

THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY
BY
THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY.
(INCORPORATED.)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Mail subscriptions must be paid in advance.
DAILY.
One year by mail, \$10.00
Six months, " 5.00
One month, " 1.00
One week, by carrier, 25
WEEKLY.
One year by mail, \$3.00
Six months, " 1.50
Three months, " 1.00
Single copy, " 5
All city subscribers to Daily delivered by carrier.
Advertising rates furnished on application.
The circulation of the Tribune in Northern Montana is guaranteed to exceed that of any paper published in the state.
Subscribers desiring their address changed must send their former address; this should be remembered.
Address: TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Great Falls, Montana.

1901. SEPT. 12, SATURDAY.

DOOR OPENED FOR FRAUD.

When the disability pension bill was before the last congress the true friends of the worthy union soldier fought it on the ground that it would open wide the door for frauds upon the pension bureau, and that it was an insult to those who had fought it through the war and retired with an honorable discharge in their pockets. The following from the Chicago Herald will show that the predictions of the opposition have been fulfilled to the letter:

A circular issued by a local pension claim agent contains the following interesting paragraphs:

We would like to have you call at our office, at your convenience, to consult with us regarding your pension or other war claim business.

The laws are now very liberal, and much of the red tape of past years has been done away with. The evidence needed is very simple.

Soldiers or officers dishonorably discharged or dismissed from the service can now get pensions.

Charges of desertion can often be canceled.

Old, rejected cases can be reopened and proved up under the new rules of evidence.

The claim agents of the country lobbied the bill through and now they are growing fat on fees for securing pensions for such fellows as are named in the circular. It was not that disability pensions were objectionable that the bill was so vigorously opposed. Not by any means. The opposition declared it was so framed that undeserving persons could obtain pensions as well as deserving ones. But the lobbying pension agents who hung round for fat fees and the majority in congress that proposed to shape pension legislation to catch votes, raised a partisan cry in its support and many legislators intelligent enough to see why the bill was so hotly pressed and how it would work were not honest enough or free enough from party shackles, or courageous enough to vote against it and it became a law.

In a pension department noted for its corrupt methods and practices, a department reckless, extravagant, and shameless, this law is interpreted exactly as its opponents foresaw it would be. Hear the pension agents: "Soldiers and officers dishonorably discharged or dismissed from the service can now get a pension." This means that the craven who was untrue to his flag and his country; the soldier who dishonored his comrades by his presence and was kicked out of the service; is placed upon the same footing with the veteran who never turned his back to the enemy or did aught to tarnish his name and fame. So confident are the claim agents of this that they dare openly advertise their ability to secure pensions for the unworthy. They know they can carry out their promises. With them and the pension bureau it is simply a matter of "addition, division, and silence." The door is opened for fraud.

JUDGMENT PASSED.

The Tribune regrets to see the position taken by a Butte weekly newspaper in the Penrose murder trial. The defendants may be innocent. If so they will be discharged without prejudice to their good name. But if they be proven guilty the gallows should receive them. A more dastardly crime was never committed in Montana and the perpetrators of it should hang higher than Haman. The men arrested for the crime are now undergoing an examination. While it is in progress public prints should pass no opinion calculated to influence the examination either way. But the By-stander takes it upon itself to pass judgment upon the matter as follows:

"It is evident that the prosecution in the Penrose case are not after the right parties. They have been misled and must look to some other clue to trace out the men who did the cowardly and unnatural deed. The community have heard all the evidence the prosecution has had to offer, and it has made up its mind that a dog would not be punished for killing sheep on such evidence."

The total gain in population in the United States during the past ten years was 24.82 per cent. Of this 10.15 per cent was immigration, leaving the natural increase only a little more than 14 per cent. The country ought to do better than that. It is healthy, at peace with the world, the people are vigorous as a rule and well fed. An increase of only 1 and 1-6 per cent a year shows there is something wrong. Our forefathers and mothers whose lives were pure and simple were much more prolific. What has our advanced civilization with its late hours, high nervous tension, indigestible banquets, dissipation and follies of fashion to do with this lack of natural increase in population?

