

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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## Reservation Roads Again Held Up by Department

During the past two years quite a number of county roads have been located and platted by the board of county commissioners across the Flathead reservation. At the time such action was taken the county surveyor was instructed to make blue prints of each proposed road and to furnish the interior department with a copy of same that the road may receive the approval of the department. This has been done in each and every instance. Previous to Jan. 1, 1911, the department, for some unaccountable reason, rejected the applications for easements over certain allotments, and thus prevented the board from establishing the roads as desired. Another letter has lately been received from the department announcing that the matter was closed against the county. This placed the county officials in an embarrassing position and prevents the improvement of the roads on the reservation as has been contemplated. It stopped all road work under consideration and leaves the people here at the mercy of the elements, or upon their own resources so far as road improvement is concerned.

Another feature which is not the least vexatious is that all the money expended so far may have been spent in vain, as the roads upon which work has been done may be closed against them at any time. When it is known that fully \$20,000 was expended on the reservation roads this year it becomes more serious than would appear at first thought.

Again, it was intended to commence in the early spring another campaign on the reservation and build more roads and repair where needed, the roads improved during this year. This will also be impossible now, or until the matter has been threshed out with the department and some title secured in the county, for an easement over the lands adjacent to the roads.

There is probably not another parallel case anywhere in the whole state of Montana. Here is a new country, settled by progressive, energetic people, completely at the mercy of some bureau chief in Washington for relief from the disadvantages of having no roads. It is a condition that should not be tolerated for one moment. The board of county commissioners realize the great need of road work and are ready to do more than their share toward this work, but find their hands completely tied by some departmental regulation regarding allotted lands.

To this paper it seems as though the man or men who have the matter in their control at Washington, should either come out here personally, and investigate the condition and do something to correct the abuse, or else should communicate with the local Indian office and get such data as would change their attitude thereon.

It can be stated as an absolute truth that the increase in value which is bound to come to every Indian allotment with the building of a good road alongside such allotment, should and would be enough to more than offset the depreciation resulting from the loss of the narrow strip taken for such road. Just think of it. A farm without a road to it. Such folly is beyond the reasoning of the most imbecile mind,

to say nothing of a supposedly educated, thinking person, holding a responsible position with the general government.

### Apology Not Needed

A prominent business man of Polson was in town one day this week and while here took especial pains to say to several Ronan men that he wished to apologize to the Ronan Commercial club on his own behalf and for many of the delegation from that town, who came to Ronan to attend what they supposed was a railroad meeting gotten up by Ronan people. He said that, after the meeting started they learned that they were more misled than the people here, and to set themselves right before the Ronan business men, he wished to say that none of them were cognizant of the real intent and purpose of the meeting.

It is very gratifying to Ronan people to know that the real business men of Polson take this view of that meeting. At the time, some felt that it was an imposition to come down here and present such a proposition as was presented, and some resented the imputation that the delegation from Polson should consider us so gullible as to be taken in with such chaff.

The people here are ready to assist in every way in their power to promote and encourage a legitimate scheme for the building of an electric line over this country, and are not particular where the said railroad starts or ends, but it must be a business proposition and not a J. Rufus Wallingford story. Blackie Daw may have many counterparts, and J. Rufus many subterfuges to part the unwary from their money, but when Ronan people know it, not a dollar is going to be filched from any of them.

The Pioneer congratulates the Polson delegation on seeing a colored gentleman in their woodpile, also.

### Presidential Office.

Ronan is now a presidential postoffice, it having been advanced to a third class office. Wednesday Postmaster Sterling received the following letter which explains itself:

Washington, Dec. 16, 1911.—Postmaster, Ronan, Montana. Dear Sir: The receipts of your postoffice and your compensation as postmaster for the quarter ended September 30, 1911, have been sufficient to advance the office, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1883, from the fourth to the third class. Your salary as postmaster has been fixed at the rate of \$1,300 a year, beginning January 1, 1912. Respectfully,  
C. P. GRANDFIELD,  
First Assistant Postmaster General.

