

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

State Historical Society

Volume II. No. 24.

RONAN, MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA, OCTOBER 13, 1911.

\$2 Per Year

Direct Line From Missoula Through the Reservation

The most feasible route for the proposed extension of the Missoula street railway system from this city across the Flathead reservation to Polson at the foot of Flathead lake is that which would run through Jocko canyon to the summit of St. Mary's pass and thence by way of Dry creek to St. Ignatius, Ronan and the terminus. This route would be many miles shorter than a line from Missoula to Dixon and from that point to Polson. The Jocko canyon route would be about 52 miles long over comparatively easy grades, much easier than if the line paralleled the Northern Pacific to Dixon.

Contour maps are in the possession of Judge W. M. Bickford who is acting for Charles W. Clark in determining the feasibility of the projected extension, showing the elevations and the grades at which the line would reach the summit of St. Mary's pass. The grade from what is known as the "agency" to the summit of the pass, a distance of nine miles, would be 1.7. From the summit down to St. Ignatius a distance of 12 miles, the grade would be 2.5 in a 1,200-foot drop.

Judge Bickford has written E. F. Tabor, the U. S. Engineer in charge of the reclamation service at St. Ignatius, asking for data as to reclamation projects, the soil productivity, the kind of grain that would produce the most tonnage, etc. He also asked permission to examine the various contour maps prepared by the government that would prove of great assistance in laying out the route.

Judge Bickford this morning received a letter from E. F. Tabor, informing him that he can have access to a fairly complete topographic survey of the country through which the electric line would pass by way of Jocko canyon and that valuable information will be available as to elevations, distances, etc. Mr. Tabor adds that all assistance possible will be given by the office in getting the desired information.

"A close study reveals the fact" said Judge Bickford, "that Missoula would have a great advantage over Kalispell in every way if the electric line were to be projected from this city with Polson as its ultimate destination. If the road were built down the east shore of Flathead lake, as it necessarily would be in order to make Polson from Kalispell, that would mean 35 miles of construction before a mile of road had been built across the reservation, to cross which would necessitate the laying of about 43 more miles of steel. In all, the Kalispell-Dixon route would be about 80 miles long, as opposed to the 52-mile route from Missoula by way of Jocko canyon and Dry creek. Broadly speaking, a line from this city would have all the best of it, in the matter of prospective tonnage as well as mileage.

"An electric line along the lake from Kalispell could expect to develop no freight to speak of in addition to that already handled by boat. The line would run through a country that will not develop tonnage. Practically all of the short route from Missoula would penetrate a country for almost the entire way, that would be productive of freight from the start or would eventually furnish tonnage.

"The most serious business obstacle to a line from Missoula at this time, as it appears to me, would be the Indian land question. By far the major part of the reservation land is owned by the Indian allottees who farm it out under the lease system to white men. Until these white men can acquire title to this land themselves they can hardly be considered permanent settlers who would be interested in making permanent improvements on property that did not belong to them. They could hardly be expected to go in for intensive farming on such an extensive scale as they would if they were the owners.

"It is probably true, however, that with the added incentive of transportation facilities, that would be afforded by the electric line, the ranchers would be more inclined to get the biggest possible returns from cultivated ground. And there would be more of a disposition, of course, for additional ranchers to lease allotments that are not now under cultivation.

"In any event, it will take considerable time to assemble all the data that must be collected before the proposition to actually construct an electric line can even be seriously considered."

In connection with the talk about the proposed line, there has been considerable speculation as to the possibility that the Great Northern would immediately begin the construction of a line from Kalispell to Dixon, following a route that was surveyed about 20 years ago and again four years ago.

The objection has been freely made to the suggestion that a line might be built from Polson to Dixon to connect with the Northern Pacific because of the fact that it would involve unloading and reloading of freight from the latter point to points on the Northern Pacific.

The big argument in favor of a continuous line from Missoula across the reservation is that, in addition to obviating transshipments, it would connect in this city with two transcontinental roads, the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee, which would naturally be expected to contribute a big volume of freight for the reservation points and to which a great deal of freight would be diverted from the reserve.

Judge Hull's Spuds

D. D. Hull brought six Burbank potatoes to the office Tuesday which were grown on the ground surrounding his residence one-fourth mile north of Ronan. These six spuds weighed on the Big Store scales just seven pounds (collectively) and are as fine specimens as one could wish to see. Doc says they are not the largest, by any means, but are a sample of the average potato dug from the patch.

While larger potatoes have been seen by many people, as a whole they are as nice as any to be found anywhere. They are smooth and sound, not a small one in the entire crop and are all marketable potatoes.

If this year is an average potato year, there is no doubt that the Flathead will soon be shipping great quantities of potatoes just as Greeley, Colo. and North Yakima, Wash. are now doing.

