

The River Press.

Published every Wednesday Morning by the River Press Publishing Company.

NOW FOR PROSPERITY.

Time alone will permit of accurate judgment of the new tariff bill. The perspective of the months to come alone will disclose its weak spots and emphasize its points of vantage. That it has defects is manifest. To what extent those defects will affect the general prosperity remains to be seen. Not until the millennium dawns may we expect a tariff bill that will please all sections; for despite the fact that the protective principle is recognized now by all parties as never before, it remains true that the tariff is and must ever be a local question.

For good or for ill, the special session of congress, called by President Taft to revise the tariff, has completed its task. Undoubtedly the people as a whole anticipated a more general revision downward than has been effected; in view of the pledges of the party in power and the platform of the opposition organization, they had a right to expect that. And yet in fixing the responsibility for the failure to meet the general demand more fully, it is difficult to place it upon the republicans as a party, for democrats helped at critical times to increase rates on necessities.

If the bill has failed lamentably to bring the relief that is generally demanded, the issue will be raised in four years or less in a way that will leave no doubt about the will of the people and of their power to enforce it. At this time no man can with certainty predict the verdict. Whatever doubt there may be concerning the outcome, all will agree that it is well the agony is over.

Good, bad or indifferent as the act may be, certain it is that we may now look for a business revival all over the country and an era of prosperity such as we have not known since a defective currency system helped to bring on the panic. This year's the year and every one should be up and doing.—Inter Mountain.

SETTLERS ARE INTERESTED.

Settlers on land tributary to the government Milk river project, will be interested in the announcement that the senate committee on irrigation will visit that locality on or about August 21, for the purpose of making personal investigation of existing conditions. The committee, through its chairman, Senator Carter, states that it wishes to secure information deemed useful in the consideration of proposed legislation affecting the reclamation of arid lands.

The visit of the United States senators will be an occasion upon which any defects in the reclamation law, or in the method of its administration, may be brought to their attention by the settlers affected. It has been current gossip for some time that many settlers in the Milk river valley are not satisfied with the management of the undertaking. They allege extravagance in disbursing reclamation funds, a larger cost than necessary for work that has been done, and inexcusable delay in completing the Dodson dam and constructing ditches.

Whether there is legitimate reason for such criticism, this newspaper is not prepared to state, but this talk has been current for some time past, and if there is any real cause for it, the matter should be brought to the attention of the senate committee for investigation with a request that it be given consideration.

As the parties who will ultimately repay the government every dollar expended on the Milk river project, the settlers are entitled to a dollar value for every dollar they will be required to pay. They should have full knowledge of every expenditure made upon their project from the reclamation fund, and be advised upon every other matter in which they are personally affected.

In announcing its purpose to visit the several reclamation projects, the senate committee on irrigation makes these suggestions to settlers who wish to communicate their views:

In the judgment of the committee the views of the members of each water user's association should be secured and carefully considered in order to ascertain existing conditions from their point of view. The water users are vitally interested in all legislation which may directly or indirectly affect the reclamation work and to them the committee will look for a full and free expression of their deliberate opinions on the existing law, the administration thereof, and the suggestion of such amendments to the law as may be deemed useful.

For the purpose of economizing time in securing the desired expressions it is respectfully requested that the water users be assembled in a public meeting or a series of meetings to discuss such matters as they desire to present to the committee, and their views be formulated in a concise statement in writing, the same to be presented by a committee of their members who will be prepared to answer

such questions as the senate committee may think proper to ask in regard to the written statements or any other matter relating to your project.

MONTANA'S POPULATION.

During the course of an address made at the celebration of Farmers' day at the experiment station near Lewistown, Prof. Cooley of the Bozeman Agricultural college, expressed the opinion that Montana could support a population of 40,000,000 people.

This statement is circulated to create some surprise among those who have not given the subject any consideration, but when it is remembered that Montana has a larger area than Great Britain and Ireland, the professor's declaration will not appear to be out of the way, says the Butte Miner. The fertility of a great part of the land of this state is superior to that found in the countries mentioned across the water.

That anyone now living will ever see 40,000,000 people in Montana is hardly possible, but in the next decade the population of this state is likely to go beyond the million mark. The tide of settlers has only recently set this way, but now it has started it is certainly to keep up indefinitely.

If Montana had to depend upon irrigation in order to grow crops, of course there would be a limit placed upon the number of settlers who could find homes here, but with dry land farming proved a success a vast area is made subject to cultivation. It is believed that the new 320-acre homestead law will prove a great inducement to settlers to locate here.

