FROM THE NORTH.

Dupuyer and Birch Creeks.—The Piegan Reservation.—Irrigating Ditch Schemes.—Plenty of Room for more Settlers.

AGENCY CROSSING OF BIRCH CREEK, February 10, 1884.

Editor of the Sun.

Taking this as a standpoint I will briefly describe the surrounding country. Birch creek from the mountains to its junction with Badger creek, a distance of nearly fifty miles, forms that part of the southern boundary of the great Blackfoot, or more properly, South Piegan reservation, consequently any description of the country north of here would be of but little interest to parties contemplating a trip to this section; but as there is a bare possibility that the Indians may be entirely removed to another part of the country, I may have a few words to say about the reservation.

Birch creek was first settled by parties, who came to stay, last summer. This point is about fifteen miles below the mountains; between here and the mountains Gildart & Davis, sheep men, have located two sheep ranches; McLean & McNabb have also a horse ranch. This is all that has yet been taken up above this point, although there is yet much good available ground. Here at the crossing Joseph Kipp and H. D. Upham are engaged in merchandising and farming, having bought out Henry Robare's ranch. A postoffice will soon be established here, it being directly on the mail route from Old Agency to Piegan, over which the mail is carried weekly. Going down the creek we find the horse ranch of McLean & McNabb, in charge of the latter; also Mr. Dan Sullivan's cattle ranch and two or three sheep ranches belonging to Dodd, O. G. Cooper and others. This is all the land that has so far been taken up on the white man's side of Birch creek. There is plenty left. Water can be easily taken out. We have a good road to the mountains where can be found plenty of fencing and house logs. There is some firewood on the creek (cottonwood) but by going seven or eight miles up to the foothills dry pine can be found in abundance. There is plenty of coal near here, but as firewood has always been convenient, no one has yet seen fit to develop any of the numerous banks in the vicinity.

This section is undoubtedly better adapted to sheep and horse raising, combined with farming, than anything else, and those are the coming industries.

Kipp & Thomas' saw mill is but fifteen miles from here, and lumber of all kinds can be obtained cheap. Parties are now in the mountains on the head of this creek getting out a large amount of fencing and house logs which will be run down the creek in the spring and taken out at this point and offered for sale at reasonable rates. Lumber at the saw mill is worth about $20 per M., and shingles about $4. A planing mill will soon be added to the saw mill. The lumber is mostly spruce.

Passing from here north onto the reservation the first stream we strike is Badger creek, about ten miles from here, upon which is situated the Blackfoot Agency. Five miles north of Badger is Two Medicine, and ten miles further on comes Cut Bank where in the near future a new military post will probably be built. The next and last creek this side of the British line is South Fork of Milk river. These streams all run through wide and fertile valleys, and must sooner or later settle up like Sun river and the Teton. The water can be taken out of any of them with very little work.

Going south from here ten miles we come to Dupuyer creek. (Why so named I have been unable to find out, but after much inquiry among old time Frenchmen I am convinced that it refers in some manner to the fat on a buffalo's back, a commodity said to have been at one time quite common in this country, but now only referred to by some ancient Piegan Indian when Major Young's beef ration got short, which by the way is about always the case.) On the banks of this classic stream dwell many shepherds, among the most prominent of whom I would mention the names of O. G. and Frank Cooper, W. D. Jones and Mr. Scoffin. This creek is about twenty-five miles long, and empties into Birch about ten miles below this point.

The merchandising of this vicinity is looked after by Mr. Julian F. Burd, who is located at the crossing of the Agency road. Mr. Burd is also postmaster.

Fourteen miles above and on the same stream is located Kipp & Thomas' saw mill. The lower portion of Dupuyer creek is destitute of timber of any kind, but like Birch creek it is not far to plenty of good dry pine, and beside the Dry Fork coal bank is only from five to seven miles distant. About five miles below Burd's store on Dupuyer creek a company consisting of Kipp, Thomas and Upham, together with Benton parties, last fall commenced taking out a ditch capable of conveying 3,000 inches of water. About one mile of ditch was finished last fall and the balance will be pushed through with a rush early in the spring. The object of this company is to supply water for the immense tract of desert bench land lying south of Dupuyer creek, and between that stream and the Dry Fork of Marias. Several good locations yet remain unoccupied on Dupuyer creek besides the land adjacent to the proposed route of the big ditch.

On Birch creek the Catholics have a church for the good of the Indians under the charge of Rev. P. P. Prando, S. J., and intend building a Mission here in the spring, as I am informed.