The large and excellent crops of this vegetable grown in those places have made the farms very valuable, and it would do just the same for this valley.

Auto Accident

An auto accident occurred just north of D. D. Hull's residence last Saturday evening which happily resulted in no one being injured, although both cars were put more or less out of commission. Harry Burland was north bound with Mrs. Shively and children and when near the bad mud hole in the lane north of town he ran into some muddy water which was thrown on the glass shield in front and obscured the vision so that he did not see the big Stevens-Duryea, driven by Tom Poor, who had stopped on the other side to put on his mud chains. Harry was going at full speed to make the crossing of the mud hole and hit the Stevens-Duryea broadside, seriously injuring his own car and displacing some parts of the Stevens. The occupants of both cars escaped without injury, but Harry says he does not know the money loss to him as yet, as it has not been ascertained. Harry was thrown against the steering apparatus and thinks he had a rib or two broken but he says that does not count.

Fine Country Seen Sunday

Accepting the much appreciated invitation of Stanley Seearce to accompany him on a joy ride, two members of the Pioneer force had the pleasure of a ride to Sloan and the country along the beautiful Flathead river in that locality, Sunday. Mr. Seearce's EMF was in trim for a fast run and record time was made both going and returning.

On the way over a stop was made at B. T. Murray's, where it was seen that he was properly cultivating the ground and sowing his fall wheat in the approved and successful Flathead way. Another stop was made at W. K. Terrill's to inquire after his health and that of his estimable wife, but the former was away from home.

On reaching the river and being ferried across by Allen Sloan, the man who raises the biggest cabbage and pumpkins on earth, the drive was resumed to Frank Seearce's homestead, where he was found debating with himself what day of the week it was. Frank was one of those who had a small number in the drawing and he chose to locate on the west side of the Flathead river where he could get 160 acres of what he then and still thinks the best land to be found anywhere. He has a fine piece of land and has broken and cultivated during the past year 155 acres, and has the wheat in stacks to show for his labor. He will now proceed to dispose of the grain by feeding it to hogs this winter and drive the grain away on foot next spring at an advance in price over what he could get for it in sacks.

The 300 head of hogs raised this season by Pat Normandeau, north of Ronan, have been purchased and will be taken there for feeding. Mr. Seearce expects to engage in the hog raising business extensively.

Returning home we stopped at Allen Sloan's and got the big cabbage he has been telling about. Some have been skeptical about the six-foot size of this cabbage, but it is now in the Pioneer office where it may be seen by all.

It was not the only big one by any means, for there were many more equally as good in his large patch.

Leaving the ferry boat at 1:45 the trip to Ronan was made in just one hour, which is pretty good time considering the heavy grade from the river to the top of the bench 10 miles west of Ronan. Mr. Seearce takes some credit for the run on his ability to get all there is in a car out of it, and to this he is surely entitled.

Attending Institute.

From all accounts the Flathead was well represented at the joint teachers' institute held at Missoula this week. Those who are there, known to the Pioneer, are E. E. Healey, J. D. Cowgill, Misses Barbara Kain, Hilda Smith, Bessie I. Dickson, Molly Scruggs, of Ronan; Miss Bessie Kreis of Moiese, W. D. Harris and wife of St. Ignatius, and Mrs. Mattie Remington of Ravalli.

A very successful meeting was had and the attendance from all the four counties of Granite, Ravalli, Sanders and Missoula was all that was expected.

Does your roof leak? If so, its your own fault. "Schaerer, the Painter" will guarantee it not to leak for a period of five years. I am here to stay. 23-2

More Great Northern Talk

The daily papers last week had some more Great Northern railway building news to print. The report got abroad that a line would be started in the spring from Mondak, on the extreme eastern line of the state, and build westward through Lewistown to Great Falls and on west through the Flathead reservation, making two lines across the state, connecting at Spokane. The dope sounded good, and should expectations be realized, will help the Flathead country wonderfully. Such a road would give us eastern and western connection without depending on either the N. P. or the other line of the Great Northern to the north of us. That such a line is contemplated is not doubted, and will be built some day is a certainty, but the opinion has prevailed for so long that a north and south line would be built first that this new story, while certainly desired, cannot be given credence at this time by very many.

One thing is certain, we want a railroad, be it an electric or a steam road and we want it quickly. If we can't get an eastern and western outlet, then a north and south line would do, or better still, would gladly herald the building of both lines. It does seem, however, that out of all this talk something will be done before another crop must be moved.

Another Hunting Party.

A. J. Brower, Frank Ohlton and M. O. McCollum of Ronan, and Wm. Derr of South Dakota, a friend of Brower and Ohlton, comprise a hunting party leaving today for the Thompson river country. They go by auto and expect to make the trip and get the limit allowed them of big game in four days at the most.

If they get back in ten days, with any game, it will be a record breaking trip.