There is any amount of land subject to entry of this kind in this state, and assuredly the man who takes up a claim of that kind must be a very poor farmer, or his land exceptionally unproductive, if he cannot make a living from a half section of land which is given to him almost free of charge. From this out more and more attention is going to be paid to agricultural pursuits in this state.

The Fertile Desert.

The desert is the most fertile area in the United States. That sounds like a paradox, yet it is true. Where did the great civilizations of antiquity arise? Where but in the fertile deserts? Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Persia, Arabia, Northern India, the north coast of Africa, were all arid lands. The Incas in Peru, the Toltecs and Aztecs in Mexico, reared their civilization upon desert plateaus. The history of the Jews is a history of desert folk. It was within the encircling walls of the desert that they evolved their national and their religious consciousness. Out of the desert sprang all these things as the water gushed from the rock at the blow of Moses.

The desert is most fertile because it is a savings bank without any withdrawals, says a writer in Success. Plants need potash, magnesia, lime and other foodstuffs, just as we need animals and plants. Now in the humid lands, such as in our eastern states, the rains have fallen for tens of thousands of centuries, and they have washed out the food of the plants. But in the arid lands the rains have fallen sparingly or not at all. Some of our desert lands of the west contain three times as much potash, six times as much magnesia, fourteen times as much lime, as the humid lands of the east. The desert is an inexhaustible storehouse of food for the plants of thousands of years to come, a storehouse to be drawn upon as soon as the land is irrigated.

Prof. Harmon's Chicken Puzzle.

Livingston Post. One of the questions propounded in the recent eighth grade school examinations, in the tests on physiology and hygiene, was, "what is the natural food of young chickens?" The question seemed to be a puzzler, even to the members of the examination board, and it seems to be up to Professor Harmon, superintendent of public instruction and the man who prepared the questions, to give the correct answer.

One little girl, who had evidently given the matter a great deal of thought, declared that the natural food of young chickens is "little bits of worms." She received full credit for the answer. The teachers to whom the question was submitted found themselves unable to answer it, declaring that the food of the young chick is as variable as can be imagined, and up to date no one has given the puzzler an answer that seems to be entirely correct.

In pursuance of the system of giving pupils desirous of leaving the eighth grade a real test of their knowledge, Professor Harmon will undoubtedly find questions even more puzzling than the one mentioned. For instance, he might enquire "Why is a hen?" or "Why does a chicken cross the road?" or any one of hundreds of such deep and unfathomable inquiries designed to bring out all of the mental ingenuity of the pupils.

We have a wonderful educational system in Montana.

FAMOUS RUSSIAN PRIEST.

How Father John of Cronstadt Was Revered by Peasantry and Royalty. Although a broad minded man and a scoffer at superstition, the late Father John of Cronstadt, Russia, by his zeal and devotion to the church made such a deep impression on the people of Russia that he was universally known there as the holy seer and miracle worker of the empire.

A mediaeval spirit pervaded the Russian church, and largely the life of the people, at the beginning of his ministry in 1855, but by his unique methods, his life and his personality he intrenched himself firmly in the hearts of the Russians. His fame spread, healing powers were ascribed to him, the raising from the dead of a girl in a cancer hospital at St. Petersburg was attributed to him, and his house soon became the Mecca for pilgrimages by the faithful.

It was not merely among the lowly, however, that Father John was revered and adored. The late Emperor Alexander III. admired the sterling qualities of the priest and constantly honored and befriended him. It was for him that he sent when he lay dying, and it was from his hands that the last sacraments of the church were administered. Father John also appeared as a conspicuous figure at the solemnities attending the coronation of the present czar.

The faith which the present empress placed in Father John was shown when she made the pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Seraphim to pray for the desired heir to the Russian throne. The surname of the dead priest was Sergieff, but it was known to only a few of his followers, he being Father John to virtually all.

The ignorance and the religious fanaticism of the Russian peasantry are illustrated in a striking manner by the almost blasphemous veneration of which Father John, much against his will, was made the object. Some time ago a peasant in the government of Kostroma wrote a hymn in honor of Father John, placing him almost on an equality with the persons of the Trinity. The Kronstadt priest wrote a severe letter to the peasant, rebuking him for his blasphemy, but this had no effect, so he was compelled to go in person to Kostroma in order to put a stop to the growth of a sect which was being founded to worship him. This is only one case out of many. There are cases in which peasants openly maintain their conviction that Father John was the Christ, the reincarnation of the divine spirit. One aged pilgrim who holds fast this belief when he was arrested and threatened with punishment declared with enthusiasm that he would gladly die for his savior. Portraits of Father John are frequently used as icons and are venerated in the same way.