Not much prospecting has ever been done along the mountains, but I know of two or three parties who will give it a trial next season. Several years ago good prospects were found on south fork of Two Medicine creek, but the parties were driven out by Indians (said to have been Kootenais and Nez Perces.) Last summer a party tried to go in but were compelled to come out on account of the files which were literally killing their stock. The best time to go in is in the spring or fall. Any one hankering after bear can be accommodated any day along the foothills. Some half breeds killed thirteen elk last week within two miles of Kipp's saw mill. Deer and mountain sheep are still to be found in the mountains in goodly numbers. Along the foot of the mountains are many lakes filled with trout. I have lived in various portions of Montana, but this section of Choteau county, in my judgment, is the chief of them all. Snow does not lie after a storm, but soon blows away or is taken off by a chinook. Articles of merchandise are sold here at about the same price as at Sun River and Old Agency, with freight added. Parties visiting this section looking for locations can find accommodations at both Dupuyer and Birch creeks.

In conclusion I would say a word about the Piegan Indians who inhabit the adjoining country, and whose presence in the vicinity might deter many from settling in this portion of Choteau county. This tribe numbers about 1,500 all told, the most of whom are gathered about the Agency. About twenty-five families live in houses along the north bank of Birch creek. About 100 have died in the last six months from disease brought on by exposure and semi-starvation. They are disappearing very fast, and are more to be pitied than feared. The greatest trouble they now are to settlers is from their begging proclivities. When they wish to commit depredations they generally go across the British line. U.

RANDOM NOTES

On Health and Climate of Sun River Valley, M. T.

If asked to name the most common and prevalent diseases of this section of Montana I would answer without hesitation rheumatism, catarrhal and nervous affections. But that these are due mainly to the climate is, in the absence of comparative statistics, questionable. Food and habit have much to do with the production of them all. The male adult Montanian, especially if he is an early settler, is aggrieved if he does not have meat of some kind three times a day, strong coffee night and morning, and not unfrequently uses to excess condiments and stimulating drinks. A regimen which strongly predisposes to inflammatory diseases to account for the prevalence of nervous affections, especially among females, the climate must have a full share of blame. The cold strong winds which blow almost continually for several months during every year make out-door exercise, fresh air and sunshine—the very essentials of health—almost impossible for the fairer and tenderer sex. These high winds, too, while sweeping along down hundreds of miles of bare dry mountain ranges and once various mineral deposits generate an unusual amount of electricity which doubtless acts injuriously upon the nerves, certain it is the amount of free active electricity is very great. Malarial fevers occur so rarely that some of the oldest practitioners of medicine in the territory have never seen a case. Cholera and yellow fever are unknown, and typhus and typhoid fevers, except in the mildest forms, are very rare. No general epidemic among the white population has occurred in the history of the territory. There have been occasional outbreaks of small-pox, scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria, but the mortality has always been very small, and the spread of the diseases, even in the larger towns, easily controlled by proper precautions. But to the pureness of our atmosphere more than to all things else we are indebted for our freedom from contageons. No poison germs seem to be native here, and such as we have are either imported or generated by the grossest violations of sanitary and hygienic laws.

The following observations kindly furnished by Signal Sergeant A. T. Matthews, at Fort Shaw, five miles distant, show the variations in thermometer and barometer for the year 1883 An examination of the records for the past ten years shows this to be about an average year, with possibly a larger rain fall than usual:

VARIATIONS FOR 1883.

Max. temp. for the year, *95 deg. 27.29 June.
Min. temp, " " —37 deg. 3 Feb.
Mean for the year *40.6.
Max. bar. (actual reading corrected for temp. and inst. error) Sept. 29th, 26.914.
Min. bar. (actual reading corrected for temp. and inst. error) Aug. 26th, 25.129.
Mean barometer, 26.315.
Amount of rainfall for the year, 12.81 inches.
Largest amount of rainfall per month (June) 2.58 inches.
Least amount " " " " (July) .15 inches.
Average " " " " 1.05 inche.
Prevailing direction of wind W.
Total movement, 75,977 miles.
Max. vel. of wind, 58 miles, Jan. 9th.
Altitude about 3,450 feet.
Number of clear days, 121.
Number of fair days, 170.
Number of cloudy days, 71.
Latitude, 47.29; Longitude, 31.45 W of Wash'n.

The climate is exceedingly dry at all seasons except during a part of the spring and early summer. Snow rarely lies on the ground long after a storm, the high westerly winds which prevail drive it into drifts, and the currents of dry air melt it and bear away the moisture as fast as it is melted. Snow, though, on the mountains, may be found in abundance all the year. A high temperature in summer rarely obtains for more than a few days in succession, and the nights are always cool and pleasant. The water of Sun river is pure, cool and wholesome—that reached in wells in most parts of the valley has a saline taste from percerration through the alkaline soil. Large bold springs are not uncommon, and in the upper part of the valley near the mountains there are a number whose waters are hot and largely impregnated with sulphur, iron, soda and magnesia. For the main part of the year the climate is very moderate, pleasant and healthful, and the number of fair days, probably greater than in any other part of our country. J. B. N.

