

The River Press

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A POLITICAL CRIME.

With a population of approximately 70,000, Silver Bow county has 12 representatives in the lower house of the state legislature; with a population of approximately 20,000, Yellowstone county has but one. The census figures showing the population of Butte, the chief city of Silver Bow county, and practically containing the population of Silver Bow county, show that Butte today has less than 40,000 population, indicating that the county has lost materially in population, the ordinary experience in mining communities. It is a safe guess that Silver Bow county has not in excess of 60,000 population—three times the population of Yellowstone. Reckoning on the Silver Bow ratio of representation of one representative to each 5,000 of population, Yellowstone county should have four representatives; reckoning with the Yellowstone ratio of representation, Silver Bow should have only three. Again—

Silver Bow is the only county of the first class because of its assessed valuation which is placed at \$36,890,475. Yellowstone is a county of the second class with an assessed valuation of \$20,187,465. An analysis of these figures would indicate that a matter of something like \$16,000,000 would entitle a county to 12 times more representation than another county would be entitled to. When we look further down the list and find Deer Lodge, a county of the fifth class, with an assessed valuation of \$8,707,006 with six representatives as against one for Yellowstone county with its more than \$20,000,000 valuation, it would look as though taxation had nothing to do with the case and that so far as Yellowstone is concerned it is a flagrant case of taxation without representation, just the sort of thing which caused the colonies to revolt against the British crown, and led to the establishment of a new nation upon the western hemisphere. Does history always repeat itself?

According to constitutional provisions the state must be reapportioned at each decennial period following the taking of the federal census. It is a fact peculiarly worthy of notice at this time that upon one occasion the constitution of the commonwealth of Montana, in so far as representation in the legislature is concerned, was nullified by a democratic legislature and that upon another occasion it was set aside even after the legislature attempted to perform its duty, by the veto power exercised by a democratic governor.

It is up to the voters. If they are tired of taxation without representation they will not put it within the power of the Silver Bow democratic machine to again work a flagrant injustice upon the people of the agricultural counties.

Such a condition constitutes a political crime.—Billings Gazette.

PRAY STANDS ON HIS RECORD

Charlie Hartman was six years Montana's congressman and his ardent friend could not tell you today one noteworthy act that Hartman did for the state in all that time. The congressional record shows that he answered the roll call scarcely more than half the time—in other words he was absent on his own personal affairs 50 per cent. of the time for which he was paid to take care of Montana's business.

And this is the man who today is stumping the state decrying the official record of Congressman Pray, says the Butte Evening News. Pray has the record of being the most faithful and most attentive member of the lower house. He has a wonderful record of achievement. To his efforts is almost entirely due to the creation of the mines bureau, and the mine-rescue features of this bureau cannot but find a sympathetic response in the heart of every man who makes his living underground. Morning, noon and night Pray has been tolling, with his coat off, for the interest of his home state. It was this assiduity which prompted him to waive the personal glory of joining actively with the insurgent movement, with which he has always been at heart in sympathy.

Pray realized that if he antagonized the machine element in the lower house every bill for the interests of Montana and its people which he had introduced would be slaughtered. He was thinking more of the results than of his personal aggrandisement. And yet nobody fought harder in the caucus to dispose Cannon than did Pray. False allegations and misleading statements about Pray's attitude in the speakership fight are made every day by the democratic press. Charlie Pray promised that he would oppose the re-election of Cannon in the caucus and he did so. He could do no more than abide by the decision of the caucus, however, and on the floor

of the house his vote was recorded in compliance with the caucus action.

The democratic press alleges that Pray promised to vote against Cannon—giving the impression that he promised to bolt the caucus. He never promised anything of the kind. Every promise that Pray made he fulfilled. Clean, honest, upright and painstaking, he deserves to be rewarded for the kind of service that today is rare in public life. Never a politician, scorning the artifice of the stump speaker and the trickster, Pray goes before the people simply upon his own record and the News believes that despite the falsehoods and the misrepresentations of the corporation press Pray will be triumphantly returned to represent his state in Washington, where his honesty and sincerity have made him an exemplar of good citizenship and faithful service.

