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GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1890.

SEMI-WEEKLY

TIMELY TESTIMONY.

In the current number of the Farm Journal, (Philadelphia), the editor, Wilmer Atkinson, writes as follows:

For a little outing, we took a flying trip in November to the far northwest, through Dakota and Montana, over the great Manitoba railroad to Great Falls, on the upper Missouri river. This town of Great Falls, a thousand miles west of St. Paul, is one of great interest to us, from the fact that it has every element of future greatness. It has developed rapidly since our former visit, and now has between 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants. It has the finest water power of any city in America, and has plenty of coal within an hour's haul. The Boston & Montana Smelting company has just decided to establish its plant (to cost over $1,000,000) at this place, and later will remove its refinery also. No city in the Rocky mountain region is so well adapted for the smelting and refining of ores, having abundance of power, water, coal and lime, and eventually several other large smelters will go there.

We have no desire to place Great Falls in undue prominence before our readers, but when nature has done so much for a city as it has for Great Falls, we would be remiss not to mention the facts to our million readers. Next season it is expected that a railroad will be completed to the Belt mountain mining camps, the Pacific extension be put under contract, a large depot be erected, an electric street railway established, $300,000 dam built, and the smelter be got under way and hundreds of dwellings erected, all these operations requiring the labor of several thousand men, and a population twice as great as at present.

One drawback to the place is that, while wages are high, living is also expensive, all kinds of vegetables and fruits costing more than in the east. We imagine a lot of New Jersey truckers are wanted in that locality to feed the miners and city population. The climate is as mild as Philadelphia, plowing in spring very much earlier. Land is cheap and fertile, but the rain fall is limited in late summer.

THE Northwest Magazine for January gives much interesting information regarding Aberdeen, Dak., and Grand Forks, Dak. Every page reflects the progressive movement which permeats the northwest. We observe that Mr. Smalley helps to "down" the doomed ice palace, which was once the pride of St. Paul. But he advocates the union of the Twin Cities, which have now a strong rival in the twins at the head of the lake. The reasons for consolidation are strong and are likely to prevail.

MR. CARTER does well to put the Missouri river above Great Falls on his list of improvements for $50,000. In the TRIBUNE ANNUAL, Col. Wheeler tells what was done formerly by Major Maginnis and others to improve that portion of the great river. The growth of settlement now renders judicious improvements still more desirable.

CONGRESS is busy in devising schemes of public expenditure, but has done nothing so far to reduce the burdens of taxation. The senate bill of last session appears to have been abandoned so as to give a pretext for the hearings that are now in progress. The prospect is slight that any legislation will follow such hearings.

NEW schemes for the wool industry are proposed. Metcalf and some other manufacturers want free wool. Juillard & Co. call for ad valorem duties upon wool. The Manufacturers club of Philadelphia, favors higher duties on wool and woolens.

PROHIBITION does not prohibit in Deadwood, South Dakota. All the old saloons are running in full blast and three new ones have been started. The hardy miners of the Black hills are firmly opposed to sumptuary laws.

ALL the reports agree that Thomas C. Power received only 35 votes. This is not a majority of the joint assembly which consists of 71 members. Sanders had 38 votes. It follows that Power's claim is weaker than Sanders' which is weak enough.

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THE LEGISLATURE.

The present 90-day legislative session will terminate on February 20. There remain only 32 days to do work, which the constitutional convention estimated would require 90 days, and accordingly prolonged the first session 30 days.

The prospect is light that the legislature will make up for lost time in the 32 days that remain. The senate makes spasmodic displays of energy, but so far it has passed no bills, nor has it, in the opinion of some democratic senators, been legally organized. On Saturday Judge Hedges was still wrestling with rule question and was receiving little encouragement from the senators of either party. When Mr. Rickards was about to end a tie by voting two democratic senators turned the scale and defeated the plan to consider Hedges' rules. It was this set back that caused Rickards to say: "I am going home until you are ready to do something. When you want me you can send for me." This awful threat did not cause a panic. Brown, of Beaverhead in homely phrase said to the would-be dictator: "You will wear out the seat of your trousers before I send for you." Thus the senate may this week be without Rickards, who finds his occupation gone since the senators do not persist in creating ties for him to dissolve.

In the "houses" like anarchy reigns. The sense of helplessness paralyzes action. The members cannot legislate seriously when there is no sense of responsibility. The republican senators might by acting with the regular house break the deadlock, but they persist in considering the five Silver Bow imposters as elected and thus impose conditions which the democrats will never accept. The republican "house" is likewise responsible for the deadlock, for if its members would join the regulars, the republican senators would be compelled to recognize them as a co-ordinate branch of the legislature.

