

MONTANA BRIEFLETS.

SHORT ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

What Has Happened in Montana During the Past Few Days

Butte, Dec. 17.—The Butte city council last night gave its approval of the plan started among the labor unions of the city to house the homeless unemployed during the present industrial depression. A representative of the committee appointed by the Silver Bow trades and labor council to see what could be done for housing unemployed men, spoke to the councilmen and his request was granted. The council voted \$100 for material to be used in fitting up the old natatorium, a city building, now under lease to the Young Men's association, which had offered the use of the first floor to the relief association.

Helena, Dec. 17.—At one point in Montana dollar a bushel wheat was recorded today. That was in the Musselshell county, where owing to lower rates to Duluth and Minneapolis, than from other points, the McCaul-Dinsmore company was offering \$1 a bushel for the best grade. At Fort Benton, Great Falls and other points taking the same freight rate, the quotation was under a dollar, but it will only require a small advance in the eastern quotations for Montana wheat to reach the dollar a bushel quotation in all sections east of the mountains.

Helena, Dec. 17.—Following a recommendation of the Associated Charities and a special committee of the council, Chief of Police Jack Flannery yesterday converted the police court room into a municipal lodging house for the housing of those who are temporarily down and out. A score of cots will be placed in the room which is on the second floor of the city hall where those who cannot afford to pay for a room will be given a night's lodging. The city will also furnish meals to the deserving poor, and those who are given a night's lodging will be given a warm breakfast before they are turned out in the morning. Other meals will be furnished during the day when needed.

Butte, Dec. 18.—Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, started suit in the district court against officers of Butte local I.W.F.M., to gain temporary control of the local union, its affairs and property, which consists of \$70,000 and the two-story wrecked hall and a lot. It is stated in the complaint that the defendants will not resign their offices, although requested by 10 per cent of the membership of the local organization to do so.

Butte, Dec. 18.—Amy G. Edmunds, assistant city clerk, who admitted on the stand at Bozeman during the trial of Mayor Clarence A. Smith that she was editor of the Butte Socialist during the interval after Smith's resignation and before Lewis J. Duncan took charge, now faces trial on the charge of criminal libel. Information against Miss Edmunds was filed in Judge Michael Donlan's department of the district court yesterday afternoon.

Helena, Dec. 17.—In a report on the inoculation of coyotes with sarcocystis mange, Dr. M. E. Knowles declares sufficient evidence is at hand from laymen throughout the state to demonstrate beyond question the unqualified success of the work, and to justify the abolition of bounty on predatory pests; providing the work is continued. "Past experience," he says, "should conclusively prove that if the work is continued covering a period of 10 years, the predatory pests of Montana will be a thing of the past, and occasion little if any loss."

Bozeman, Dec. 18.—Herbert Carey, last of the trio of defendants in the kidnaping cases that arose out of the deportation of Richard O'Brien, a miner, in Butte during the labor troubles there, admitted on the witness stand today that he was a member of the crowd that seized O'Brien at one of the mines and marched him down the hill. Carey in defense, said it was only a boyish trick and that he meant O'Brien no harm. Carey was identified by the state's witnesses, as one of the men who placed O'Brien in an automobile and conveyed him to the Jefferson county line, where he was freed and warned not to return to Butte.

Butte, Dec. 18.—With the thermometer twenty degrees below zero, Chief Sanger and his fire fighters were compelled to wage a five hours' battle with fire at the Arlington Hotel at the northwest corner of Front and Wyoming streets early today. From 2:30 o'clock this morning when the flames were first discovered until 7:30, the Butte firemen battled valiantly. When they had finally extinguished the flames there was nothing left but the walls of the old-time hotel—one of the first substantial buildings erected in South Butte—but the firemen had succeeded in preventing a conflagration by confining the fire to the structure in which it originated.

