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Nothing Unconserved Except the Pure Air

Senator Heyburn of Idaho, according to the Washington correspondent of the Anaconda Standard, does not think much of Secretary Wilson's "discovery" of potash in seaweed. In fact he is not willing to admit that the finding of potash in seaweed at this late day can rightfully be termed a "discovery." And when it comes to withdrawing seaweed from entry and reserving it for future generations, the senator believes that the height of conservation folly has been reached. There's only one thing left," he said, "and that's the air. Pretty soon we will all be paying royalty on the air we breathe."

It so happens that Senator Heyburn is very well versed in seaweed as a source from which potash may be obtained for fertilizer. Years ago, in his college days he studied chemistry and then learned of the presence of potash in the various forms of marine vegetation. He conducted experiments, as a student, designed to extract potash from seaweed, and, in later years, while on the South Pacific coast, he went frequently to the fields where seaweed grows rank and there pulled up and studied the very species of seaweed to which the secretary of agriculture now attaches such vast importance.

As a matter of fact, Senator Heyburn is very thoroughly posted on the value of seaweed, and on its physical properties as well. He tells of going out in boats and pulling up from the bottom great seaweeds, some more than 50 feet in length. Not only was he familiar with the large flabby leaves that characterize the growth of the South Pacific coast, but with the characteristic "bladders" that enable the mammoth plants to keep afloat. And while he always recognized the high potash content, and was aware that seaweed was used for fertilizer the world over, he never expected to see the day when the United States government would seriously consider a plan to regulate the taking of seaweed for agricultural or other use.

If, after Secretary Wilson announces his great find to congress, some one shall attempt to put through legislation authorizing the withdrawal of "submarine forests" with a view to government regulation, the senate will hear a lecture on seaweed that will make its members sit up and take notice, for the Idaho senator is thoroughly primed on this subject and can discuss it in great detail without previous preparation.

The policy of the government for several years past in conserving forests, coal lands, water power, etc., and withdrawing government lands from homestead entry under first one pretext and then another, has, as Senator Heyburn well says, reached the "height of folly," and also that point where it is seriously retarding the development of many of the western states. Montana in particular is feeling the effects of government supervision over the undeveloped resources of the state. And no locality in the state feels this handicap as badly as the country formerly embraced in the Flathead reservation. The best lands of this rich section, especially adapted to the culture

of fruit and general agriculture, are withheld from settlers as forest lands and power reserves, while in fact thousands of acres retained by the government through the Indian department are as devoid of timber, literally speaking, as the plains of Kansas or Nebraska. Productive and most desirable lands are withdrawn and held by the reclamation department for power purposes that can not now or ever be utilized in direct connection with any power development. Settlers would immediately occupy these lands were they given the opportunity. Such settlement would materially increase our population, develop natural resources, increase our taxable property and assist in building up a community equaled by few and excelled by none.

Statistics compiled furnish a striking illustration of the rapid development of the northwest. A decade ago Montana was considered a range country and feeding ground for cattle and sheep. In 1899 there were only 16 acres of flax grown in the state of Montana. A decade later there were 37,647 acres. Oats show an increase of 148 per cent and the wheat fields have expanded 180 per cent. Cereals and potatoes increased over 150 per cent. With the lands we have that are particularly desirable for agricultural purposes placed at the disposal of the homebuilders, lands that are now withheld by the government, these figures will again be duplicated if not exceeded. The cold, hard facts seem to suggest that the time is at hand when the people of the entire west should demand in no uncertain terms that the present policy of the government in land matters and conservation undergo a radical change.

Death of Frank Conway

Word was received in Ronan Sunday night about 10 o'clock, of the death of Frank T. Conway, editor of the Virginia City Madonian, at his home in Virginia City. The intelligence reached Ronan by telephone, the message being sent to his sister, Mrs. A. M. Sterling, and brother, George Farrell. Mrs. Sterling and Mr. Farrell started at once for the home of the deceased, and are there for the last sad rites.

It has been learned that the deceased was in apparently usual health and was engaged in playing with the children at home when he was suddenly stricken and expired without any warning whatever.

Frank T. Conway was one of the best known of Montana editors, having been engaged in the work in various capacities for many years. A short time ago he returned to his old home at Virginia City from a long engagement with the Anaconda Standard and assumed the editorial management of the Madonian, one of the oldest of Montana newspapers, and was giving the people of the state one of the best papers published in Montana. He had an entertaining pen, was engaged weekly in contributing to the literature of the state some of the best stories of early life here, and his death will not only be a loss to the family but will be mourned by a host of friends in and out of the newspaper realm.

One of the Judges

Prof. Alfred A. Atkinson, head of the Agronomy department of the Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, was one of the three judges of grain at the New York Land Show, at which the state of Montana won four out of the five first prizes offered for grain. In justice to the well known agronomist it should be said that the samples of grain judged were marked with a secret code and the judges had no means of knowing the grain they scored.