Wheat checks cashed at Ronan State Bank.

Equal Suffrage Defeated In California Election

In the California elections held Tuesday on the adoption of 22 amendments to the constitution, which included the recall of the judiciary and initiative and referendum and equal suffrage, all seem to have carried by a large majority except the latter. The women of California made a hard fight and lose by a majority vote. All the leading newspapers of the state opposed the recall of the judiciary, except one or two, but this fact did not lessen the interest of the voters in favor of the measure.

The women announce that they have not given up hopes and some assert that the precincts yet to be heard from will give them the victory.

All the cities except Los Angeles voted against equal suffrage and the latter gave 8,000 majority for the amendment.

Wants The Pioneer Censored

The Polson Courier wants a censor appointed for the Pioneer. This is in the interest of Ronan. What a kindly feeling for the Ronan business men that sheet has developed lately. It is useless to say that the Courier don't need it as it never says anything. It is about as harmless as a paper could possibly get to be, and still maintain an existence. Censors are only appointed for papers which say things and print news items. The Pioneer tries to do both and occasionally treads on the tender spots of some, and then it should be suppressed. Now the trouble in this case is that the Pioneer told of a condition prevailing in Polson regarding the refusal of a certain bank (not banks) to cash wheat checks and it seems to have had the effect of bringing that bank to time as well as almost causing heart failure on the part of the Courier. If the farmers are to receive cash for their wheat sold in Polson instead of deposit checks, whetstones, etc., then it is but fair to presume that the article complained of had one good effect, at least. It is a compliment to the Pioneer to have the Courier "holler" about what it says. It shows that this paper is accomplishing something.

Farmers' Institute.

The Pioneer received this week a communication from F. S. Coolcy, superintendent of farmers' institutes, connected with the state agricultural college, asking that a committee be appointed by the Commercial Club of Ronan to have charge of the meeting to be held here on December 19. Complying with this request the following named gentlemen have been so appointed: A. Sutherland, chairman; B. H. Denison, I. M. Brandjord, H. F. Pierce, Wm. Connerly. The last two named are extensive farmers and are expected to interest all the farmers of this section in the meeting and secure an extra large attendance. Besides the regular lecturers engaged by the agricultural college, Hon. O. C. Gregg of Minnesota, a noted farmer, will be here and talk on subjects which will be of interest and benefit to all those who attend.

It is urged that the farmers' wives should attend as well as the farmer himself. What will be said about dairying will interest them and the lecture on poultry raising will also be of value. The state will defray all expense

of the institute except hall rent, and with so much money being spent to give the Montana farmer a scientific knowledge of the best manner and methods of cultivating the soil, the kinds of crop most profitable, the care of the growing crop the harvesting and kindred subjects, it seems that all should make it a point to attend.

The citizens of Ronan will provide the hall and an effort will be made to have music and other entertainment, so that aside from the lectures it will be pleasant for all. Farmers in the lower Mission valley will have an opportunity of attending at St. Ignatius on December 20th and at Dixon on December 21st.

Potatoes a Big Crop

From every locality in the Mission valley come reports of a big potato crop. Farmers are now digging and storing the spuds and expect to realize better prices than now offered. This is based on the fact that the eastern potato crop is very short and that section must look elsewhere for the supply demanded.

On the new farms of the valley are to be found some very excellent potatoes, the crop being exceptionally good in almost every instance. The soil in most places seems to be peculiarly adapted to the growing of potatoes, and the moisture has been sufficient to produce a big yield. Potatoes do not need as much rainfall to insure a crop as many people unaccustomed to irrigation would suppose, and this being true, the Mission valley may become a factor in the potato raising industry in the near future.

The quality of spuds here is excellent, none better to be found in any of the famous potato raising sections.

The season of the year has now arrived when the man who thinks he loves to hunt gets itchy to be away to the mountains. He dreams for weeks in advance of what fun he will have sleeping on the ground at night after having tramped all day over the hills, usually wet to the skin and dog tired, so hungry he could eat a rubber boot and relish the diet. He goes out with expectations of a full game bag, and usually returns with blasted hopes and nothing but the fever worked off to show for his hard work. But no matter how firmly he resolves to never again be lured away by the thoughts of big game, he generally forgets before the next hunting season opens and is sure to be caught in the same trap again. Those who have never tried the sport may call it that, but it is the hardest work for the least pay one is ever called upon to perform.

With two investigations by senate committees going on to ascertain how the seats were secured, it may seem appropriate to observe that some high prices prevailed in buying votes. The Lorimer committee has resumed its labors in Chicago and sensational testimony is reported to have been secured during the recess by the attorneys for the committee. In Wisconsin, the burden of proof has been thrown on Senator Stephenson to show that he did not illegally spend so vast a sum as \$107,000 in securing his election.