

The Helena Independent has taken a remarkable position in regard to the location of the so-called agricultural college. It claims that the other institutions need not be provided for now and that more time should be taken to consider the question of their location, at the same time arguing that the "agricultural" college, perhaps the most important of them all, should be located in the park, as it were, without the least knowledge on the part of the legislators of the scope of the institution or the important considerations that should govern in its location. In other words, according to the Independent, we should wait two years before determining the proper site for the deaf and dumb institute, but this institute of learning that may be made to overshadow all others in the northwest should be squatted down in the Gallatin valley where they raise big pumpkins and brewer's barley, without giving to the subject more than a passing thought! There is an apparent lack of consistency in the position taken by our esteemed capital contemporary.

But it is said by those who make an exception of this institution and who would locate it in haste (to probably regret the action at their leisure) that the state will lose money if action in the premises is postponed. This is not quite clear to us. Congress has appropriated \$15,000 annually for an agricultural college in each state and by more recent act an additional donation of \$1,000 each year is made for ten years, after which the appropriation will be \$25,000 annually, without including the endowment for experimental stations in connection with these institutions. Now, there is no back action to these statutes. The appropriation accrues, not from the date of the enactment of the law, but from the time the state in fact has such an institution as is contemplated in the several acts on the subject and is ready to enter upon the work of education. The state, having no funds, can not now undertake the purchase of grounds or the erection of buildings, and until that is done we doubt if a dollar of the appropriation can be touched. But how are we to lose money when this appropriation is perpetual? If the college is not established until 1893, \$18,000 will be received from the government that year, \$19,000 the next, and so on until \$25,000 is reached, which will then be the regular offering from Uncle Sam. This comes every year, and there is no loss, except the loss of time, whether we begin next year or this, and time is no more essential as regards the agricultural college than with reference to the state university, school of mines, etc. If it is proper to take more time to consider the location of one it is of all.

But the Independent, as well as the author of the bill to locate the agricultural college at Bozeman (Senator Hoffman), hardly appreciates the scope of the institution which the government so liberally endows. If it were an agricultural college pure and simple it might as well be located at Ulet or Hole-in-the-Wall as in the Gallatin region for all the good it would do or influence it would have. Congress broadens the scope of this institution, however, so as to include instruction in all the English branches, in mathematics, in engineering, and "in the mechanical arts." The words in quotations, especially, constitute the hope of this proposed institute. It can be made a great school of manual training and mechanical arts, in connection with other courses, and what more appropriate location for such an institution could be found than Great Falls, the manufacturing and industrial center of the state? Here this broad-based college would become an institute of which Montana would have reason to be proud, while as an "agricultural" college solely, as contemplated in Senator Hoffman's bill, it would pass a sickly existence amid the oats, barley, and potatoes of the Gallatin valley. Montana is not essentially a farming country, and the young men and young women of the state are not yearning to learn the science of agriculture. They do want, however, an education in the various English branches, in mathematics, in engineering, and, of essential importance, in the mechanical arts.

If our solons will stop to consider these things they will probably see that it is not wise to act in haste in locating this institution. It merits more consideration at their hands than it is proposed by Senator Hoffman and the Independent to give it.

GREAT FALLS.

While the season of 1891 has not yet opened there is evidence of activity on every hand and brighter prospects for Great Falls than ever before in her history. Contracts have been let and plans are being prepared up to this time for buildings that will cost over \$500,000, without including the Butte and Boston smelter, the plans and details of which are being perfected at the company's office in Boston. The structure to be erected by the First National bank and Townsite company will alone cost in the neighborhood of \$125,000, and that of the Great Falls Realty company will be a close second in the matter of cost and extent. These buildings are singled out of many others now in course of erection because they will be exceptionally fine structures, equal if not superior to any in the state. While our city more than doubled in population in 1890 and buildings sprang up everywhere as if by magic, this year will witness a greater growth and at the same time a more substantial one. No other Montana city will keep pace with Great Falls this year in the march of progress. This is already an evident fact and as the season advances no one can doubt it.

In real estate there is even now much activity. The list of sales of lots by the Townsite company since the first of this month, published elsewhere, is good evidence of the fact. The several real-estate agents have also been active and their sales are unusually large for this season. The demand for realty will be constantly increasing, and a lively business is an assurance. While prices are of course higher than they were last year there are still golden opportunities to make "big money" in Great Falls dirt, and many will profit by them.

We publish in another column the information that Mr. Guthrie of Foley Bros. & Guthrie will arrive here in a few days to begin work on the railroad extensions into Nebart and Barker. This means a closer union of Great Falls and these rich mineral districts with reciprocal benefits. The city and camps will alike feel the good results.

With the return of spring work on an extensive scale will be resumed in the Boston & Montana smelter and the present year will see that great enterprise completed. The Butte & Boston will also be under way and the capacity of the silver smelter will be largely increased. From an industrial standpoint, 1891 will be a red letter year for Great Falls.