The winning of these prizes by Montana is significant. Montana has a great agricultural future. The record made so far in grain production is but trifling when compared to what can be done as the state becomes more settled and modern farming methods are more commonly used. The state college offers to the young men of Montana who intend to take up agriculture, a course of training under the supervision of Ms. Atkinson which should appeal to every one interested in crop raising.

Ole Olson Tells of Local Events

Meester Editor:

Ay expect you tank by dese time Ay have sold my place and gone away because Ay did not write you some more letter again, but Ay am still oop har on my hill and enjoy the skeenery and hope these few lines will find you the same. Ay have had two or tree chances to sell my place but dey wanted me to swap it for town property in Polson and Ay say no, tings are bad enough now an Ay better keep my hill. One Polson faller say he would give me von house for my place and eef that was not enough he would make me take two. Last vake a comity called on me and say ven de legislachoor meets ve will get de state to buy your place for a sylum of some kind an Ay ask dem vat kind of sylum an dey say mebbe for the feeble minded. One Polson faller say gee eef de state builds dat kind of sylum in Polson who will be left to tend to beesness. But de rest of de comity dey say oh dat will be all rite, ve can take turns. Ay tell you dese fallers oop har bane husky patries all right, dey vill holler dere heds off anny time for de old flag an an appropriation.

Den Ay tank mebbe Ay can sell my place to de Methodist conference vat met har dese fall for home for preacher fallers vat cant vork on de yob enny more. Ay tell dem it sure would be gude place because de preacher fallers would be oop high and would have gude start on other fallers on resurrection morning. Dey vill let me know ven dey find out vot de demand is goin' to be for seats on dat day.

Vell, meester editor, Ay vas goin to tell yeu about the trip tree or four Polson fallers made to Missouly last vake. Long tam now ve bin lookin' for steem ralerode an Looey Hill he bin talkin vat ve must do an fill in towasite so cars can come in. Polson fallers read in Ronan newspaper that meester senator Clark vas talkin about a lectric line and dey say dese lectric yooce runs oop hill yooce de same as down an mebbe ve can get out of de hole dat way. So dey pick out two or tree Polson fallers to go to Missouly and dey take banker fallers mostly because dere morgidges and inter-

est vould vork for dem vile dey vas gone and dey vent over.

You know vot happened ven Looey Hill came across reservation. Vell de same ting happens dese tam to Polson fallers. Dey got away in gude tam but somehow dey didn't get to Missouly in tam for banquet to senator Clark.

Three Ronan fallers vent over and ven Polson fallers got to hotel vere banquet vas and looked in de door, dere vas Ronan noospaper man settin close to dry martini and Ronan banker faller vas right by vidder Clicquot and Ronan beeg store man vas splitin with three star and senator Clark's idanny water. It made Polson fallers mouth water Ay tell you, because dey didnt get dere until banquet vas all over. All the speechers talked about trails, except Polson fallers who got dere too late. Ay guess de speeches vas fine and plenty ralerodes vas built right dere and everybody had plenty yuice to run dem with. One ting Ay can tell meester tostmaster, dere is plenty more Swede trails on dese reservation dan Gaelic trails an mebbe he vill find dat out next summer. One Polson faller vas down for speech on "Blind Trails" and he vas supposed to tell meester Clark how to find Polson ven he gets as far as Ronan with his ralerode but Polson faller missed his talk on account being too late and his speech vill no doubt be in Polson paper dis vake. Nobody by Ronan reads Polson paper and so Ay tank Ay skall tell you something vat he say about lectric road. He say dese vas grate reservation because it had grate town in it. Dere vas grate country tributary and eef meester Clark build hees rode he must sure come to Polson. Dese vas grate country down by Arlee an Joeko, all tributary to Polson, and people vould ride on his cars plenty. Dese vas grate country down by Saint Ignatius, all tributary to Polson, and plenty grain for haul. Dese vas grate country in Moiese valley, all tributary to Polson, and plenty alfalfa grows dere for haul away. Dese vas grate country around Ronan, all tributary to Polson, and plenty wheat and oats and barley and hay and potatoes and apples and lumber and beeg farms and beeg stores and two sets of telyphone girls and plenty tings for haul. Vy meester tostmaster dese season ve ship out two hundred thousand bushels of wheat from Ronan alope. Dat sure made meester tostmaster set up and take notice. Polson fallers say ve can do all that for you next year and den some and ve tink uef you vill come to Polson with your rode ve can get you right of vay on de Yim Hill basis—and that means all the traffic vill bear.

Ay understand vile de Polson fallers didnt get to make speech, they filed same with Yudge Bickford and he is going to have eet surveyed to see vat he can do with it.

Ay skall rite you again ven something comes along dat Polson fallers can miss.

OLE OLESON.

Committee Meeting

I would like to meet the committee on the Farmer's Institute at my office on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of making final arrangements for the meeting to be held here Dec. 19th.

