

Sun River Sun.

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OUR BOW.

Today we launch the Sun River Sun out on the Montana sea of journalism where so many broad and stately sheets are already spread and being wafted by the steady breeze of popular patronage on toward that very desirable haven, affluence, and ask and expect the liberal support of all the people in this vicinity, as well as a share of the patronage of residents in other parts of this territory.

Our faith in the future of Montana is unbounded, and especially of that portion within a circuit of eighty miles, having its center at this town.

Being intimately acquainted with its vast agricultural, mineral and stock-raising resources, we know that our faith in its future rests upon a solid base.

In taking our place among the other journals of the territory, we do so with the declaration that the Sun shall be a thoroughly independent, non-partisan paper, devoted to no particular party, sect or creed, but to the interests and general welfare of Montana, and of the Sun river and adjacent valleys in particular.

We extend our thanks to the citizens of Sun River and vicinity for the encouragement that they have given us in our enterprise, and it shall be our aim to cause them no regret for their liberality.

THE CONVENTION.

We learn from Monday's Independent that the convention completed its labors on Saturday the 10th, and that it is generally conceded to have been one of the finest representative bodies ever assembled in Montana, and its work justifies the high estimate placed upon the character of its members.

The constitution, taken as a whole, is an excellent one, containing many of the best features of the constitutions of California, Colorado, Nevada and other states. It is probable that all its provisions may not be satisfactory to every one. This could hardly be expected. But it has profited by the wisdom and experience of the past, and contains the best provisions from constitutions that have stood the test of time.

The two principal questions upon which the convention was divided were those in reference to the acceptance of free passes from railroads and the exemption of railroads from taxation.

Upon both of these the Independent thinks the people will endorse the action of the majority of the convention.

While it may be true that judges, legislators or other officials would not be influenced in their actions by a free pass, it is also true that when the judge decided in favor of the railroad in a suit it would be difficult to convince the defeated party that the acceptance of such courtesies had not influenced the result.

No judge should be placed under obligations to either party to a suit by the acceptance of a free pass or any other present, and the same is true of any other officer by whose official action the interests of a railroad may be affected.

As to the exemption of mines from taxation, it is scarcely an exemption at all. The government price of the mines, the improvements and the profits realized are all taxed. The speculative value alone is exempt. The hopes of the territory are largely blighted upon its mining interests. It is therefore the part of wisdom to encourage the development of those interests by friendly legislation. We believe that the people of the territory will generally approve the action of the convention.

The West Shore comes to us this month in a new form, and we unhesitatingly pronounce it the equal of any magazine in the world in the beauty of its appearance. The new engraved cover is without an exception the handsomest we ever saw. Some of the most familiar scenes in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, California and Nevada have been grouped together in a highly artistic manner, and among them are woven the name of the magazine, symbols of our industries and samples of our products. Everything is new, the type, the style of arrangement, and to a large extent, the character of its contents. The illustrations, also, are an improvement upon the former most excellent ones. We congratulate the West Shore on the prosperity these costly improvements indicate. In its efforts to combine the useful and the beautiful, to impart information and at the same time please us with views of our magnificent scenery, it is doing a good work and deserves the hearty good will of all. It is published at Portland, Oregon, by L. Samuel, at two dollars per annum.

It is with feelings of pardonable pride that we send this, the first issue of the Sun River Sun forth on its mission. We have endeavored to make it a credit to our town, and believe that we have succeeded, and shall strive to make each succeeding issue more newsworthy and interesting. Our large list of correspondents will occupy more or less space each week with articles descriptive of their several localities. The columns of the Sun will be ever open for the discussion of any topic of local interest. We wish it distinctly understood that we publish the Sun for money and not for the fun of the thing, and propose to give every man the full value of his money in advertising, subscription or job work. In writing up Sun River and surroundings we may have made some mistakes, but as we are not old timers, and therefore had to draw our information from those who are, we may have been misinformed in some instances which we are ready to correct as soon as we know of them.

Our intention is to place this issue of the Sun in every home in the Sun river, Chestnut, South Fork and Teton valleys, and if any one is missed it is unintentional. And if there are any who have not received a copy, and wish one, we will be pleased to send them a copy if they will mail us a postal card with their address plainly written thereon.