In connection with the completion of the dam will come the appliance for various purposes of electricity, first to be manifested in the extension of electric railway lines to all parts of the city and suburbs. It is given out authoritatively that Great Falls will have twelve miles of electric railway this year.

We have mentioned some of the evidences of Great Falls' prosperity and the factors that produce it, but many others could be cited. The catalogue is a long one. It might be added that our people are not selfish and that they extend to everybody an invitation to join with them in building up at the Missouri river cataraets the greatest city between Minneapolis and the Pacific ocean.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

THE TRIBUNE will watch closely to note whether or not the people of Helena, and especially their representatives in the legislature, are in accord with the Independent in asking that the "agricultural" college be located "sight unseen" as the boys trade jack-knives, and planted in the Gallatin valley, because, as alleged, there is more or less oats and barley grown in that region. It will be interesting to observe if the position taken by that paper receives the semblance of indorsement from the people of the temporary capital.

Right here we wish to express the honest conviction that the Independent in its supreme wisdom advocates the location of the "agricultural" college at Bozeman on the supposition that a rival for the permanent capital would thus be placated and that Helena would have easier "sailing" in 1892, and without much, if any, regard for the welfare of the institution in question or the educational interests of the state. It must know as does everybody not moved by selfish aims, that an agricultural college pure and simple can never be a success in Montana, but that this institution when conducted on the broader scale contemplated in the act of congress—which includes instruction in all branches of the English languages, in mathematics,

engineering and the mechanical arts—may become a power in the land. Agriculture "as she is taught" must be a side issue, and the greatness and glory of this college so liberally endowed by the general government must depend upon building up a school of manual training, of engineering, of mechanics, etc. On this basis where in is Bozeman superior as a location to any other town in the state and is not Great Falls, the acknowledged home of the mechanical arts, the site par excellence for such an institution?

But we must revert to the apparent motive of the Independent and the Helena press generally, which is to head off Bozeman as a rival for the permanent capital. It is difficult to account for their present pretensions of affection on any other ground. Let us see what they are going to gain by it. Great Falls takes the broad and liberal ground, that the matter of the location of the several state institutions should be postponed until the next session of the legislature, inasmuch as there is not a dollar in the treasury that can be appropriated for the erection of buildings. To locate any of them now does not mean that the least progress will be made in two years toward building them up, and such hasty and unnecessary action might result in errors of location that would forever cripple them and destroy their influence. We are not asking that the agricultural (so called) college or the state university be located here, but that the whole matter be deferred for two years so that more intelligent action in the premises may be taken. This is the unanimous wish of the people of Cascade county and we believe of northern Montana. At present this important section is almost a unit in favor of Helena for the permanent capital, but the press of that city is taking exactly the proper course to alienate this support. The penny wise pound foolish policy is typically portrayed. Where one vote would be gained in the Gallatin valley five would be lost here. At the last election Great Falls ranked third in voting population, and in 1892 it will not be far from first place, and in all probability will cast a larger vote than Helena. If this city is not in the field for the capital its vote will come pretty near determining where the seat of government shall be. By that time Great Falls and Butte will be closely bound by business ties, and their combined action would make it very unhealthy for the Last Chance city. Of course the latter would have Bozeman to fall back on, but it would be found to be a rather frail support.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that even from the standpoint of gaining vantage-ground for the coming capital fight, our esteemed Helena contemporaries are making a distressing mistake in advocating the location of the "agricultural" college in the Gallatin valley. As to any other excuse or reason for it, there is none.

GENEROUS HELENA.

The astute Helena Independent is out advocating Bozeman as the proper location for the agricultural college. There are good reasons to believe that the people of Helena would be pleased to see the agricultural college located at Bozeman. It is also reasonable to expect hearty support from Helena for the location of the school of mines at Butte. Butte and Bozeman are the two formidable candidates for the capital, and the greater the number of favors conferred upon these two cities the more campaign arguments will the temporary capital have. We have no doubt that if Helena could secretly locate the public institutions this winter she would give the agricultural college, the school of deaf mutes, the normal school and penitentiary to Bozeman; the school of mines, the university and several other institutions to Butte, and with her index finger pointing to these institutions she would go through the capital campaign in 1892, crying, "and yet they call me hog."—Butte Miner.

Great Falls is making loud and pretentious claims that she is almost ready to supersede Helena as "the commercial and financial center of Montana." It may be necessary to commence overhauling our geographies that at short notice one may be able to answer what must become a frequent question, "Where is Great Falls, anyway?"—Seattle Post Intelligencer.

If the Post Intelligencer man will come over here we will take pleasure in showing him around the most substantial city of 6,000 people he ever saw, and at the same time will wager \$100 in delinquent subscriptions that Great Falls will occupy a bigger place than Seattle on the map in five years from date.

The prospects for the Teton and Valley county bills becoming laws during the present week are excellent. The Teton bill is likely to pass the house today, and it will meet prompt approval in the senate. The Valley bill has passed the senate, and it is understood will meet like favor in the lower legislative branch.