The committee consists of Wm. Connerly, H. F. Pierce, Iver M. Brandjord, B. H. Denison. A. Sutherland, chairman.

Missoula's Clark Banquet Big and Successful Affair

The Missoula Chamber of Commerce tendered a banquet last Friday evening to Senator W. A. Clark, it being possible for the latter to be in town sufficiently long for such an occasion. The banquet was held at the Palace hotel and plates were paid for 115 guests, nearly all of which were taken.

Senator Jos. M. Dixon was toastmaster and the toasts were appropriate to the occasion, and along lines intended to show the guest of the evening the kindly feeling held for him by the business men of the Garden City.

Quite a number of outside people were invited, from the Bitter Root and the Flathead particularly. From Ronan there were present A. J. Brower, Stanley Scaree and Coker F. Rathbone. Messrs. Brower and Rathbone being invited guests of the Missoula Mercantile Co. The Ronan contingent are profused in their praise of the treatment accorded them by the M. M. Co. and also to the many other gentlemen of that city who put themselves out to be pleasant during their stay in town.

The banquet started at 7 o'clock in the evening and lasted until 11 o'clock, and the time was entirely taken up with the "big eat" and the speeches. The menu for the banquet was as follows:

MENU
Dry Martini
Olympia Oyster Cocktail
Consomme in Cup
Celery Ripe Olives Pickles
Fried Spring Chicken
French Fried Sweet Potatoes
Hot Biscuits
Combination Salad
Ice Cream and Cake
Cheese Wafers
Coffee
Mumm's Extra Dry and Cigars

Afterwards Senator Dixon introduced the speakers in the order following and they spoke on the subjects assigned them.

TRAILS
Joseph M. Dixon, Trailblazer
Municipal Trails..... J. M. Evans
Old Trails..... A. L. Stone
Legal Trails..... W. M. Bickford
Gaelic Trails..... J. M. Luey
Trails to Learning.....
..... C. A. Duniway
Financial Trails..... J. M. Keith
Minnesota Trails..... F. A. Day
Army Trails..... Lieut. Winton
New Trails..... W. A. Clark

The primary object of the banquet of course was to get Senator Clark in touch with the people and secure if possible, some definite statement regarding the building of the electric line from Missoula to the Flathead. During the course of the Senator's remarks he referred to the matter and gave assurances that he would do his part toward the consumation of this much cherished object, should the development he has started reveal that it will be a profitable venture into which to put the money needed for the building of such a line. In other words should it be determined that there is sufficient development here on the reservation to warrant the building of the line, he would furnish the money. That is as close as he came to telling what he would do.

A telegram from the Kalispell interurban people was read which caused much enthusiasm among the guests, in which that company offered to donate its rights and privileges and \$100,000 in subscriptions to the Sena-

tor if he would build the road. Another equally as felicitous message was received from the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.

Taken altogether the evening was a most enjoyable one and should be conducive to much mutual good to that city and the Flathead. It brought together many of the most prominent business men and an exchange of opinions always is good for all concerned.

Census Shows 510 People

"Tip" Napton has completed his labor and the census shows there are 510 people residing within the territory proposed to be incorporated into the town of Ronan. It is a showing of which the people are justly proud, and it means that from nothing, so to speak, in two years a thriving bustling western town has sprung into existence with 510 live, energetic business men and women, and their children, are now living and enjoying life here.

When the board of county commissioners received the petition asking for the initial steps to be taken on the part of the board for the incorporation of Ronan, no one was asked for to take the census, it being thought best to allow the board to name the person without any suggestions from anyone here. The board appointed S. Napton of Missoula to do the work, and last Monday he entered upon the task assigned him. Yesterday he finished the work, and upon adding the totals found there were just 510 on the census book. This number is far more than many of those living here had ever estimated there were, and it is a gratifying fact that no charge of padding the census can be laid at our door, and that an entirely disinterested person was selected to do the work.

Ronan is not as large a city as some and is not as large as we expect to become, but when it is known that this entire growth has been accomplished in 18 months, it is a growth to be proud of.

Keep your eye on Ronan.

A Big Cabbage

St. Ignatius carries off the prize for the largest cabbage, and is entitled to the blue ribbon. Last Saturday while returning from the Clark banquet, Andrew Beckwith called the writer into the Beckwith Merc. Co. store and picking up a sample of the kind of cabbage raised there said: "Here, take this home with you and make a barrel of sauer kraut out of part of it and distribute the balance among our friends up there." It could be done almost, and to tell the truth, it is the largest cabbage we ever saw. It weighs 27 pounds stripped ready for cooking, and was raised by the Jesuit fathers on their farm at the Mission. There was one a little larger on exhibition but we had no room for it in the auto.

The Pioneer had commenced to believe that Ole Olson had sold his "skeenery" ranch near Polson and quietly left the country without sending in an account of his actions as promised, but he comes forward this week with an interesting letter which will be read with appreciation by all.