FOR BETTER ROADS.

The platform issued by the so called labor party in Butte advocates the building of permanent highways and favors "a law which will give to the state authority to issue bonds chargeable to the counties wherein such work is performed."

We do not understand that this plan has ever been seriously proposed by those who have studied the question of good roads and who advocate the building of them. The plan that may be said to have been in favor with most of the citizens of Montana who attended the good-roads convention at Billings was for tonnage roads state aided.

This plan contemplates the building or improving of county roads, the arrangement with respect to cost being that the abutting, improved farm property shall pay some, the city and county some and the state some. At least, it has been suggested that the city take a share in the cost of the main highways leading to it. Perhaps it is not generally known that under the present arrangement the city stands no part in the cost of highway work outside its limits, although the traffic over these roads is, in every way, a direct contributor to the city's business.

There is no reason why the state should borrow money "chargeable" to the county. Without any such process the county can raise its own share of the money—at least, it could under a proper road law, and the city its share. To these contributions, plus those of the owner of the improved acres, the state would add a percentage, and that would be chargeable to the state. The work would be done under a plan involving the state's general supervision; to the end that the whole scheme be carried out in a methodical way with reference, ultimately, to connecting up the counties. The state would apportion its help under a plan contemplating the general welfare.

Of course, the broad question of the state's policy and of the means whereby it can do its share toward road building is wide open. It has not yet been seriously discussed in Montana, with legislative action in view. Good-roads advocates have been hoping for a campaign of education and for the serious study of this matter of ways and means when the legislature meets. If at Helena the members get into a rumfus over the senatorship, it will be all off with this matter, as with other subjects which, we say again, are of far larger account than the senatorship to every home-owner and every farmer in Montana.—Anaconda Standard.

A Happy Compromise.

Senator Crane, at a luncheon in Dalton, praised compromise. "Compromise is a good thing," he said. "Take the case of a young Dalton builder. He got married about a year ago, and after the marriage he and his wife had an interminable dispute as to whether they should buy two motorcycles or a five horsepower runabout suitable to their needs. He said the other day: "My wife and I wrangled for months and months, but, thank goodness, we compromised at last." "What have you compromised on?" I asked. "A baby carriage," he answered, "with a proud, glad smile."

Montana Corn Contest.

BOZEMAN, Oct. 20.—The judging of the corn grown for the \$1,000 in cash prizes offered by the Great Northern railway is now under way, the first part of the work being done at the Montana Agricultural college yesterday by M. L. Wilson, an expert along the lines of corn judging from the Iowa state college at Ames.

This contest was planned last spring by Prof. F. S. Cooley, under the direction of the Great Northern. Each county exhibit will be awarded a first, second, third and fourth place, the prizes for which will be \$10, \$8, \$7 and \$5 respectively. There will also be a cash prize of \$50 awarded to the best individual display grown on irrigated and dry land farms, and other prizes for the best ten ears grown above a certain elevation.

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BALLOON TRIP ABANDONED.

Wellman Party Rescued Off Coast of North Carolina.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—A wireless message to the New York Times from Captain Down of the Royal mail steamer Trent says that the Trent picked up Wellman and the crew of the America at 5 o'clock this morning. The airship had been abandoned.

The position reported by Captain Down indicates that Wellman and his crew were picked up at a point about 150 miles due east of Cape Hatteras, on the North Carolina coast.

The wireless message received by Sandiso & Son, local agents of the Royal mail steamship line, plying between New York and Cuba and Bermuda, was signed by Commander Down of the steamer Trent and reads as follows:

At 8 a. m. sighted Wellman's airship America in distress signals by Morse code that she required assistance. After three hours of maneuvering and fresh winds blowing got Wellman and entire crew and cat boat. They were hauled to safety on board. All well.

