

THE RONAN PIONEER

Entered as second-class matter May 12, 1910, at the post office at Ronan, Montana, under the Act of March 3, 1879

Located in the Heart of the Great Flathead Indian Reservation

Volume II. No. 19.

RONAN, MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA, SEPTEMBER 8, 1911.

\$2 Per Year

School Attendance Shows Ronan's Great Growth

School opened in Ronan Tuesday morning with every seat filled in both rooms and many pupils were turned away for lack of room and seats. In the principal's room there were 32 seats and 41 pupils applied for admission, and eight were sent home. In the primary room there are 40 seats and 48 applied for seats, and this required eight also to be denied the privilege of the school. It is estimated that fully one-third of the pupils who would attend the Ronan schools have not as yet reported and unless some measures are adopted very speedily they will not be able to attend school this year. This shows that the growth of Ronan during the past year has been much greater than any one thought, and that the board of trustees will have all kinds of trouble in supplying the needed school room and facilities.

One of the reasons why the schools are so crowded at this time, of course, is that the Indian school has been abandoned and a portion of those who formerly attended that school are now seeking admission to the public schools of the county. The one deplorable feature about this action of the government is that the abandonment occurred at the time it did. It came without any notice whatever to the trustees that such action was even contemplated, and gave them no opportunity to prepare for the additional pupils thrown upon the limited room already provided. It was entirely unexpected and to a great many it seems entirely uncalled for. With two school rooms and every facility at hand for the proper handling of the wards of the government, it does seem like the government has not treated either its wards or the children of the district in a very fair manner. The policy last year was to deny the wards the privilege of the district schools and to compel them to attend the day school conducted here for their benefit. This course had the effect of making the school officers believe that the government policy was to compel them to attend this school and no provision was made to care for them at the commencement of this school year. The effect is that with all the care and caution possible to exercise, the school facilities in Ronan are entirely inadequate at the present time.

There was an average attendance, so the Pioneer has been informed, at the Indian school last year of about 20. This did not include all the wards of the government who should have been in school, by any means, but was the average attendance of those who did attend. When all these are added to the enrollment of the public school it makes it utterly impossible to care for all.

To add further to the embarrassment of the situation, the Indian school department has sent W. G. Brown to Ronan from Jocko to see to it that all Indian children attend school at the public schools of this place. Last year when the facilities were sufficient to care for them, no one in particular was here to look after their welfare in this regard and at the last moment the school is closed and an agent sent here to look after their interests. It looks like unfairness to them as well as to the other pupils who are crowded out.

The local Indian office is powerless. Some inspector with apparently very little knowledge of the situation went through a short time ago and ordered the school here closed, and also the one at Polson, when he might with better judgment have ordered additional schools instead. Another beautiful example of the pin-headed policy of the bureaucratic authority of our government administration.

With the greatest possible speed in building other rooms, it will be after the first of the year before additional facilities could be provided, and another long wait is in store for children who should have been in school. There is sufficient money available, and which can be used for no other purpose, to build two more rooms to the present building, either at Ronan, St. Ignatius or Ravalli, and as it is probably needed the most here in Ronan, it is here the money should be applied. With the school population constantly increasing as rapidly as it is, no time should be lost in commencing the building of other rooms, that the situation may be met in a manner which will not revert to the detriment of the children and the welfare of the town and community.

Killed at Park City

C. A. Ridell, residing in Smead addition, received the sad intelligence Tuesday that his son had been killed while at work in the Daly-West mine at Park City, Utah. The word came by wire and he has not learned any of the particulars. Upon receipt of the telegram he wired back to ship the remains to Missoula, where interment will take place.

The deceased was a member of the local miners' union and also a Knight of Pythias, and the latter organization at Missoula will be asked to conduct the funeral services and officiate at the burial. Mr. Ridell went to Missoula at once to make arrangements and to be on hand when the body arrives.

Some Duck Stories

The Ronan hunters who have been out after ducks since the first, all return with good stories of how they got them—or did not—principally the latter. On the first a number were seen hurrying to the sloughs and pot holes, and although staying away all day, some did not return laden with game.

One of the satisfying reports, however, is that Stansbury and Welch could distinguish this year between wild and tame geese, and no sensational accounts were heard from them.

O. E. Cheff reports having secured all the law allows, but no visible evidence of the fact was left at the Pioneer office.

A. M. Sterling has a hard luck story about there being no ducks this year, but Tim Wah says, "Addie no can shoot this year, eyes must be getting bad."

Bolivar Scarse and Walter Berry brought in enough to make one good meal anyway, and Ora Talmage says he has not even got wet this year yet.

