15, 1909.

Notice to Creditors.

Estate of J. A. Stauffer, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, administrator of the estate of J. A. Stauffer, 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 his residence in Fort Benton in the county of Chouteau, Montana.

W. O. DEXTER,
Administrator of the estate of J. A. Stauffer, deceased.
Dated June 18, 1909.
First publication June 19, 1909.

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