HON. GEORGE STEEL, member from Sun River, yesterday made his appearance in the constitutional convention for the first time (having been detained at home by sickness in his family) and took the oath of office. He stated to the convention that he did not desire to vote upon any proposition before the body at this late day, but that he wanted to answer to his name at least once in the convention. — Independent.

TOWNSEND'S new paper, the Franchiser, is a well edited and a model county sheet. The people of Meagher county may well feel proud of it, and we hope they will show their appreciation by giving the publisher their hearty support.

STOCK-RAISING.

Preservation of Portions of the Range for Winter use Advocated—Money Yet to Be Made in the Business.

SUN RIVER, Feb. 13, 1884.

Editor of the Sun.

Notwithstanding that Montana has been about the only pleasant place this winter, and the temperature extremely mild for this northern latitude, we have had our usual amount of snow, and there is no denying the fact that cattle are pretty thin on the range, and with severe March or April storms there will be considerable loss.

Heretofore large profits have been realized by simply giving attention at branding time. This manner of handling cattle is causing on many of the ranges an annual loss of from ten to twelve per cent, and because the business still pays with this loss, owners are careless about preserving the winter ranges. Where the above annual loss is sustained is what may be termed over-crowded districts. The finer qualities of feed such as gramma and buffalo grass are eaten out before winter sets in, and the lesser fattening qualities have to be consumed by the stock in the winter months, and the result is there is no beef in late winter and spring months in these over-crowded districts. The beef for home consumption is either fed or comes from the border ranges.

As stock-raising depends on the amount of stock that can be wintered, and as our winters will always regulate our capacity as a grazing country, there is no danger of overstocking the country long at a time for they will winter kill. Therefore the matter of preserving our best winter quarters for winter use becomes a very serious one. It behooves the stock interests to graze the high plateaus, table lands and the base of the mountains in summer, where the snow falls too deep for winter grazing. There must be a co-operation and combination of interests of the differently defined ranges, and they must be so managed as to produce the best results and thereby insure as large dividends in the future as has been in the past.

If the larger owners will only unite and act in this important matter I think the smaller ones will follow. It is safe to say that not to exceed one-fourth of our grazing lands is good and safe winter quarters for stock. Then how necessary it becomes to the stock interests to preserve that fourth for winter use only, and thereby prepare for the worst. From past experience I should say our extreme winters have been every nine years, namely: 1862, 1871 and 1880. But with all these seeming drawbacks cattle-raising pays well, and the outlook for the future of the business, properly managed, has a brighter side than almost any other branch. The small margins realized in nearly every branch of trade since the advent of the N. P. R. in Montana will of itself cause a lively demand for cattle, and they will be sought by capitalists as an investment. I know they have paid for the past ten years with very ordinary management over twenty per cent compounded annually, and can be made to do equally as well is not better in the future. R. S. F.

The Live Stock Market for 1884.

The live stock commission merchants of Chicago take a hopeful view of the cattle market for the present year. A circular of one of the firms commences as follows:

"We start out in the new year with good prospects of a good business and healthy market for all kinds of live stock the coming spring and summer. We anticipate a good European demand for cattle, besides a good demand for dressed beef, slippers and canners, and we do not see any reason why we should not have high prices for the next twelve months. The partial failure of the corn crop will help to strengthen the price of corn cattle, while Texas and western men have begun to realize the fact that fat cattle will always bring a good price, while a three-year-old, or one thin in flesh is worth more on the grass than anywhere else, and they have the past year, as a rule, forwarded only their fattest cattle, and will, no doubt, do the same this year. As long as they continue to do so they have good prices guaranteed them."

DEARBORN COUNTY.

A Few Reasons why the Citizens of the Sun River Country Need a New County Government.

SUN RIVER, Feb. 13, 1884.

Editor of the Sun.

The Sun river country as known throughout the territory comprises not only the Sun river valley proper, but includes the country along both the North and South Fork of the stream of Sun river, the Teton valley on the north and the Chestnut valley on the south.

The Dearborn river is the line between Lewis and Clarke county and the tract of country known as northern Lewis & Clarke county. A line drawn down the Dearborn river to its mouth, thence across the Missouri river, encompassing the Chestnut valley, and ending at a point some five miles below the mouth of Sun river, thence across the Missouri on a line north by northwest to Dapuyer creek, thence to the head of Dearborn river, would fairly embrace the section known as the Sun river country.