Since the rains have fallen better luck has been reported, the ducks evidently have been driven out of the colder portions of the mountains and from the north.

Bad Accident

Fred Simmons, deputy sheriff for this section of Missoula county, and one of the prosperous young farmers living north of Ronan, met with a bad accident last Sunday which resulted in the loss of the little finger from his left hand. He was roping a colt and when the rope tightened the colt kept right on going, and a knot or coil of the rope tightened on a ring on his finger, tearing it entirely off.

He came to town and Drs. Fuhrer and Putney attended to the injury and he is getting along as well as could be expected.

Buys a Stage Auto

Andrew Stinger and T. L. Bateman were down to Missoula last Saturday and while there purchased a 16 passenger Victor auto of the truck pattern, which will be put on the run between Ravalli and Ronan. Mr. Bateman has the mail contract and finds his stage too slow for the passenger traffic across the reservation and to meet the strong competition in this respect has found it necessary to put on an auto. Mr. Stinger had the auto in view and they got together while in Missoula and purchased it in partnership, and it will be on the road next week, being thoroughly overhauled in the meantime.

Two six-horse stages will be on the run between Ronan and Polson and the auto will meet them here.

Initiative Petitions

Initiative petitions were put in circulation this week throughout the state by the officials of the People's Power league for the submission of four measures to a referendum vote of the people of the state. These four measures are:

A direct primary law.
A corrupt practices act.
A presidential preference law.
A law to instruct members of the legislature to vote for the people's choice for United States senator.

For convenience these petitions have been put in book form. This work will be in charge of the executive committee of the People's Power league.

The primary law to be submitted provides for the nomination of the officials by a direct vote, as in Oregon, except that the Wisconsin plan is adopted which does not require the voter to declare his political preferences. The corrupt practices act is complimentary to the direct primary law and, besides providing penalties for bribery and intimidation, requires candidates to file statements of their campaign expenses, etc.

Will Buy More Horses

L. B. Manning left for Missoula Monday last in search of more work horses to farm the increased acreage he expects to have in next year. If he does not find what suits him in Missoula he will go elsewhere after the stock.

Mr. Manning came here two years ago and leased a tract of land, believing that he could make it pay raising wheat even if he only got 15 bushels per acre, and after two years trial, with last year a bad one so far as moisture was concerned, he now feels that it will turn out even better than anticipated, as his yield this year is better by some six bushels per acre.

This is the general condition existing on the Flathead reservation. All the farmers who have the acreage are anxious to continue in the business and all who can are preparing to have in crop next year as many more acres as possible. It will nearly double the present out-put in wheat and other grains, and will make a railroad through the valley more certain.

Spring Wheat Yield

The farmers who have threshed their spring wheat report the yield as being from 20 to 25 bushels per acre. This is considered low when the amount of straw is taken into consideration, the low yield being given as a lack of moisture at the critical time with spring wheat. There was a fine growth of straw but it was very dry just at the time the grain was in the making and this cut the yield down to what it would have been.

When it is known that the average yield of spring wheat the country over is below 15 bushels, the total yield here is very gratifying, even if only around 20 bushels.

With the winter wheat giving returns of better than 30 bushels it prompts the farmers to sow as much in the fall as possible, even with the demand and price of this variety a little less than the hard spring variety.

Those who have threshed oats report the yield at from 40 to 50 bushels per acre, on an average, but some extra fine pieces, grown on extra good ground, are much higher. The quality is better than last year and will average well with other good years.

The rains of the first of the week have stopped threshing for the time being but some machines are again at work, and the grain will soon all be in the sacks or grainaries of the farmers.

"Beats the Band."

"It simply beats the band how the filings upon land of the Flathead district continue to come in," said Register Josiah Shull of the local United States land office Tuesday to the Missoulian. "Three months ago I felt satisfied that we were practically through with our reservation business. It seemed the whole country was pretty well settled, especially that part of the reserve that is to be covered by water from the big government system in the near future. But the success of the crops in all sections of that country this year have had a most stimulating effect and scarcely a day passes without several homestead entries being received at our office. There is another thing, too, that is encouraging concerning the future of the district. Nearly every day we have callers from the reservation who come to discuss some matter of business in connection with their claims. Almost without exception these men, mostly of the very best class of people, express thorough satisfaction with the reservation country; declare that they are more than pleased with their land and have no intention of deserting their claims for any cause. They tell of crops that are stunners. Everything is in favor of their own land which seems, indeed, to be the promised land."

All stockholders and others interested are invited to a meeting at the Glacier View school house tomorrow (Saturday) night. Business of importance to attend to.