CHESTNUT,

Its Stock and Agricultural Advantages—Pleasant Homes, Etc.

CHESTNUT, Feb. 11, 1884.

Editor of the Sun.

The first settler in the beautiful Chestnut valley was Robert Chestnut, in honor of whom it is named. This gentleman built the first cabin here in the fall of 1868. J. L. Perkins next located in the valley and soon others came, W. C. Sweet, Sieben Bros., Al. Hodson, James Austin, and T. L. Gorham being among the first. Mrs. J. A. Harris was, we believe, the first lady who came and was the only one for several years. The rude log cabins dotting the valley here and there were the homes of the bachelor settlers most of whom were engaged in freighting during the summer months, and used their log cabins for winter quarters only, while their weary and footsore cattle recuperated on the strength-giving bunch grass of the valley and its surrounding foothills.

To-day this valley presents a very different appearance. The log cabins of the early bachelor settlers have almost entirely disappeared, so also have the bachelors. Hundreds of elegant homes are here now, and little ones to gladden them with their childish voices; and in the fathers of these happy homes one can scarcely recognize the bachelors of the old cabins by the river.

At the upper end of the valley surrounded by rugged mountains on three sides is the cosy home of James Austin. Few prettier spots are to be found in Montana than this. Watermelons and tomatoes ripen in his garden. His orchard of young fruit trees thrive luxuriantly. A trout stream runs before his door, and deer and antelope feed on the surrounding mountain ridges.

Next comes the home of W. C. Sweet, surrounded by groves of cottonwood. Mr. S. is one of the cattle kings of the valley, an urbane gentleman, and one of the first of the old-time bachelor inhabitants to take unto himself a wife.

The neat little home of Dr. Edward James and the enclosed fields of W. W. Strang are passed on our way. Mr. Strang is engaged in the sheep business and has been very successful.

Judge J. A. Harris has one of the finest locations in the valley. He has several hundred acres of agricultural land under fence. The 'Squire has all the latest inventions in farm machinery, and is the model farmer of the valley. He is also postmaster of the Chestnut office.

Miron McDaniels runs a large dairy and supplies the valley with cheese and butter of superior quality.

Mr. Carter and Jackson Austin have nicely improved ranches in this vicinity.

Wm. Allen has a fine farming ranch, and is also engaged in the cattle business.

In the center of the valley stands the school house which has to be enlarged each year to accommodate the ever increasing children of the valley.

Near the school house is the ranch of John House, and a little further on the home of Jacob Sieben. He is engaged in the sheep business, and was the first who brought a flock into this valley. He has been remarkably successful in the business.

Henry Austin, who is engaged in the cattle business is also interested in a flock of sheep. Mr. A. was, we believe, the first in connection with John Lepley to bring stock cattle into this valley.

Robert Thoroughman is also a cattle man and chief of the valley round-up.

Stevens Bros. are two rustling young farmers, at present in the states for the purpose of taking unto themselves wives as we are creditably informed.

Al. Hodson has a beautiful little home on the banks of the old Missouri. We don't know whether to call him a cattle king or an agriculturalist as he is extensively engaged in both.

Henry Schramerick's elegant residence stands close by. He is engaged in farming, horse raising, and owns a saw mill in the mountains a few miles from here.

Joseph Bicket is the blacksmith of the valley.

John E. Morgan is owner of one of the largest horse ranches in the valley. He also owns a large herd of cattle.

A. Woodsworth, an old-timer, and one of the few remaining bachelors, has a nice ranch and cosy house, and we expect to print his marriage notice in one of our first issues. Mr. W. is a cattle man and a thorough good genial fellow.

J. L. Perkins has perhaps the finest residence in the valley. Mr. P. cultivates 100 acres of land, and is one of the largest cattle owners in Meagher county.

Mr. Lease has recently taken up a ranch on Burd creek near Mr. Perkins.

After leaving the home of J. L. Perkins we shortly enter the lower Chestnut valley, passing the ranch of Leslie Herberson, we come to Phil. Travis, Capt. Cadge, Chas. Johnson and Geo. Travis, all stockmen.

A little forther on and we pass into Steell valley in which are the stock ranches of Mr. Geo. Steell and Henry Kelly.

Alex. Werk has a large horse ranch at the mouth of Deep creek, on which are some of the finest horses to be found in Montana.