Mr. Porter, superintendent of the census, comes very high to the people. The tenth census, which was very elaborate and satisfactory, cost the people \$4,794,000. Mr. Porter has thus far made the eleventh census cost them \$7,943,994. What it will cost when finished no man can tell, but it goes without saying it will be an unsatisfactory census when finished.

At this writing the jury in the Davis case is still out. It begins to look to the outsider as though there were some stubborn jurors to be convinced.

Baby carriages and iron wagons at Calkins' book store.

MONTANA'S COPPER OUTPUT.

As a mineral wealth producer Montana now stands at the head of all the states and territories in the union. It is the largest silver producer in the country and now it takes first rank as a copper producer. According to census bulletin No. 96, prepared under the supervision of Dr. D. F. Day, special agent in charge of the division of mines and mining of the census bureau, the copper product of the United States for the year 1899 was as follows:

	Pounds.
Montana	92,222,444
Michigan	87,455,675
Arizona	31,586,135
New Mexico	3,686,137
Colorado	1,170,033
Idaho	155,490
Nevada	26,420
Utah	65,469
California	151,505
Wyoming	100,000
Vermont	72,000
Southern states	18,144
Lead smelters and refiners	3,345,432
Total	226,055,802

The report shows the United States to be the largest copper producing country in the world with Montana at the head of the procession. The total cost of producing this 113,028 short tons was over \$12,000,000, and the total number of employes exclusive of office force, 8,721. When it is considered that ten years ago the copper output of Montana was too insignificant to mention it will be conceded the state has made wonderful progress in the production of the metal. Still as far as its metal outputs are concerned the industries are only in their infancy. Its silver outputs are keeping pace with those of copper, while the production of lead, coal and iron is but hardly begun. What a wonderful country is Montana. Untold wealth in its grasses; untold millions in its coal, lead, iron and lumber, and the riches of kingdoms in its gold, silver and copper mines. Great is Montana.

THE ESTRAY LAW AGAIN.

Some few days ago the TRIBUNE expressed the opinion that the stray law had been unjustly attacked and gave its reasons for the belief. Since then the state board of stock commissioners met at Helena and adjourned. The proceedings had are thus referred to by the New Northwest:

At this meeting particular inquiry was made as to the cause of the numerous complaints which have been lodged against the enforcement of the new stray law, and in every case it was found that they were either based upon rumors which had no foundation of truth or came from persons who had an evil motive in casting discredit upon the measure. It was decided that the law so far had proved to be beneficial, and while in some respects it might be changed for the better, yet its operation as a whole had been beneficial. It was decided that no more strays will be gathered this year, and that hereafter they will be collected annually. Stock inspectors were authorized to prosecute any one who was found to be working stray horses. It was found that a number of people who have stray horses are using them, some of whom refused to surrender them to the agents. It is to reach this class that the resolution was passed.

HERE is a pointer for Peffer, Simpson et al. Recent cablegrams state that at a workingmen's convention held in Drammen, Norway, it was resolved that the government should purchase and furnish with seed, stock and farming implements a farm for each unemployed man in that country. Now there is some sense and stalwart check to admire in such a demand. Peffer and Simpson, instead of asking this government simply to loan money to the people, should broaden their demand and request it also to give a well-stocked and equipped farm to each of them. There would be some style in this.

The republican party in Massachusetts is having a peck of trouble. It has during the last quarter of a century daily demanded that the south should give the "colored man and brother" a share of the offices as they were being passed around. Now this same "colored man and brother" demands that the republican party of that state shall nominate one of his own race for state auditor, and threatens that thousands of colored men will bolt the ticket if the nomination be not made. And so the party of great moral ideas in Massachusetts is in a deal of trouble.

