

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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## Lumber Industry of Growing Importance

That the lumber industry of the Ronan country is becoming one of importance and rapidly coming to the front will have to be admitted by everybody when the amount of this product, kept in stock or being sawed, by the three yards operating here is known. Each of them already have many thousands of feet on hand and are increasing the stock every day. Considerable of it comes from home saw mills and the native lumber is in many respects superior to that which is shipped in.

In the Beckwith Merc. Co. yard will be found at present the largest stock of native lumber, as Mr. Geo. H. Beckwith, early in the fall, made arrangements for the purchase of over 1,250,000 feet of dimension and rough board lumber from Henry Raymond and a considerable portion of this amount has already been delivered in the yard. Besides this stock of native lumber this company lately purchased six cars of finishing material, besides lath and shingles, and it is now being transported by wagons from Ravalli.

Last week while in Ronan Mr. Beckwith made another large purchase, the amount being over 1,500,000 feet. This stock will be sawed and carefully piled and in the spring a planer will be installed to dress the dry product. It is said by good judges of lumber that when this native stock is once dried it will make the finest of finishing lumber to be secured anywhere aside from the coast, and in many respects it will be superior to the western lumber. It will not be nearly so hard and when being worked does not check so easily when nails are driven into it.

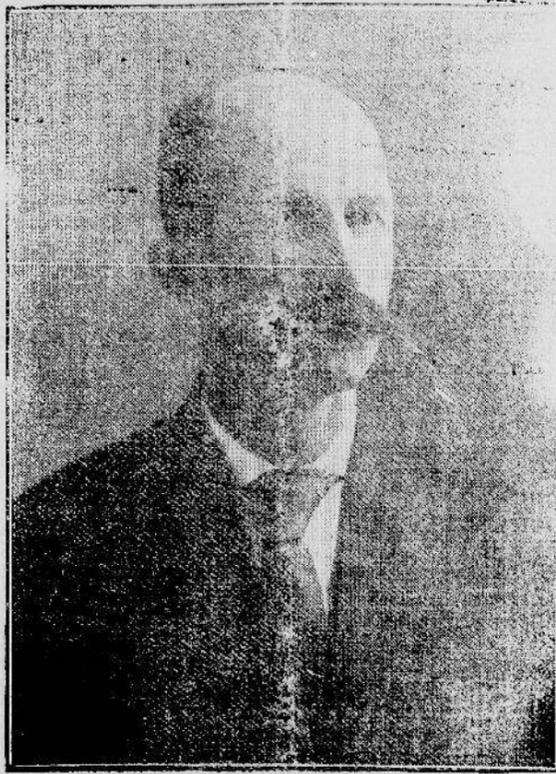
The Lumber Co. also has a large stock of all kinds and are

preparing to greatly increase the amount carried on hand. Negotiations are now pending for the purchase of a large quantity and when on hand will surprise newcomers in its extent.

Stanley Searce announces that he has already purchased over 1,500,000 feet of native lumber and it is being sawed at the government mill just as fast as men can do it. It is also being hauled and piled in the yard and machinery will be installed to convert it into doors, windows, etc., at an early date.

With the development of the reservation country in its infancy, immense amounts of lumber are going to be required to build the houses and barns necessary to the enjoyment and comfort of the many new families and their stock. To be in a position to supply the demand the local merchants have anticipated their needs and will be prepared to meet all requirements.

Aside from being able to furnish customers with any and all kinds of lumber, this industry at the present time is giving employment to a large number of men who would have been idle but for the enterprise of the local concerns. It has also provided many Indians with the money needed to purchase provision and clothing he would have suffered for had it not been possible to sell his logs. With the many millions of feet of firstclass lumber light at our door, it would be a calamity to neglect to use it, and thus keep the money at home which would have drained the valley of many thousands of dollars. Then too, the saving in the difference in price between native lumber and that shipped in is also a big item, and if it could be computed to the dollar would surprise us all.



## Annual Election Held and Big Men on First National Board

President, Senator Edward Donlan; vice president, Frank S. Lusk; cashier, H. A. Weld; directors, Stanley Searce, Addison M. Stealing, Edward Donlan, Frank S. Lusk and H. A. Weld. This is the way the official advertisement of this bank reads.

Ronan, and the reservation country at large, is certainly fortunate in having capitalists and influential men such as these identify themselves with our institutions. Messrs. Lusk and Donlan are associated with Mr. Searce in other of his enterprises and are enthusiastic over Ronan as becoming the center and chief city of the reservation.