J. D. Cotter, an old-time miner, is located just above Mr. Werk, who informs us that J. D. will shortly take unto himself a wife. He has our sympathy.

About eight miles from its mouth is the Deep creek bridge, where are located the large branding corrals of the Chestnut round-up.

J. W. Hopkins keeps a hotel just across the bridge, and a few miles farther up the creek are the famous Deep creek coal mines, said to be the best in northeastern Montana.

There are many other settlers on this creek whose names we have not learned.

The town of Ulidia is situated in Chestnut valley at the ferry. Mr. Geo. Steell has a large store there under the management of Thos. L. Gorham. Mr. Steell also owns the large and commodious ferry at this point. Thos. Switzer keeps a hotel and restaurant, and the Holter Bros. have a large lumber yard. Mr. Gorham is postmaster. Ulidia will probably soon become a town of considerable importance as it is now connected with Sun River by telephone, and the Sun River southern stage passes through it twice a week. There are a number of families settled on the river opposite Chestnut, but we have been unable to learn their names or business at this writing. GRIP.

Shergold.

Named in honor of H. R. Shergold who formerly owned a sheep ranch there, is situated on the Missouri river fifteen miles from Sun River. Joseph Largent was one of the first to settle there, and located the finest hay ranch on the river. He also purchased the Shergold ranch last year, and now has a ranch of about 600 acres, the most of which is fenced in.

Wm. Ulm has a large hay ranch there also. Mr. U. was formerly engaged in the cattle business but now owns countless sheep.

David Churchill has a sheep ranch there, and there are several desirable ranches owned by Gus Alstron, Mr. Hagar, J. W. Staunton, Geo. Hornback and Chas. Holt. Hay is the principal product of these farms.

Mr. Holt owns the ranch formerly occupied by Garrison & Wyatt as winter quarters for their work cattle in the palmy days of freighting.

The residents of this settlement are endeavoring to obtain a postoffice which is much needed. We hope that they will be successful.

Subscribe for the SUN RIVER SUN.

STOCK BRANDS.

RANGER.

RANGE—Sun River.
Also owner of M brand on left shoulder
Well broken saddle horses, draught and buggy teams always on hand, and for sale cheap. Correspondence solicited. Address A. P. Clarke, Helena, or WILL H. CLARKE, Florence,
2-14y

ELLIS & BERKENBULE.
Also owners of the following brands:
DUN on left rib.
N on left hip.
Ear mark, half under crop on left ear.
RANGE—Sun River.
P. O Address, Sun River, M. T. 2-14y

ADVERTISEMENTS.

J. H. McKnight & Co

Post Traders and Dealers in

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

Fort Shaw, Montana,

Have on hand a large and varied stock of Goods bought for CASH and which we offer at Bottom Prices. Our stock consists in part of

Staple and Fancy Groceries,

Dry Goods, Notions, Boots and Shoes, Clothing, Hardware, Stoves and Tinware, Guns, Ammunition, Wooden Ware, Crockery, Glass, Lamps, Harness and Saddlery, Wool Sacks and Twine, Tents and Wagon Sheets.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Consisting in part of the Celebrated Wood Self-Binders and Mowers, Tiger Rakes, Sulky, Gang and Walking Plows, Harrows, Wheelbarrows and Pumps.

COOPER WAGONS.

We are agent for these celebrated wagons, which are conceded to be the best wagons made for the Western country. We respectfully invite our old friends and patrons to give us a call and examine goods and prices. Respt.,

Feb. 6, '84. J. H. McKnight & Co.

ESTABLISHED SUN RIVER 1878.

Livery, Feed and Sale STABLES.

J. W. Nixon, - - - Prop.

Finest Turnouts in the City.

Light and heavy rigs by the day, week or month | Fine buggy teams a specialty. Charges reasonable

Cor. Berkly Ave. & Carroll St. Sun River, M. T.

Wm. Glassman,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

SADDLES,

Harness, Chaps, Fine California Spurs, Bitts, &c.

All goods warranted as represented and satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

JUDITH BASIN, Mont. T., July 20, 1883.

MR. WM. GLASSMAN, Fort Benton, M. T.
DEAR SIR:—We the undersigned cow men of the Judith Basin, having used your saddles for the past year, find them far superior to all others for durability, and workmanship and for being the best cow saddles for general use.
Horace Brewster, Charles Brewster, Perry Westfall, James Howard, John Campbell, Jim Smith, Jesse Phelps, David S. Phelps, Ed Ogden, E. Swert, Sim Campbell, Wm Rowe

Orders by mail will receive prompt attention. Send for price list and photos of saddles.