CARNIVAL IN PERRY'S HONOR.

British to Be Invited to Celebrate Their Defeat on Lake Erie.

In the interest of peace and tranquility between two great world powers—Great Britain and America—plans are being perfected to invite the English government to take part in the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the defeat of the British in one of the notable conflicts of the war of 1812, the victory of Perry on Lake Erie.

Arrangements are being made by the state of Ohio to promote a grand peace carnival and joint industrial exhibition to be held on the island of Put-In-Bay in 1913. A commission has been appointed by the governor to formulate a program, and this winter the state legislature will be asked to make an appropriation which will put the matter in concrete form. It is now proposed to have Canada, through England, share equally in the plans, with a view to creating a further tie of friendship between the two countries.

OVERSHOES FOR HORSES.

Mrs. Westinghouse Gets Inventor Husband to Finance Nonslipping Device. At the urgent request of Mrs. Westinghouse, who is an enthusiastic horsewoman, George Westinghouse, the inventor, has invested a large sum of money with others in a new overshoe for horses.

Mrs. Westinghouse believes that many animals are injured and placed on the retired list long before they should be by slipping on wet pavements, and she insisted that her husband interest himself in the matter.

Last summer, while at Erskine Park, near Pittsfield, Mass., Mrs. Westinghouse noticed a team of horses on a wet, rainy morning walking over the smooth asphalt with some sort of chains on their feet. She had them stopped and, investigating, liked the idea so well that she interested others in it.

South Dakota Church "Trust." The Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches of Parkston, S. D., have entered into a combine for mutual protection. While neither of the three churches is strong enough to stand alone, it is thought that one church made up of the three congregations can get along swimmingly. Accordingly a meeting of the three boards of directors was held several days ago and articles forming a "trust" signed.

Marathon Race Afloat.

A Marathon race was the feature of a celebration held on board the monitor Wyoming while lying in the San Francisco harbor. Eleven sailors entered the race, but only two finished the full course. The huge deck of the monitor made a track of 130 yards to the lap.

COEUR D'ALENE DRAWING.

A Butte Miner Wins Prize in Big Land Lottery.

COEUR D'ALENE, Aug. 10.—With the opening of the application of John L. Schuler of New Berlin, Ill., the second day of the great Indian land drawing was started here today. Mr. Schuler takes number 1501 and before night the entire list of 3,000 names for the Coeur d'Alene reservation will have been completed. Thursday morning the drawing for the Flathead reservation begins, and next Monday comes the Spokane reservation.

Superintendent Witten expresses himself as greatly pleased with the quiet and orderly manner in which the registration is starting. Hundreds of those whose names are drawn today may never appear to claim a right to locate on lands. Thousands registered simply to take a chance on winning one of the first 50 or 100 numbers.

BUTTE, Aug. 10.—Peter Weldenbach who drew number nine in the Coeur d'Alene reservation drawing yesterday, is a German miner, 45 years old and single. He made his way out to the west without paying railroad fare, and has worked in the mines here for a considerable period. He lives at 221 Colorado street, and works in the Leonard mine. He says he has saved some money and will enter upon a land claim and become a farmer.

When told that he had won number nine he said: "That's the first piece of luck to come my way in a long time. I have been hurt twice in the mines within the last year."

Last Gap About Closed.

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—It was announced that the last gap in the Pacific coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway would be closed next Sunday, Aug. 15, when local passenger service will have been established between Butte, Mont., and Malden, Wash., on the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railway. Through passenger service is now in effect, with standard equipment, between St. Paul and Minneapolis and Butte, and with the completion of the new line will reach the coast without a break.

Cannon Won't Resign.

CHICAGO, Aug. 8.—Speaker Joseph G. Cannon stopped off in Chicago last evening on his way home to Danville and disclaimed any intention of retiring from public life, as reported in New York dispatches.

"When I get ready to step out of it, I will say so, but up to date I am making no such announcement," declared the speaker. "Also when my constituents get ready to have me retire they will no doubt say so. However, they have not given me the word so far."

"I am going back to Danville for a good rest."