Forsyth, Dec. 18.—Four new counties are proposed in Eastern Montana, affecting the counties of Rosebud, Custer, Dawson, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Fergus and Musselshell. One new county proposed would take the southern part of Rosebud and Custer, with Ashland as the county seat. Another would take a part of Yellowstone, Rosebud and Big Horn, with Hysham as the county seat. A third would include parts of Rosebud and Dawson counties, with Ingomar or Sumatra as the county seat, and a fourth would

embrace portions of Dawson, Rosebud and Musselshell, with Melstone as the county seat.

Lewistown, Dec. 19.—The children of the city schools have, on their own initiative, started a movement by which each room in the schools will contribute to the Associated Charities for the use of the needy, one sack of flour. This will give the organization 30 sacks of flour.

Butte, Dec. 19.—Ed Harrington, aged 24, a resident of Butte for less than a year, was fatally injured at the Stewart mine last evening when caught by a fall of ground in the Stewart mine. Harrington died three hours after being removed to Murray hospital. His left leg was broken and his scalp lacerated. Internal injuries caused his death.

Lewistown, Dec. 19.—Mike Hopkins, carpenter, who was last week found guilty of attempt at criminal assault, the complaining witness being a 7-year-old girl, was this morning sentenced by Judge Ayers to the limit, 4 1/2 years. Judge Ayers expressed regret that he could not, under the law, impose a heavier penalty.

Livingston, Dec. 19.—Judge A. P. Stark of the Sixth judicial district, will be chairman of the exercises to be held at the open air Christmas tree Wednesday evening at the corner of Main and Callender streets. Christmas greetings from President Wilson and Governor Stewart will be read at the celebration. Santa Claus and his assistants will distribute candy and nuts to every child in the city.

Conrad, Dec. 19.—An unknown man was brought into Conrad last Wednesday morning unconscious from exposure. The man had started to walk from Valier to Conrad and when near Mason was overcome by cold and exhaustion. He crawled upon the platform of the lumber yard, where he was found next morning. The man had both feet frozen hard and is in a critical condition, hopes for his recovery being doubtful.

Bozeman, Dec. 19.—Switching front after all the evidence was in and his attorneys realized what a strong case the state had made out, Herbert Carey withdrew his plea of not guilty to the charge of kidnaping and entered a plea of guilty to a charge of false imprisonment. He was immediately sentenced to serve one year in the county jail in Gallatin county, the maximum penalty under the law for false imprisonment.

Great Falls, Dec. 18.—Instructions were today sent to the sheriff of Silver Bow county and the stock inspector at Butte to stop and hold four carloads of cattle passing through that city enroute to Anaconda, being shipped by the Huntley Cattle company of Spokane. This shipment of stock had been unloaded in the Great Falls stockyards for feeding and rest and when reloaded at night 19 head of cattle belonging to Biersdorf & Nollar of this city were loaded with the shipment, and at the same time 10 head of the Huntley cattle were left here. No charge has been filed by the Great Falls concern, but they demand the return of the animals taken from them apparently by mistake.

Washington News Notes.

Washington, Dec. 19.—An additional appropriation of \$9,600 for the internal revenue district of Montana and Idaho, on account of the collection of the war revenue tax, has been asked of congress by the treasury department.

A general reduction of salaries of first and second-class postmasters will take place if the postoffice appropriation bill passes the house as introduced. Postmasters at Butte, Glendive, Hamilton and Havre each will be reduced \$400; at Dillon and Helena reductions will be \$300; at Anaconda, Miles City, Lewistown, Kallispell and Great Falls, \$200, and Billings, Bozeman, Livingston and Missoula, \$100.

In its annual report the reclamation service devotes much space to the reclamation projects in Montana. During the year construction of drainage works was under way on ten projects, among them the Huntley and Lower Yellowstone. The report refers to the work of Supervisor of Irrigation I. D. O'Donnell of Billings, who has aided in bringing a feeling of confidence among the water users.

Red Fox in Washington.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Red Fox James, a half-breed Crow Indian, who has ridden across the continent from Montana to the national capital, was introduced to President Wilson this morning by Senator Walsh.

James presented to the president a message from Governor Stewart and from the Society of American Indians, requesting him to issue a proclamation urging the states to set aside Oct. 12 as Indian day and also urging congress to make that day a legal holiday.