Mr. Searce announces that he will devote most of his time to his other numerous interests, such as the big store, the lumber business, commercial orchards, etc. H. A. Weld, cashier, will be actively in charge. It would be a rare thing for a country bank of \$25,000 capital, to show such a strong array of officers and directors, a fact which should be appreciated by the man who banks away from home.

## Trials and Tribulations

The trials and tribulations of the traveler in the Flathead country were forcibly demonstrated in Ravalli one morning the first of the week. A gentleman and his wife, with two small children, arrived in that place on the early morning train from the west, bound for Ronan on a visit to the wife's parents. Coming as they did from an open country, where the liquor traffic is licensed by law, they had with them two quart bottles of whiskey, which the male member of the family considered a useful article in any well regulated ranch household. Entirely innocent of violating any of the regulations prescribed for residents of the Flathead to follow, the stranger made no secret of his possessions, carrying the bottled goods in open view as one would a handbag, cane or umbrella. Observers about the depot, who were acquainted with Flathead conditions, and not wishing to see the stranger walk blindly into serious trouble, acquainted him with the facts and advised that the liquor be confiscated or left in Ravalli for safe keeping. On being advised of the conditions husband and wife held a hurried and serious consultation and at first decided to take the first westbound train and return to the country from whence they came, where the rights and privileges of an American citizen to drink booze or leave it alone is unquestioned. Later many schemes were hatched whereby

the liquor could be safely transported to the Flathead ranch home, but each in turn was abandoned as being impracticable and too hazardous, and as a last resort—we have this on good authority—the owner of the goods walked to a secluded spot in the timber growing on the banks of the Jocko and with due and solemn ceremony broke the necks of the bottles over a huge boulder, the fragments of glass being left on the scene as evidence of the strict enforcement of the liquor law on the Flathead. Having thus disposed of the prohibited article, husband, wife and children continued their journey to the ranch of the wife's parents, but we have it as coming from the gentleman himself that the visit will necessarily be a short one. However, in spite of all his troubles, he insists that the Flathead is one of the richest and prettiest countries he has ever seen and he has traveled over the major portion of the United States.

## Miss Esma Trahan Wins

The closing hours of the Lemire Bros. piano contest were exciting ones and when the ballots were all counted it was found that Miss Esma Trahan, the fourteen year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Trahan, of Ronan, had won by the slender margin of 17,510. Miss Imilda Morigeau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antoine

## Series of Farmers' Institutes for Mission Valley

The Pioneer received a letter this week from Superintendent F. S. Cooley of the Montana Farmers' Institutes, that a series of meetings are being arranged for the new Flathead territory during the second week in February, which will include meetings in South Mission valley, Ronan, Polson and Camas. Director F. B. Linfield of the Montana experiment station, who is the best informed agriculturalist in the state in matters pertaining to dry farming and irrigation, live stock and dairying, and the production of small grains, will speak morning, afternoon and evening, and answer all questions that the settlers desire to ask.

The meeting in Ronan will be held in McLeod's hall in the afternoon of February 14th, and it is being arranged to also hold a meeting in some other place in town for the evening. For the afternoon meeting, which is for the farmers especially, a general invitation is given all to attend, and it is urged upon the farmers living within the radius of Ronan that this is an opportunity they should not neglect. Prof. Linfield is a recognized authority

on all matters pertaining to farming and much valuable information may be gained by listening to what he may have to say.

For the evening session it is hoped that arrangements can be made to have the Professor again talk on the same subject so that those who could not take advantage of an afternoon meeting, and thus give all the privilege of hearing him at least once. The hall cannot be had that evening owing to it being St. Valentine's day and a dance has been billed for the hall that evening. Many farmers cannot attend in the evening owing to the distance they would be compelled to travel and others could not attend in the evening, so the committee in charge in Ronan will endeavor to have two meetings here so that all may be accommodated.

These institutes are a post graduate course to the farmer, and with many of the new settlers, unacquainted with all the conditions they may be called upon to meet, it is very fortunate that so many of them will have the chance of listening to one at this time who is so well informed on the questions he will discuss.

(Twin) Morigeau, second with Miss Flora Houle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Houle, third. Esma Trahan cast 317,735 votes on Tuesday evening, Miss Morigeau 371,675, Flora Houle 243,940 and Philomena Matt who was fourth, 186,255.

Of the total vote 210,000 were Pioneer votes, which indicates that 105 one year subscriptions were paid during that time.

The total number of votes cast since the last count on Wednesday of last week were 1,333,640.

The votes were counted by G. H. Broughton, cashier of the Ronan State Bank, and Devere Jackson, of The Lumber Co. The adding machine used by Mr. Broughton in the bank came in very opportune in adding up the vast array of figures and had it not been for this modern convenience would have taken much time, but as it was the work was quickly done.