"None of your Chautauquas for me. They have wanted me to make the rounds with a speech this summer, but I have declined with thanks."

"I shall get well rested up and then go back to Washington in the winter and run a little Chautauqua of my own."

Will Work for Revision.

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—Senator Cummins of Iowa started home today after advocating a war by the "insurgents" against the "standpatters" in the house and senate. He said the insurgents' campaign has just begun, and tariff revision will be the big issue at the next republican convention.

The insurgents intend to work for further revision from time to time, but no general revision for ten years. They hope by that time to elect enough members to congress to insure the "right kind of revision." They will support Taft, whom they consider a "progressive."

China's Troubles.

TOKIO, Aug. 9.—A request that Japan suspend work on Antung-Mukden railroad in Manchuria is the substance of China's reply to Japan's recent note announcing the immediate commencement of the reconstruction work on the road. The reply, issued by the foreign office today, states that China wishes to continue the negotiations. China adds that she wishes for an amicable settlement of all outstanding differences.

Japan's reply to this request was polite but firm. It was made plain that the negotiations concerning the Antung-Mukden railroad had been closed forever except insofar as they related to that section of the road between Mukden and Chinese Slang Tung and that it would not be necessary to suspend work to reach an agreement upon the long strip of territory.

His Reason Returned.

EL PASO, Texas, Aug. 10.—After wandering in the mountains for five years, deranged, Francisco Martinez suddenly regained his senses last Sunday and returned to his home near Villa Ahmuda, Chihuahua, Mexico. Martinez had been given up for dead long ago by his relatives and his sudden appearance at his home, with a long matted beard and his hair reach-

ing almost to his knees, caused a superstitious panic for a time. Martinez is now but 22 years of age, but looks like a middle-aged man. He has been the terror of the sheep and goat herders in the mountains, who thought him a fiend.

Plans For Horticultural Show.

MISSOULA, Aug. 10.—Extensive preparations are being made for the first annual exhibition of the Montana Horticultural society, to be held in Missoula, October 18-22. The premium list is being prepared and shows a fine list of prizes, aggregating nearly \$3,000. Fruits, grains and vegetables will be exhibited and reports from over the state indicate that the counties are taking a wholesome interest in the exhibition and are already preparing exhibits.

M. L. Dean, state horticulturist, a resident of Missoula, is actively in charge of the arrangements for the exhibition. He is a former resident of Michigan, where for years he had charge of the horticultural exhibition of the state fair.

Montana will show the world what is being done in the way of fruit raising. While the state has not been regarded as an apple state, the raising of apples has become one of the big sources of income, especially in the Bitter Root valley.

Western Montana has been so successful in the raising of apples, pears and other classes of fruit that a remarkable showing will be made here in October. The famous McIntosh Red apple of the Bitter Root will be very much in evidence.

Rocky Boy Has a Soft Snap.

HELENA, Aug. 10.—Chief Rocky Boy and his Chippewa tribesmen have been communicated with by John F. Armstrong, the special allotting agent who was delegated to place the tribe on lands north and east of the Fort Peck agency, and the chief and four of his tribe met Mr. Armstrong at the Commercial club this morning and the work of checking over the census and of ascertaining the present whereabouts of all members of the tribe was started. Rocky Boy and a small band are camped near Birdseye.

According to the chief his tribe is scattered from Spokane on the west to Bozeman on the east; some are living near Cut Bank; others are visiting in the Flathead and elsewhere. Letters were posted today to these stragglers, telling them to hurry to Helena.

Notice of Special Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the board of county commissioners will be held on August 23d and 24th, 1909, for the purpose of opening bids for the construction of bridges across Milk river and Big Sandy creek, the cancellation of warrants and the following road business: Abandonment of a portion of the Benton Depot to the Weatherwax and Marcotte road. Change in Benton to Circle ranch road. Gulch crossing road to Cascade county line road. Highway and Shonkin road. Abandonment of portion of Chinook and Snake creek road. Harlem-Canada line road to Canadian line. Paradise valley road to Snake creek. Wagner to Valley county line road. Change in Chester-Alma road. Change in Wagner-Valley county line road. Road between Gold Butte and Whittish. Fort Benton to Frenchman's ridge road. Merrill road. Change in reservation to Big Sandy road. Milk river to Coburg road. Henry Horn's to the Powell road. By order of the board of county commissioners. W. R. LEET, County Clerk. Fort Benton, August 10, 1909.

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