

Weekly Tribune Established May 14, 1885.  
**GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE**  
 PUBLISHED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY  
 BY  
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 [INCORPORATED]  
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 Single copy, " .05  
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**GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE.**  
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1887.

**Semi-Weekly**

**PECK ONCE MORE.**

In his last communication to the River Press Peck makes a grander display of petty maliciousness, with the usual amount of egotism, than he has yet done. In the foolish belief that anything he may say will injure Great Falls, he recites an imaginary story in regard to a meeting held in this city the present year to take proper action concerning "land jumping," which had become rife on the part of a class found in every community who seek to profit by the work and expenditure of others, and "get something for nothing." The action and proceedings of that meeting were endorsed by the good people of Great Falls, barring those interested in schemes of land speculation. In regard to Peck's account of the affair it is only necessary to say that it is exaggerated and maliciously false and misleading from beginning to end. In resorting to such means of defamation, and as a defender and upholder of the land jumper he assumes a role entirely worthy of him.

Having utterly failed to show that northern Montana is a barren waste, as he started out to do with so great a flourish of trumpets, he now undertakes the work of annihilating Great Falls, and rushes to the fray as pompously and as self-opinionated as ever did Sancho Panza in his most unequal contests. It is bad for Peck that in this new onslaught he has no better groundwork than petty hate and falsehood.

But speaking of lands and land titles, we are reminded that sheep herders on Belt creek and Highwood have been "proving up" on land promiscuously, promptly "selling" the same as soon as possible. As Peck seems to be a stickler for correct titles, he might possibly be able to throw a little light on this subject. In case he is not moved to do so, it is just possible that special agent Gunn might "strike pay dirt," by prospecting in that vicinity.

The Independent contains many noble tributes to the late J. E. Hendry. The head of each department bears testimony to his worth and thus all contribute a wreath for his tomb, which will be as evergreen as the cypress. The veteran journalist, major Maginnis, says: "He was, in my opinion, one of the most capable and promising young men that I ever met. His loss is a public calamity."

The Cascade county officers are not "complicated" as the reproduction of a typographical error made us say. On the contrary they are all competent and will steer the bark into har-

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bor with colors flying on Monday next. Let our Benton contemporary calm its fears.

**CONGRESS AT WORK.**

There are signs that congress will find plenty to do, even if it does not engage in a sham fight on the tariff with the concealed design of sending the whole question to the country for final decision, as in the campaign of 1842. Some of the bills that have been introduced are in the line of public benefit. Senator Dolph of Oregon, proposes to appropriate \$126,000,000 in eleven annual instalments for fortifications and other sea coast defenses. Mr. Dolph, who seems to have his hands full, has also introduced bills for the admission of the territory of Washington into the union; also restoring to the United States certain lands granted to the Northern Pacific railroad company; also repealing the pre-emption and timber culture laws; also for the forfeiture of wagon road grants in Oregon; also to set apart lands for a public park in the Willamette valley, Oregon; also to encourage the manufacture of steel for modern arms and armor; also to provide heavy ordinances. The bill relative to the Northern Pacific, is probably that one with which the roaring farce of the "uncompromising conference committees" is biennially enacted. This time the bill should receive serious treatment. Mr. Dolph, we observe, has introduced a bill for the admission of Washington as a state. No one has yet done the same service for Montana, but we can afford to wait. As the man said who was going to be hanged, "they can't get along without us."

Senator Sherman comes to the front with a bill to promote commerce and peace between the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. Senator Cameron has re-introduced his subsidy bill which aims to promote foreign trade and at the same time encourage the American merchant marine. Congress might well carry into effect the Mexican reciprocity treaty before it makes any display of zeal in the interests of foreign trade.

What concerns Montana more closely are the bills to repeal the mining clause of the alien act, one of which makes the additional provision that foreigners may lease mill-sites or water rights in the territories for manufacturing or milling purposes. This amendment might be accepted as no obstacle should be placed in the way of foreigners who propose to invest money in factories or irrigation ditches in such places as New Mexico or Colorado. Congress should act promptly on these bills and afford the needed relief.

In financial circles attention will be given to senator Farwell's bills to repeal the internal revenue tax on tobacco in all forms; to repeal the import duties of sugar and tobacco; to increase the weight of the silver dollar to 521 grains and to perpetuate the natural banking system. In the last named bill Mr. Farwell proposes

to admit railroad bonds as a basis for national bank circulation in lieu of United States bonds which are being paid off so rapidly. Mr. Farwell's scheme provides plans for the public protection, but the country is never likely to accept railroad securities as the basis of its currency. Business men will also be interested in senator Rogan's bill to amend the inter-state commerce act so as to bring express cars, sleeping cars and all other cars owned private citizens or corporations within its operations. This and other bills to amend the inter-state act will merit careful scrutiny so that no injustice may be done the railroads or the public. All these measures are the product of the senate alone, and indicate that congress has entered on a busy session.

The Calumet and Hecla mine, which is on fire, is probably the greatest in the world. It has paid \$29,350,000 in dividends, and recently its \$25 shares sold for \$195, with probably few in the market. Butte no doubt regards the calamity with proper resignation.

In his postal telegraph bill Mr. Cullom leaves all Montana out of his trunk lines, Saint Paul being the limit of his lines northward. We hope Mr. Toole will have the bill amended properly if it does reach the house.

Protection to our wool interests should not be discredited because "trusts" are coming into vogue. The greatest of all these "trusts" is the Standard oil, which is in no way connected with the tariff.

Senator Cullom has brought in a bill to amend the inter-state commerce act, but the man whose pass was called in will look in vain for the needed "relief."

"Rancher" evidently believes that "Peck's bad boy" resides in Benton. See his letter.

**A Successful Shipment.**

J. M. Boardman, of the Milner Live Stock Company, whose cattle were shipped from the Benton stock yards through to Chicago in the Street stable cars, adds his testimony to that of many others as to the great value of those cars to range cattlemen who are compelled to ship long distances. Mr. Boardman, in writing to friends says the company's cattle reached Chicago in first-class condition—without a single accident—not even the loss of a horn. This is a remarkable record in the shipment of a large number of cattle, and proves beyond a doubt that the Street stable cars will hereafter be used by northern Montana shippers to the exclusion of the old fashioned stock car. While speaking of Mr. Boardman we will mention incidentally that he is at present in Baltimore, Maryland, visiting friends, where he will probably remain a month or two.—River Press.

**The City of Weddings.**

Though it has been kept very quiet the fact has leaked out that there will be a double wedding on Sunday next. Two estimable young ladies, sisters, who are well known in Benton society, will be married to two gentlemen, brothers, who are also well known in Fort Benton. We are not at liberty to mention names until the happy event shall have happened.—River Press, December 14.

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