The vast scope of country named is justly famous for its excellent agricultural and irrigating facilities, as well as for the finest grazing land to be found anywhere upon the continent of America.

Chestnut, South Fork, Teton and Sun river valleys are the principal settlements at present, but the whole country is rapidly filling up, and even now almost every creek tributary to the larger streams is dotted here and there with the cabin of the hardy pioneer.

The Fort Shaw military reservation is situated directly in the heart of the Sun river valley, occupying about 140 square miles.

In the near future this part will in all probability be abandoned, and the reservation thrown open to actual settlers affording beautiful ranches and homes for hundreds of families.

The resources of the Sun river country from a financial point of view even now comprises very favorably with some of the more thickly settled portions of the territory, and the natural resources warrant the continued advance of financial resources as time rolls onward.

Isolated as we are, remote from the seats of county government, separated by distance, mountain ranges, and at times almost impassable mountain roads, and at the same time possessing the necessary facilities and resources to establish and carry on a separate county government, is it not our right and a matter of simple justice for the citizens of the Sun river country to demand a county government?

Suppose a resident of Chestnut valley in Meagher county be summoned to appear at White Sulphur Springs upon court business. To travel by public conveyance by the nearest route that man must go from Chestnut to the town of Sun River, thence to Helena, and from there to his destination, making a total of about 170 miles traveled.

A citizen of the Teton valley in Choteau county summoned to appear at Fort Benton must travel via town of Sun river, a distance of at least 100 miles.

A tax payer of the South Fork country, Lewis and Clarke county, must travel via Fort Shaw to Helena, a distance of 110 miles.

The law compels a citizen to go. When he is summoned he must leave his business to take care of itself during his long absence, and appear at the county seat on the day named. There is no case on record where a man from the Sun River country who has made these trips to and from the seat of government and received sufficient compensation from the county he represents to pay his actual expenses, say nothing of his time.

Another grievance which the citizens are subject to is found in the number of indigent sick and crippled which every year are to be taken care of as well as an occasional lunatic. Situated as the Sun river country is, embracing the remotest portions of the three counties, Lewis and Clarke, Choteau and Meagher, it is but natural that there would be and is a considerable floating population, a population, a portion of which is composed of good honorable working men, and the remainder of a class of worthless vagrants and vagabonds who never save a dollar, and consequently if taken sick or get crippled must be cared for. The proper place for them would be under the wing of county government, but the distance is so great that in the generality of cases it would be inhuman to send them over such a long and wearisome road, therefore the burden falls upon the citizen and tax payer to foot the bills by private subscription.

Still another class of vagabonds impose upon the citizens. I refer to the petty thieves and vagrants fired out of the cities of Helena and Benton. The proper place for them would be in the lock-up or in the chain gang, but the city fathers deem it most expedient to give them the 3-7-77 racket and drive them from the city. And the farther the vagabonds go away from the seat of government the better it suits the city and county authorities. It seems that about six out of

every ten vagrants driven out from the cities named take refuge in some part of the Sun river country, there to impose upon the people, jeopardize their property, and make themselves generally troublesome, and there they stay, because they know there is no such an institution as a "cooler" or jail in the whole Sun river country; there they stay because they know the only way the people can get rid of them is by force of might. And there they stay until an outraged community rise up as one man and bid them face the north and travel. They go to be sure, but it is a very unsatisfactory way of doing business.

I wish to say to all citizens and tax payers residing in the country I have described, that the time has now come when you should stand up for your rights and demand the attention of the powers that be. The population and resources are sufficient to support a county government, and there is no plausible reason why you should not have it.

Some may think and argue that the cost of a county government and the erection of county buildings would raise the taxation too much. In answer to that question I will state that in my opinion the excess of tax would not necessarily exceed two mills, and that only for a short time owing to the increase of immigration, while the advantages of a county government would materially overbalance the outlay.

In conclusion I would cordially invite the residents of Chestnut, in Meagher county, northern Lewis and Clarke and north and west Choteau, to express their views and sentiments regarding the county question, through the columns of the Sun River Sun. And looking hopefully forward to the near future when the great county of Dearborn shall be a power in the land and classed as one among the great satellites that illuminate the glorious empire of Montana, I subscribe myself, TAX PAYER.

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