It is intimated in high political quarters that Secretary Foster's extension of time for the continuance of the 2 per cent is a part of the electioneering schemes for 1892. The fat fryers will be accorded every facility to add a feather or two to their nests in the shape of extensions of time in which to turn over their 4 1/2 per cent for 2 per cent. Foster and Harrison know what he is in the treasury department for.

MR. PORTER, superintendent of the census, comes very high to the people. The tenth census, which was very elaborate and satisfactory, cost the people \$4,794,000. Mr. Porter has thus far made the eleventh census cost them \$7,943,994. What it will cost when finished no man can tell, but it goes without saying it will be an unsatisfactory census when finished.

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CARRIED INTO COURT.

Under the above headline the Anaconda Standard gives an interesting account of how the money part of Tom Carter's first campaign in 1888 has found its way into the courts. According to the Standard's version of the matter Mr. Carter needed a couple thousand dollars at the close of his campaign to settle up with the strikers and heeled who served him so faithfully upon election day. The money was obtained upon a note indorsed by nearly a score of prominent Helena republicans, among whom were Sanders and Power and Hershfield, Carter, Seligman and Kleinschmidt. The indorsers, however, understood that someone else should pay the note. The note was made in December, 1888, and was held by Mr. Hershfield in his bank until it was long past due. Then the bank transferred it, for the purpose of bringing an action in court, to J. W. Kinsley, who in turn assigned it to Carrie S. Kinsley, in whose name the suit is brought.

The whole matter must be not only rough on Carter, but humiliating to the republican party of the state. By the payment of about \$100 apiece the note could be satisfied and the case would have been kept out of the courts and from public knowledge. But it appears that the men who put their names to the note are not built that way. They are thrifty gentlemen and as long as there is nothing in it by settling they will let Hershfield get his money as he may. The Standard in speaking of this side of the matter observes that "Power, if he has the money he is reported to be worth, could pay it without worry—the republican party in Montana has humiliated itself so much on Power's account that a two-thousand-dollar check would be the smallest sort of a return on his part. But Power isn't up to that sort of thing; indeed, he puts in a separate answer in the case pending in Helena. He is disposed to be about as generous now as he was when he worked the thirty-four precinct fraud when Senator Turpie said of him: 'Power wanted Pennycook to throw out precinct thirty-four and didn't care how he did it, providing it didn't cost too much. Power may have been dishonest, he may have been unscrupulous, but he is no spendthrift.'" It looks as though Turpie might have truthfully said the same thing about the others on the note. They are no spendthrifts.

BITS OF INFORMATION.

Two curious bits of information have recently reached this country from London. The first is that British capitalists who would like to take advantage of the McKinley-made monopolistic opportunities by establishing manufacturing plants in this country, are, in the language of the dispatch, "shy of laying out money to erect works in America which a popular vote at any time might render useless." John Bull is level-headed in this matter. He doesn't propose to be caught with expensive manufacturing plants on his hands in this country when a justly indignant people shall knock the monopoly breeding McKinley tariff higher than Gilderoy's kite. This they are liable to do in the not distant future, or as the British capitalists put it, "at any time."

The second bit of information is that British-made burlaps are being sent to this country in which to carry American grain back to the English market because the American farmer can not stand the prices the home burlap syndicate has fixed for the sale of the article. This burlap trust is the outgrowth of the illegitimate protection that industry secured in the McKinley tariff. It is trying to rob the farmer and the farmer seeks protection by patronizing a foreign market. When will the people learn that the tariff is a grinding tax?

WOOL VALUES.

As the McKinleyites would say, "The tariff has not yet got in its work on wool." Time was asked to give it a chance. Time has been had. It was said that as soon as manufacturers commenced to buy the price of wool would raise. Manufacturers are buying, and here is what Bradstreet's says about it:

"Wool values have been at a standstill during the last two months. Prices of domestic wool have not been affected by the heavy buying which has been done by the larger mills. With money rates lower and commercial paper being accepted more freely than heretofore, the buying is not only expected to be heavier but distributed among a larger number of mills. The goods markets are in excellent condition, but as long as wool is as low as it is at present manufacturers can not expect to obtain higher prices for their products. A disposition is noted in some lines to place larger orders, while the production of all kinds of woolen and worsted goods is expected to show a very large increase over that of last year."