Following is the vote in detail:

Esma Trahan	563,890
Imilda Morigeau	546,380
Flora Houle	483,170
Philomena Matt	429,180
Frances Simmons	295,020
L. Luddington, St. Ignatius	285,375
Edna G. Hull	229,800
Angeline McLeod	213,935
Laura Edmondson	169,520
Vada Rathbone	163,360
May A. Clairmont	162,865
Geraldine Roberts	158,880
Azelida Morigeau, Ravalli	149,430
Beatrice Troendle	148,325
Jessie Rinehart, Dixon	141,940
Hattie Sloan	139,745
Eather Green	134,705
Mabel Lee	135,335
Mary C. McDonald, St. Ignatius	124,175
Anna Piedalue	123,915
Eleanor Valley	123,620
Zelma Rouillier	128,515
Myrtle Cunningham	129,575
Mary Kerner, Polson	114,910
Pearl Fitzpatrick	111,849
Eleanor Cox	109,685
Margaret Dellwo	107,265
Kate Dubay, Polson	103,255
Ada Burlaud	103,225
Helen Finley	103,055
Donny Harvey	103,025
Angeliqne Michel	102,225
Clara Peone	101,852
Sarah Ramsey	101,335
Salley Finley	100,530
Dropped out	68,749
Total	6,530,130

## For Sale

Three 80's decided, for sale, with private water rights and ditches already for irrigation. Reasonable if sale is made quick.

D. D. HULL.

## Sanders County Will Prosecute

The four homesteaders arrested last week charged with the killing of three half breed and one full blood buffalo, will be prosecuted by the authorities of Sanders county. Warrants were placed in the hands of the Sanders county sheriff the first of the week and it is expected that the preliminary hearing is now being held at Plains. The four men charged with the offense are W. S. and J. A. Winburn, C. W. Church and a man by the name of Jones. All of them have homesteads in the Little Bitter Root country. Charles Allard claims ownership to the slaughtered buffalo and the trial of the case will be watched with much interest on account of the knotty question involved as to the rights of the owners of buffalo running on the open range.

## Grand Jury Is Ordered

Judge Webster has ordered a grand jury and twelve men have been summoned from which the seven men will be selected to constitute the same. Considerable commotion has been caused in Missoula by this action and coming as it does on the heels of filing of informations against two of the present county commissioners charging them with malfeasance in office, has led many to believe that a general investigation of the offices of the county is to be made. Judge Webster says that had been requested to call a grand jury long before this but had not finally determined to do so until a few days ago, and that the filing of informations against the board had nothing to do with it.

County Attorney Mulroney announces that the cases against Messrs. Curran, Nelson and Worden will be prosecuted just the same as if no grand jury had been called.

How about that job printing?

## Another Delegation to Helena

Another large delegation from Polson passed through Ronan on Tuesday bound for Helena in the interest of the new county they are after so hot foot. It has been currently reported in this section this week that the people up there raised \$2700 last Saturday in a short time to pay the expenses of a strong lobby, and it is supposed they carried this money with them.

The situation must certainly look very serious or else it is encouraging, when they dig up so much money at this time. It would seem that some data on the available resources of the proposed new county would be of as much benefit as a lobby, should it be presented and show enough to warrant the claim they make that there is plenty.

This question of a new county is something that should be considered fairly and honestly. The Pioneer assumes that the sentiment all over the territory proposed to make the new county out of, is that some day it should be done. It is merely a matter of a difference of opinion as to the proper time. Now if our Polson friends can show us that this is the proper time, and that there would be enough taxable property to derive enough money from to pay the expenses of a separate county organization, and make the necessary road and bridge improvements which will be imperative, then they might

change the sentiment of opposition to a favorable one. What the people here want is some data upon which to base a change of heart. The mere statement that "there will be enough," is not sufficient proof. Give us some figures. Polson enthusiasts must certainly have something in this line which they are presenting to members of the legislature, and if they have why don't they let us know what it is, that we too, might get in and help a little.

Up to this time, although the Pioneer has repeatedly called upon the Polson papers to give us their figures they have failed to do so, but resort to a personal fight on the publisher of this paper rather than comply with the reasonable request of the people of other sections for something tangible in the way of an estimated revenue.

Senator Donlan's white slave bill has been approved by the governor and is a law. It is said to be one of the most stringent laws against this traffic ever devised and will probably rid the state of Montana of quite a number of undesirable characters. In Butte it is said that a number of those punishable under this law had left town fearing immediate arrest. It has already commenced to work.

The nomination of Judge William H. Hunt of Montana, for one of the United States circuit judges to sit with the customs court, on whom a fight was made, was confined on Tuesday. This closes the incident.