Telephone Service for Ronan Seems Assured

During the past week several conferences have been held by local people to consider the advisability of establishing a telephone system in Ronan. The plan discussed was to organize a local company to construct and own the system independent of any of the big companies. This action has been under contemplation for some time but owing to difficulties of various kinds did not materialize sufficiently to make mention of until now. To the fact that the Independent Telephone Co. has had an agent in town all week making contracts for phones, probably hurried things along.

An estimate of the cost has been secured and also the revenue to be derived from such a system has had consideration, and it has been decided that should the Independent decide to build at once that company will be given the field. On the other hand, if this company is only bluffing and does not intend to build at once, then the local men may decide later to go ahead and put the system in.

Quite a number have already made contracts with the Independent for phones, in fact, it is said that about 75 phones have been signed for. The plan is to give Ronan an exchange and a free rural service from Post creek on the south, to the big hill (that awful bug-a-boo) just south of Polson. It would afford the farmers along the way an opportunity of having telephone connections with Ronan, and would be of great service to all.

One thing many complain of which is exacted in the contracts with the Independent is that every subscriber is compelled to pay a bonus of \$10 to the company. This bonus may be in work or cash at the option of the donor but it amounts to the same thing. This bonus added to the exorbitant toll asked for the phones each month makes it quite expensive but almost everybody wants the service even at that.

It seems a shame that local capital could not have handled the telephone business of Ronan, and at some latter date have transferred the system to the municipality, after incorporation. This added to the water and light service, all owned and controlled by the city, would have been ideal and a great many express the thought that some such arrangement should yet be made.

Conditions Fine.

George Beckwith was in town Tuesday from St. Ignatius, says the Missoulian. Replying to a question, Mr. Beckwith said: "Conditions on the reservation lands are fine. The harvest is about finished; threshing is well along and the yield is up to expectations. The production in some of the new places was greater, in fact, than had been looked for. There are a good many practical farmers on the new lands and they are going ahead in fine shape. The situation on the new lands in settling itself in the right way. The farmers are farming and are demonstrating the worth of the lands. There is no question as to the fertility of the soil or the rightness of the climate. The experience of this season and last has settled the future of the valleys of the old reservation; they will develop into great farming

districts; they possess all the natural advantages and they are in good hands. There is a spirit of content among the farmers; they have become convinced that the country is all right. With some of them, leaving their old homes, it was something of an experiment, but the practical farmer has found that he is all right out here and he is going ahead."

Moiese Valley and Dixon

Threshing in Moiese valley began Tuesday morning.

W. A. Clark returned to Dixon Friday from a trip to Arlee and Stevensville.

H. E. Fullerton of Moiese valley made a business trip to Missoula Friday.

Joseph Johnson of Moiese valley is expected home this week from Butte, Montana.

O. C. Lundholm and G. E. Cooper returned to Moiese valley Sunday from St. Ignatius.

James H. Schoonover of Philipsburg arrived in Dixon Thursday and is spending a few weeks on his claim in Moiese valley.

Miss Evelyn Aldrich of Spokane, Wash, arrived in Dixon Tuesday and will begin residence on her claim in Moiese valley.

Miss Viola A. Pollard who has been visiting her mother in Moiese valley returned to her home at Florence, Montana on Wednesday.

A crowd of Moiese valley's young people drove into Dixon last Saturday evening and enjoyed the dance given in Marcure's hall.

The Moiese valley settler's association met on Monday evening but the attendance was small owing to the inclemency of the weather.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Card of Missoula have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Blackmon at "Dew Drop Inn" in Moiese valley this week.

William McCarthy who has spent the past two weeks on his claim departed from Dixon on Sunday for Anaconda where he is employed as engineer.

Mrs. Will Fullerton and children of Hamilton who have spent the past month in Moiese valley with friends and relatives, departed for their home Friday.

The Moiese valley school began on Monday with an excellent attendance. The board of trustees of district No. 28 will hold a special meeting at St. Ignatius Saturday, September the ninth.

On Friday evening the Moiese valley club held its regular meeting at the club house and received the resignation of Fred H. Gross who has been secretary-treasurer since the club was organized. Mr. Gross will soon commute and go to his former home in Tacoma for the winter. The club will elect a successor for Mr. Gross at its October meeting.

The Moiese club will give a dance Friday evening, September the eighth under the management of Miss Harriett P. Geiger, James H. Schoonover and Roy Wonnacott. This dance will be in a measure a farewell to the departing settlers who are members of the club. Among those to leave in the near future are C. F. Prior, F. H. Gross and wife, H. E. Moffett and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. F. Blackmon and daughter.