THE Davis will case bids fair to become celebrated in the annals of will litigation. Whether the jury shall agree or disagree the matter will not end in the Butte court. It said the cost of the case has already reached \$120,000 and it has only begun. This fact may induce the principals in the suit to compromise in order to save the great estate from the lawyers and witnesses.

THE Minneapolis Journal is authority for the statement that if President Harrison does not obtain a renomination he will return to the practice of law. The firm will be Russell B. Harrison & Father.

REPUBLICAN SILVER BUGABOO

The principal arguments used against the Bland bill in 1878 were that its passage would send all the gold out of the country and that all the silver in the world would be pouring into it. The same old arguments about the flight of gold and irruption of silver have been employed by gold bugs ever since when efforts have been made in congress to broaden the office of the white metal. But gold remains and foreign silver fails to overwhelm us. As the prophesies of calamity have failed of fulfillment the intelligent people of the country will take little stock in the dismal croaking of gold bugs over the democratic proposition to rehabilitate silver with all its old time royal prerogatives and launch it out side by side with gold in the monetary channels of America.

The latest prognostications of evil comes in the shape of a gold bug assurance that Germany and Holland are preparing to unload upon the American market the vast sums of silver hoarded in their treasuries for which they have—according to these wisecracks—no use, in case a free and unlimited coinage law be enacted by the next congress. That old song has been sung for many years. But suppose it does come, what then. The owners would take back with them good American dollars for the silver bullion they brought over. And even if they did not there would be use here for it all. But there is not the least reason that the silver of Europe will find its way to American mints. That country has use for all its silver and it would like to have much more. With silver at par in all parts of the United States it would be at par in all the markets the United States buys and sells. The republican silver bugaboo disappears in the presence of cold facts.

CORN-FED cattle have not been scarcer in years than at present. The grass has been so good in many localities that the cattle have done almost as well as they would have done with some corn. Even where this has not been the case farmers have been unwilling to put much corn into cattle, considering the prices of grain and beef, and where corn feeding has been done the feeders have doled it out very sparingly. In portions of Illinois, especially in the southern counties, some feeders have been cutting up new corn and feeding to cattle on the stalk, and the indications are that feed lots will be busy as soon as the new crop becomes available.—Drovers' Journal.

THE Pioneer Press gives Wanamaker a sly punch in the ribs when it says there is unnecessary cruelty in the criticism leveled at Postmaster General Wanamaker that his requesting county seat postmasters to inspect all the offices in their counties at their own expense is a notion of his carried from his bargain counter into the postoffice department. The desire to get something for nothing may be at the bottom of it, but the public at large will doubtless profit by the reports made.

It is said Salt Lake City is making active preparations for the reception and entertainment of the delegates to the irrigation convention which will meet there next Tuesday, the 15th inst. The convention promises to be one of the largest and most interesting ever convened in the west. Among the topics to be considered is the preservation of natural water supplies by the construction of reservoirs, and the reclamation of the arid lands of the trans-Missouri country. The consideration of these matters by the Salt Lake congress will doubtless do much toward exciting a greater interest throughout the east in the question of irrigation.

At the recent meeting of the Montana Press association J. M. Quinn, editor of the Butte Miner, was elected president for the ensuing year. The selection is a most excellent one and reflects quite as much credit upon the good judgment of the members of the association as it does upon the deserving recipient of their confidence and votes. Editor Quinn is an affable gentleman, an entertaining speaker, and will make a model presiding officer. The TRIBUNE extends congratulations.

THERE is some talk in the east of forming a Liars' trust as an auxiliary of the national republican campaign committee. Why not leave the whole business to the Inter Mountain and two or three other Montana republican newspapers? They can fill the bill and at the same time give valuable tips to the average eastern liar. A Liars' trust without the Inter Mountain in it would be a play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out.