The crew of the airship America in abandoning their craft lowered themselves into the lifeboat which swung beneath it. They then cast the lifeboat off and were afloat in the sea. The airship, relieved of the weight of the lifeboat, shot up high into the air and was rapidly blown away. The transfer of the Wellman party from the lifeboat to the Trent was effected with much difficulty.

Rockefeller Donates Millions.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—John D. Rockefeller today celebrated the opening of the new hospital attached to the Rockefeller institute for medical research in this city with an additional gift of \$3,820,000. This addition makes the total of Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to the institute \$8,240,000.

Wool Market Improves.

BOSTON, Oct. 18.—The local wool market has taken on a decidedly better aspect within the last few days, the principal factor being larger sales of Montana and South Dakota spring wools with values showing a firmer tendency.

Sales of territory which are at 65 @ 66c for clean fine staple Montana, also extend to other lines and considerable original bag Wyoming also found a market lately. The demand for fleeces wools continues rather quiet, although some fine unwashed Ohio delaines have been transferred in good lots. Pulled wools are moving slowly.

Open Lands To Settlers.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Thousands of acres of unappropriated lands which were eliminated from the national forests and restored to the public domain by the recent proclamation of President Taft were thrown open to homestead settlement today. The lands include tracts in Colorado and Washington, which will become subject to settlement today and to entry on November 17. Forest lands in other states will become subject to settlement later in the week.

Death of Julia Ward Howe.

MIDDLETOWN, R. I., Oct. 17.—Julia Ward Howe is dead. Bowed under the weight of her 91 years, the noted philanthropist and authoress succumbed peacefully today to an attack of pneumonia at her summer home here. The funeral will be held at the Church of the Disciples, Unitarian, in Boston, Thursday.

Those who knew her said that Mrs. Howe's unflinching optimism was the great source and support of her manifold activities. Born in a cultivated home in New York city, and educated with care, she early showed a remarkable avidity for study and superior literary taste.

Is He Montana Train Robber?

DENVER, Oct. 17.—Believed to be one of the two bandits who robbed the Great Northern express at Rondo, Montana, Sept. 12, 1907, Charles McDonald was arrested at Baugh, New Mexico, today by Postoffice Inspector Earl Smith of the Denver office.

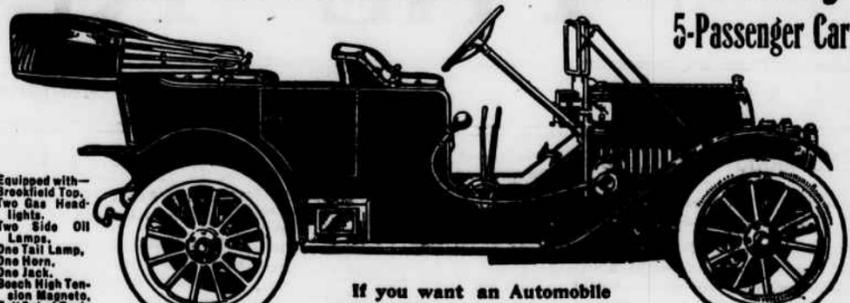
Shortly after the robbery, in which \$40,000 was secured, mostly in registered mail, McDonald and Smith, alias Frank Hauser, were arrested and \$12,000 of the booty recovered. The pair escaped from jail at Helena. Smith was caught at Barnesville, Minn., convicted and sentenced to imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth. McDonald has evaded federal officers for more than two years.

Packers Resent Criticism.

CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—The report of the executive committee of the National Meat Packers' association, which met in annual convention here today, intimates that the select committee of the United States senate when it met to investigate the cost of living did not act in the best faith in examining the packers. The report says that while there have been some repetitions of the usual slurs and unfounded charges against the packers, they have lacked the venom of previous years and the opinion is expressed that a "belief is growing with the pub-

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lic that the packers as a class are doing a legitimate business."

President Charles Rohe of the association, in his address said that last year in many respects had been unsatisfactory to the packers owing to the high price of live stock.

"It is undoubtedly a fact," he declared, "that packers and meat dealers have been doing business without profit during the year."

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