President Wilson was much interested in his redskin caller, and promised to give consideration to the request made of him. After a visit around Washington and other eastern cities, James will ship his white pony to Omaha, and from there ride back to his Montana home in the spring.

Big Acreage in Wheat.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Owing to the poor condition of winter wheat on December 1, the department of agriculture estimate today, based on condition figures of production next year, is only 580,000,000 bushels, although the area sown this fall, 41,263,000, is the greatest ever planted in the United States.

COMMERCIAL CLUB NOTES

Since the passing of the new counties law of March, 1913, there has been feverish activity in the ranks of the "county-splitters" and in the interval several new counties have been created in the state, though it must also be said that many schemes of county division came to grief in the preliminary stages and were not submitted to the will of the electors.

A feeling is now growing that the law referred to has granted too many facilities for the creation of new counties; that it has been the cause of unsettled and uncertain conditions in the political economy of the state; that it has diverted the attention of the people from other and more promising lines of development and has fostered envy and jealousy between towns and communities.

"Envy and jealousy between towns and communities" is not a pleasant phrase to use but it describes exactly a condition that does exist and its existence in some quarters of the state has had a good effect in preventing the subdivision of Montana into numerous small counties of an assessed valuation of between three and four million dollars. Incidentally it has also been the means of preventing a boom in the building of court houses, though, to be sure, the cost of a court-house and a brand-new set of county officers to adorn its mahogany are items of expenditure that are discreetly kept in the background by the average county divider.

During the past week we have been interested spectators of the proceedings at Chouteau where a petition praying for the formation of Pondera county was considered and after three days of deliberation was cast into exterior darkness, amidst much weeping and gnashing of teeth. We were interested because the proposed new county included within its tortuous lines 540 square miles of Chouteau county, that being the area of the 15 townships embraced in Townships 24 to 28 inclusive, Ranges 1, 2 and 3, East.

Naturally, the Fort Benton Commercial Club did not look upon the idea with favor and expected at least that the promoters of the Pondera scheme might have consulted with them prior to the filing of their petition and thus have left the door open for a possible compromise that would have been satisfactory to all concerned.

The opposition, however, that Fort Bentonites were prepared to offer was found to be unnecessary owing to an interesting development in the situation that requires some explanation as showing the prevalence of the county division bug.

The people of Chester are making a bid for a county seat and have designs on that portion of Chouteau county included in the Pondera petition—and some more. They must have that territory in order to secure the assessed valuation required by law and accordingly, when they found that the Pondera people had "beat them to it," they got busy. Chester, we take it, has been named after the old English city that has been referred to from time immemorial as "Sleepy Chester" but the term "sleepy" can be applied in no sense to the inhabitants of Chester, Montana.

They invade the disputed territory to the number of fifteen good men and true, camped on the ground in zero weather and proceeded to interview the amazed populace who had the temerity to sign the Pondera petition. By dint of much persuasive eloquence they even induced a large number of them to withdraw their names and to plug for Chester.

We have considerable sympathy with the registered electors in the disputed territory in respect of the fact that they have been embarrassed with petitions and counter-petitions, and if the truth must be told, many of them—as we can vouch for from personal investigation—have positively and steadfastly refused to sign another blamed petition of any kind whatsoever, were it to insure their ultimate entry to the Kingdom of Heaven.

The activities of the Chester people and of the opponents of Pondera county—and their name was legion—was amply sufficient to make an end of it, which they did. It is the fourth attempt of the people of Conrad to form a new county and they ought to be admired for their persistence, anyway, but we think we are right in saying that unless the towns of Conrad and Valier get together and pull together for a new county, leaving the question of the county seat to the decision of the electors, they never will have it in our day.