When the session expires Governor Toole will be asked to call another to prevent the state government from falling to pieces. Such special sessions are limited to the purpose for which they were called, but the governor could make the call comprehensive enough for the emergency.

It is doubtful, however, that Governor Toole will call any special session unless the Silver Bow claimants take themselves out of the way. He will not be a party to a repetition of the present state of things. He will not give Rickards another opportunity to override the constitution. Before any special session is held the way must be clear for useful legislation. Better no legislature than the present deadlock.

GOOD reports continue to come from the copper interests. The American Wool Reporter, which is good financial authority, says: "Copper shares have been very strong and rising. The speculation in them broadens and includes the lower priced shares. Copper is quoted higher in London and in New York, the Calumet & Hecla, according to rumor, having advanced its asking price to 15 cents. Eight of the Lake Superior mines are reported as producing 42,380 tons of mineral in 1889, as against 27,305 in 1886. The leading Montana companies are estimated to have produced 119,000,000 pounds in 1889, as against 98,500,000 pounds in 1888. The fire at the Anaconda mine is an important element in the copper situation, this mine having produced in 1889 about 70,000,000 pounds. By latest accounts that fire is still burning." It is noteworthy that Boston & Montana shares are $52, while last April they were as low as $28¼. The $25 shares ought to be still higher when the Great Falls smelter and refinery increases the company's business and profits as well.

THE Missoulian contains information about petroleum which is important if true. Jack Graham, a cattleman from Tobacco plains, informs that journal that just across the line near a branch of the Flathead river there is a running spring of rich petroleum. He says the oil is of good quality and exists in great abundance. He also claims that in various parts of the country along the Flathead in Missoula county oil can be found in such quantities as to give cause for the belief that it could be found in immense paying quantities. He says it is only a matter of a few years until the Flathead country will supply the entire State of Montana with coal and oil. Mr. Graham is en route to his old home in Virginia where he will spend the winter months.

IN Minneapolis the electric street railways have jumped all at once into popular favor. Tom Lowry is likewise so well pleased with the system that he is about to abandon both cables and horses in order to introduce it throughout the Twin Cities. This success confirms the wisdom of Great Falls in giving a franchise for electric lines. The cable method has its merits, but fair tests prove that electricity is best of all as motive power.

THE SENATORSHIPS.

It is not creditable to the republicans of the United States senate that Sanders, main reliance is on partisanship. He calculates that the republican senators will be so blinded by party feeling that they will disregard all sense of right and justice in order to admit him. We are confident that Sanders will find that he is laboring under a delusion. There are certainly enough republican senators of judicial mind and high principle to stand in the way of any nefarious scheme. Such senators are very reluctant to place on the same footing as themselves men of doubtful title. They know that such men are likely to betray others as well as the people of Montana. They do not relish the notion that it would be in the power of Sanders and his colleague to defeat some of the weightiest measures—measures that might have the support of an honestly elected majority. Party exigencies are not so great that the republican senators should take any chances and lower the dignity of their own position. The four states which the democratic house admitted have given the republicans six senators, thereby ensuring them a working majority during at least the present administration.

Moreover, it will be hard to arouse partisan feeling against Senator Maginnis. His record is well-known at Washington. As a soldier of the Union who enjoyed the friendship of Grant and Sheridan his claims to honorable treatment are strong and will not be disregarded at a time when the Grand Army of the Republic is accorded more weight in public affairs than it enjoyed even under the leadership of Logan.

Mr. Clark's position is likewise strong. He is essentially a business man who has never been associated with party bitterness. As president of both constitutional conventions he earned the respect of republicans as well as that of his own party. He holds to the cardinal principles of democracy, but like Major Maginnis he is in accord with leading republicans on all matters of north-eastern concern.

Whatever course the senate adopts the democratic position is strong. If it decides not "to go behind the returns" then Maginnis and Clark as the bearers of Governor Toole's certificate are entitled to immediate admission. If the senate makes a more searching inquiry it must come to the conclusion that Jack and Hall were a pair of knaves so far as the Silver Bow returns are concerned.

THOSE who supposed that the Ohio democrats might be wheedled out of the senatorship will be disappointed. Calvin S. Brice received the caucus nomination on the second ballot and will be elected. He will be a more active and efficient senator than Henry B. Payne whom he will succeed.

HELENA is about to follow the example of Great Falls in establishing a system of electric railways, of which the Broadwater franchise will be the parent stem. Other cities may keep up with Great Falls, but none will outdo her in modern improvements.

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999 do 100 are		99,900
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