THE St. Paul Globe thinks that "the postmasters take much undemonstrative satisfaction at seeing the papers poke fun at Wanamaker for his invitation to them to visit the offices about the country at their own expense. In one instance there would be 150 offices to look up and inspect. They will ask to be excused."

PRINCE DAM RONG, a brother of the king of Siam, will soon visit England. If he should come to the United States he should leave his name behind him. He can pick up any number of the same kind in this country. Dam Rong is a very common name where the Bardseys flourish.

THE NEW YORK ELECTION.

The republicans of New York having nominated their state ticket and adopted a platform endorsing Harrison's administration, McKinley's tariff and adopted the gold bug silver plank in the Ohio republican platform it will be taken for granted they are now ready for the fight. The contest in that state will attract unusual attention this year from the fact that it will be the first in six years when all the state officers will be elected. Some of them are elected for terms of two years and some for terms of three years so that they all come together only once in six years. It will be remembered that Hill was elected governor in 1888 and the figures created some little unpleasantness when compared with those cast for Cleveland in that state the same year.

Next year there will be no state officers to elect, the officers elected in November holding past the national contest. The voting this year will have great value as a basis upon which to estimate the presidential vote in '92. If the democrats carry the state next November by a safe majority the fact will give reasonable confidence that they will carry it for the democratic candidate for the presidency, for the same issues will enter into the contest next year that will decide it this year.

Boss Platt has shown his influence in the republican party of that state by nominating his man—Fasset—for governor. He will simply serve as a figure head, while the main effort of his party will be directed to securing control of the legislature. The democrats had a majority in the house, and on joint ballot in the last legislature, but the opposition held the senate. This is of unusual importance now, as half the senate held over and will vote for a United States senator in 1893 to succeed Hancock. The republicans do not propose to lose any more state senators if they can help it. The possession of both branches of the legislature will have other important consequences for the democrats in case they also have the governor.

During the past decade there has been political diversity between the two branches of the state government and the democrats have been unable to secure a fair representation on account of the unequal and unjust apportionment of members of the legislature. The increase of population has been mainly in democratic districts and is not represented. The republicans have persistently refused to make a reapportionment, the present legislative one being based on the state census of sixteen years ago. The partisanship in the matter is evident in the fact that the four democratic counties of New York—Kings, Erie and Albany—have one-half the population of the state and but twelve out of thirty senators and but forty-five out of the one hundred and twenty-eight representatives. Therefore both parties will give particular attention to the selection of candidates for the senate, the republicans with the view of preventing a new reapportionment and the democrats with the view of securing one. The odds are against the latter but they may win. However, the next governor of New York will be a democrat.

WHO AND WHAT DID IT?

Our republican contemporaries need not quarrel among themselves as to who should receive the credit for the removal of the German embargo on American pork. Blaine's reciprocity scheme had about as much to do with it as Melbourne's rain making appliances. Minister Phelps was quite as influential in procuring the removal as one of Major Steele's Piegan Indians, and the agricultural department at Washington did no more to procure it than the primary department in the Great Falls public school. The fact is the German craving for food brought it about. The absolute certainty that short crops in Europe would be followed by a great advance in the price of breadstuffs, and that the empire must have cheaper meats and cheaper food of other kinds than the outlook promised with the embargo upon induced the German government to remove it from the American bog. That is all there is in it. The Germans doubtless had not a thought of Blaine and his reciprocity, or Mr. William Walter Phelps or Uncle Jerry Rusk when they let down the bars for the American porker to go in. The German belly did the business, for at the same time the embargo was removed the grain duties were suspended. American hogs and American wheat and corn now enter German ports free of duty.