Both Conrad and Valier are good, progressive towns, only about twenty miles apart—and the rivalry between them—to call it by no worse term—is sufficient to keep either from piloting through a county division scheme to a successful issue without the co-operation an acquiescence of the other. Apart altogether from this vexed question and as a matter of general policy, it is of the utmost importance that these towns should bury the hatchet once for all and work for their common interests. It is highly probable that within the near future a sugar beet factory will be established in northwestern Montana and the town of Conrad appears to be the most suitable place for its location, situated as it is, in the heart of 300,000 acres of irrigated and irrigable land, eminently suited to the production of sugar beets. Exhaustive experiments have already been made in that quarter showing that sugar beets of a remarkable high sugar content can be raised in that section. The sugar beet

proposition is something that Conrad and Valier should go after tooth and nail and quit scrapping over the dry husks of county division.

We are told that it is none of our business. We agree. Our advice being disinterested is all the more worthy of attention.

Meantime, Pondera county having been knocked on the head, the proposition of the people of Chester looking to the creation of still another new county will shortly be brought into the limelight and will receive due attention from this end.

Arrangements are being made to ship two carloads of hogs to Great Falls and these will be shipped on Tuesday, Dec. 29.

ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF HOGS—A good number of hogs have already been listed for this shipment, but there is still some room left and those who have any hogs ready for market should notify the secretary of the Commercial Club at once.

The hogs should weigh about 170 lbs. or more. The shipment is for the Great Falls Meat Company, and in agreeing to take these hogs at some inconvenience to themselves, as they have already a large number on hand, the company has shown its desire to accommodate the small growers in this vicinity.

Vice President Kinney, of the Great Northern, has advised Senator Stevens that work has been ordered on the electric lighting of the depot and that the

DEPOT TO BE LIGHTED same will be proceeded with at once. Various requests have been made to the Great Northern people for this improvement through the Commercial Club and also through Mr. H. F. Miller who interested himself in this matter, but it is due to the senator to say that the weight of his influence thrown in to the scale has at last turned the trick in our favor. The concession is a very acceptable Christmas gift to the people of Fort Benton.

JAMES A. MURTY.

Puddings For British Warriors
London, Dec. 19.—Every man in British uniform on land or at sea will have plum pudding for his Christmas dinner. The Christmas pudding fund has raised a sum amounting to over \$40,000 and provided over a half a million puddings. These have been dispatched to the fleet in the North sea and elsewhere and to such distant points as Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus and also the battle line.

Even the interned men in Holland who escaped annihilation by the Germans following the attack on Antwerp only by crossing the border of a neutral country will have their pudding on Christmas day.

Many Poor in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—One out of every ten persons in Chicago received aid from public charity, according to a report today of the retiring president of the board of county commissioners. The report states that during the current year partial or complete support was given at public expense to 250,000 residents of Cook county. The total population of the county is approximately 2,500,000.

Idle Men Need Food.

Seattle, Dec. 18.—The thirty-eight unemployed men arrested last night after they had raided a downtown lunch room, demanding food, will be arraigned in police court on a charge of disorderly conduct. As the men stole nothing and damaged nothing in their raid, it is not certain that the riot charge would hold. The men concerned in last night's demonstration are acting in close harmony with the Industrial Workers of the World and demand food from the community or employment at union wages.

The 1200 men sheltered by the city in the Hotel Liberty do their own housework, collect food from restaurants and hotels, work while work is obtainable and are pledged not to beg on the street. A third body known as the "unemployed league," also professes to be strictly law abiding, although the men enrolled at its headquarters beg on the street.

Predicts Meat Famine.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—"Meat in America will be a rarity before the war ends, with its drain on our supply," said Henry J. Williamson, government statistician in the department of agriculture today. "The number of cattle has diminished and the population increased progressively for 10 years until now they are too widely divergent to hope to get a full supply for at least 10 years more."

Mr. Williams has been in Chicago and the west more than a month, visiting stock centers.

"Unless scientific breeding for increase is general and the slaughter of calves ceases before five years, America will find herself in the class of European countries that have to import beef," continued Mr. Williamson.

Increased prices for meat and leather goods were forecast by government and stockyards experts who have compiled figures estimating the visible supply of cattle at 5,000,000 including calves, yearlings and full grown stock.

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