GEN. SHERMAN was the only one of the more noted Union commanders who lived beyond his 70th year. Grant, Sheridan, Thomas, Hancock, McClellan, Meade, Warren, McDowell, Halleck, Hooker, Burnside and Logan all dropped into soldiers' graves before reaching the moderate limit of life. Among the familiar names of generals of the war still living are Rosecrans, Buell, Butler, Banks, Howard and Palmer, all past 70.

BEAUTIES OF PROTECTION.

In a tabulated statement the Pittsburgh Dispatch sets forth the profits earned in 1890 by the different iron firms of that city. It was prepared by Mr. N Dale, an expert, and it certainly demonstrates that protection is a good thing—for the iron manufacturers. Following is the list:

- Pennsylvania Forge company, \$24,000.
- Cheese, Cook & Co., \$45,000.
- Pittsburg Forge and Iron works, \$50,000.
- Keystone works, \$100,000.
- Millvale works, \$140,000.
- Republic Iron works, \$175,000.
- Northbrook works, \$180,000.
- Sho Iron works, \$190,000.
- Sligo Iron works, \$190,000.
- Lindsay & McCutcheon, \$100,000.
- J. Painter, Sons & Co., \$200,000.
- Sable Iron works, \$144,000.
- Lloyd, Sons & Co., \$150,000.
- Solar Iron & Steel works, \$100,000.
- Brown & Co., \$300,000.
- Howe, Brown & Co., \$100,000.
- Shoenberger & Co., \$750,000.
- Singer, Nimie & Co., \$500,000.
- Spang, Chalfant & Co., \$800,000.
- A. M. Myers & Co., \$900,000.
- Park Bros. & Co., \$900,000.
- Olivier Iron and Steel company, \$1,500,000.
- Jones & Laughlins, \$2,400,000.
- Carnegie Bros. and Carnegie, Phipps & Co., \$5,000,000.
- Dillon Steel works, \$400,000.
- Miller, Metcalf, Parkin & Co., \$500,000.
- Labelle Steel mill, \$150,000.
- Strong Steel and Iron works, \$600,000.
- Glendon Siska works, \$125,000.
- Pittsburg Tube works, \$450,000.
- Pennsylvania Tube works, \$2,000,000.

This is quite an elegant exhibition of earnings, due, so far as excess of legitimate profits are concerned, to the tariff. It will be noted that the Carnegie Bros made a clean up of \$5,000,000, and of course they are ardent supporters of the protective system, the senior Mr. Carnegie being an ardent supporter of that policy. He finds it quite profitable to be a protectionist.

The St. Paul Globe indorses Tom Lowry of Minneapolis for secretary of the treasury in the following neat manner, but of course Mr. Lowry will not get the appointment. It will go to Calico Charley Foster, Clarkson, or some other tenth-rate statesman. The Globe says: "Thomas Lowry has been named as Windom's successor as secretary of the treasury. He has not been so named by the president, but by men who know him much better than the president does. But the trouble in this case, we fear, will be that, should the president come to know Mr. Lowry well, he might not want him in his cabinet, for the reason that his secretary of the treasury would then be a bigger man than the president himself." Mr. Lowry is one of the broadest and clearest-headed men of this country, either east or west. He is one of the level-headed, as well as biggest-brained men. He could have had the seat in the United States senate now occupied by Mr. Washburn by saying the word, but he did not want it. It would not suit him. He is too active a man, too much of a hustler, to stand embalmment among the mummies of Capitol hill. But as secretary of the treasury Mr. Lowry would be a success in the broadest sense. In that position he would find full scope for his splendid ability and unlimited energy. Hard work agrees with him. He fattens on wrestling with the most difficult problems. He is not a theorist on any subject, but is thoroughly practical in all his undertakings. He knows a good deal about finance and financing, but he does not know it all, and he knows he does not. In fact, he does not know that he knows as much as he does know, or as other people know that he knows."

Tom Power has evidently been hunting up his "briny business men" of Montana who oppose free coinage of silver. On Thursday one W. H. Beck, who is alleged to be engaged in silver mining in this state, appeared before the coinage committee of the house at Washington and made an argument against the silver bill. A letter was also read from Benjamin Franklin White, the compromise governor of the territory for a brief spell, in which he took grounds against the silver bill. One J. S. Moore also made a statement to the same effect. These are all the "briny business men" the pseudo senator could muster, and, barring White, they are not known outside of their own townships.

It is stated on good authority of Calvia & Brice that the object of the late Gould trip was to look after the Central and South American trade. He said: "It was our desire to find what steps were necessary to carry out the intentions of the international congress to establish trade between these countries. We are completing our arrangements as rapidly as possible and have already two southern ports, Brunswick, Ga. and Mobile, Ala. From these seaport terminals we will establish several lines of steamers to the Spanish-American countries."

The senate has recommended an appropriation of \$75,000 for a world's fair exhibit, and the appointment of sixteen commissioners, one from each county.

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