Saddles to order a specialty. Fort Benton, Mont.

J. P. Dyas. S. Corson.

Dyas and Corson,

Proprietors of the SUN RIVER

Blacksmith & Wagon Shop.

All kinds of repairing done at reasonable rates. A stock of wood and iron on hand.

MEAT MARKET,

Berkenbule & Adams, Proprietors.

Fresh Meats, consisting of Beef Mutton, Pork, Etc., constantly on hand.

Main St., - - - Sun River, M. T.

LUMBER and SHINGLES.

Kissilpaw, Carter & Co.,

CARTERVILLE, - - M. T.

2-14y Correspondence Solicited.

H. B. STRONG,

Town and Ranch Property For Sale

Correspondence Solicited. SUN RIVER, M. T

George Steell,

Town Lots and Ranche Property For Sale.

Correspondence Solicited. Sun River, Mont.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

C. T. ROWLES. HENRY ROWLES. PRESLY ROWLES

C. T. Rowles & Bros.,

PROPRIETORS OF

"MAUD S."

Livery, Feed & Sale Stables.

The finest Turnouts in the Territory will be found at these Stables.

A specialty made of carrying passengers across the Birdtail Divide, thereby saving them a tedious and fatiguing night's ride by Stage.

HORSES BOUGHT, SOLD, OR BARTERED FOR.

Special inducements offered to the Traveling Public, and Turnouts furnished by the day, week or month, | Trustworthy Driver will be furnished with turnouts when desired. Horses boarded at reasonable rates.

Upper Main Street, Sun River, Montana.

James Gibson. A. S. Hall. E. C. Garrett.

GIBSON, HALL and GARRETT,

Hardware, Tinware, Stoves, &c., &c

JOB WORK SOLICITED.

Tin Roofing and Spouting a Specialty

Orders from the Country will receive PROMPT and careful attention, and are solicited. A Stock of Building Hardware on hand, which will be sold at a reasonable price.

MAIN ST., - - SUN RIVER, M. T.

2-14y

Isaac Bourk. H. Miller.

Bourk & Miller,

CONTRACTORS and BUILDERS,

Having recently received a lot of machinery from St. Louis, we are better prepared than ever to do all kinds of

First Class Work.

Scroll work of any kind made to order. Sash and door made to order on short notice and

Cheaper Than They Can Be Shipped Here.

We can contract cheaper than any other parties in Sun River, as we have the only machinery in city for doing all kinds of work. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Sun River, - - - Montana.

E. F. Watson. B. White.

---THE---

New Blacksmith and Wagon Shop.

All Work Promptly Attended to

A SPECIALTY OF SHOEING DRIVING AND SADDLE HORSES

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

E. F. WATSON, Blacksmith. B. WHITE, Wheelwright. Sun River, Mont.

2-14y

HOTEL SAMPLE ROOM.

I. S. Corson, Proprietor.

Choice Wines, Liquors and Cigars Constantly on Hand

Billiard and Pool Tables.

Private Club Rooms at the disposal of parties desiring.

MAIN ST., - - - SUN RIVER

2-14y

New Firm. New Business.

Bourk, Kauffman & Co.,

Sash, Blind and Door Factory,

Mouldings of all Kinds. Planing done to order.

1st ST., - - SUN RIVER, M. T

2-14y

Wing Lee (Jim Chinaman), Washing and Ironing done on short notice. Laundry work for private families solicited and satisfaction guaranteed. Laundry—Rear Stage Stables. SUN RIVER, - MONT. Washee.

2-14y.

Fort Shaw & Florence Stage Line.

Three Trips Per Week: Transports U. S. Mail, Passengers and Express. Close connection with Helena Coach.

2-14d T. G. WOODS, Prop.

SUN RIVER and NORTHERN STAGE LINE,

Carries U. S. Mail, Passengers and Express | Stages leave Sun River Wednesday and Saturday mornings each week at 9 o'clock.

2-14d LOUIE MORGAN, Prop.

Sun River Southern Stage Line.

JOE HILDERBRAND, PROP,

Transports United States Mail, Passengers and Express. | Tri-weekly trips per week—Tuesday and Friday—between Sun River and Ulidia.

2-14d Ben Steell, Local Agent

Helena and Fort Benton Stage Line

This Line of Coaches makes daily trips between Helena and Fort Benton, carrying U. S. Mail, Passengers and Express.

Coach for Fort Benton Leaves Sun River every morning at 4 o'clock, except Monday.

Coach for Helena Leaves Sun River every evening at 4 o'clock, except Sunday.

GEORGE STEELL, Local Agent, J. M. POWERS, Manager