THERE is not very much that is winning about John L. Sullivan, but Americans generally will read with pleasure, that when he and a friend were attacked by five Australian roughs, John floored the outfit in a few seconds. And the act will not do him any harm in Australia, for those men over there have a decidedly firm respect for both pluck and skill. Sullivan's performances in that country will be looked for with extreme interest, because while his show is a snide affair, there is not any possible doubt about his being about the hardest hitter that walks this round earth. If necessary to keep in training, we hope he will lick five Australians every day.—Salt Lake Tribune.

New Pongee silks, new velvets, new velveteens, etc., at Joe Conrad's.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

Stranger than fiction are the stories told about Melbourne the rain maker. Unlike the government rainmaker, Melbourne's methods are a secret. He tells the Bismarck Tribune he constructs a little house barely large enough to hold himself and the mysterious contents of a large valise which is his constant companion. This box houses an aperture in the roof. Before the rain upon which rain is to fall he enters the box and closes it hermetically to the side world. He will permit nobody to examine its interior, and if approached by reporters or other inquisitive persons he shuts up shop and refuses to proceed with the experiment. He remains in the box for hours and sometimes for a day or two preceding the expected rain. Nearly every instance he has needed an umbrella when time was called.

Melbourne claims that he produces rain by the generation of certain gases which escapes through the aperture of the roof of his box and ascending to the upper air strata produce at once meteorological conditions necessary for the precipitation of rain. Further than this he will not explain his process. He will not tell what the mysterious gases are nor how they are produced. The wizard is an Australian. He is evidently looking for the almighty dollar by amassing a fortune of fame. He is in America for his health and if he prove that his gases will produce rain pleasure he can soon return to his country with a fortune in gold. If the government will not purchase his secret are millions in any secret that will make the clouds yield their moisture wanted.

In the light of recent events it appears to be a hard business to plant Christianity into China. "A people," as the Salt Lake Tribune says, "that will be Sisters of Mercy even under the pressure of a riot, are a kind of people whose are hardly worth the effort to save. This was done not long ago in that country without the shadow of justification. In view of this fact it becomes a question whether it would not be better to let evolution do its work before further efforts be made to make Christians out of such heathens. It costs, says the same paper, "ten thousand dollars to convert a Chinaman, and there is doubt as to the sincerity of the conversion in most cases. Considering that price of considering the liability of John Bull, the faithful men and women who are seeking to save their souls, it is hardly believe the results justify the expense."

THE attention of democratic organs the country over is called to the falling off in the exports of tinplate from England as given in this morning's dispatches. It has already become so great as to cause serious alarm on the London board of trade.—Ex.

The dispatches referred to make mention of "serious alarm," but refer to the falling off of British exports generally and incidentally mentions tinplate. According to republican authority 25,000 Welsh tinplate-makers were on a strike or locked out for a long time. Therefore it stands to reason that none could be exported when none was being made. The American market was overstocked to avoid the payment of the increased duty under the McKinley bill. That being exhausted, the Welsh tinplate-makers are returning to work, exports the article will be resumed, and the "serious alarm" will be allayed.

REFERRING to the charge of the TRIBUNE that the republican newspapers of Montana have not a word to say in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, the Inter Mountain retreats behind the meaningless assertion that "the public papers of Montana will continue to be the warm friends of silver and of the silver interest, and will work with whatever power they may possess for the good of their state, and at the same time of the nation at large." That is just what every gold bug, including McKinley and John Sherman, in the country says. But none of them, including the Inter Mountain, says one word for the free and unlimited coinage of the white metal. They all draw the line before they get to that point.

It is now openly stated by persons who are supposed to know that Tom Carter's timber rules and regulations had their birth in a desire to foster, build up, and perpetuate a great timber monopoly in Montana in which a certain prominent West-side mercantile firm was to become a favored beneficiary. By the way, however, Mr. Carter is mighty slow in granting permits. Where is the hitch?

GLOBE TOWER SHOT: Twenty cents of the silver dollar, McKinley says, is the "mere breath of congress." No wonder the buzzard on it is always spreading his wings; he is trying to get away from the twenty cents of that breath.

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