Usually when a postoffice is advanced to third class the salary starts at \$1000, but the receipts and business of the Ronan postoffice has been so great that instead of starting at the minimum the salary is started at what the receipts warrant the department in fixing at \$1300 from the start.

Mr. Sterling has improved the office equipment to meet the growing demand, and during the rush hours of the day has added to the working force so as to expedite the handling of the mail. All these are in keeping with the growth of the town and patrons of the office appreciate it. Mr.

Sterling's commission from the president is expected to arrive any day.

### "Ring, Ring for Liberty"

Through the courtesy of Pablo & Potvin the above patriotic picture now adorns the wall of the principal's room of the Ronan school. On Saturday last the presentation was made by Fred Potvin, the junior member of the firm, and the pupils join with Professor Healey in expressing their appreciation of the gift. As the title would indicate, it is the picture of the ringing of liberty bell on July 4th, 1776, at Philadelphia, and the coloring is in harmony with the subject. It is a gift from which all may receive a lesson in loyalty and fealty to the country and is a fitting object to look down upon the pupils of any school.

### Ain't it the Truth

Pioneer:—My attention was called to the fact that Stanley Searce renewed a bridge six miles south of Ronan, in better shape than it ever was before.

So if the Reclamation Service put in the same kind of lumber over our ditches where the travel is great, I feel sure that the businessmen and the community at large would be highly elated.

JOHN G. WALMAN.

## Superintendent Harmon's Visit

State Superintendent Harmon and County Superintendent Mrs. Pearl T. Marshall, were in Ronan Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Harmon was on his way to Polson to help dedicate the new school house being built there, but upon arriving in Ronan was informed that the building was not completed as yet and that no dedication would take place at this time. A meeting was arranged here for Monday evening, and one of the largest audiences assembled in the opera house which has greeted any one up to date. A. Sutherland was the presiding officer, and extended a hearty welcome to Ronan to both Mr. Harmon and Mrs. Marshall, and after listening to several musical selections, Mr. Sutherland presented Mrs. Marshall, who spoke on the school problems confronting the people of Ronan and the reservation. She reviewed, briefly, the work of the past 18 months and congratulated the people on the spirit shown in advancing the schools of the reservation. She said that 18 months ago there was only one school, while now there are 18. This is one of the best signs of the class of people who have come here to make homes.

Mr. Harmon was introduced and for about an hour gave the people an impromptu address along educational lines. He discussed the modern methods of teaching and told of the work of his office during the past seven years. He pointed out some of the defects of modern teaching and told why it was that teaching as a profession was not as successful as other professions. The real reason, in his mind, was the fact that four years was the average life of the school ma'am service, they leaving off teaching to engage in other vocations and thus forcing the inexperienced into the school rooms, while in other professions it is a life work to all who engage therein.

His talk was entertaining to parents and pupils alike, and if

his advice is taken there will be a great improvement in the schools of the state.

Both speakers advocated the consolidated school, basing their conviction on the idea that better service for less money can be secured through the establishment of one central school, graded to meet the demands of the locality, than with many small schools where the teacher has from one to eight grades to teach. It is their opinion, also, that it is much more economical to convey the pupils who live at a distance to the central school than it is to maintain so many smaller ones. It is a matter which should be carefully considered by the people here now, as the indications are that more room must be provided for Ronan during the coming year. In fact, it is certain now that this must be done, and if one central school will do better work and at less cost than many small ones, then we should by all means build the larger and central school.

Mr. Harmon and Mrs. Marshall remained over to attend the farmers' institute and enjoyed the speaking as much as any of us. We all hope to have both of them come again.

Miss Effie Hollingsworth filed on a homestead in section 15, 20-20 this week. She purchased the prior entryman's right.

## What Would He Say?

Farmes Gregg of Minnesota said at the institute Tuesday, that he thought this the best favored country he had ever seen during all his many trips over the country. He said that he had visited many states and that nowhere had he seen such great natural advantages as was to be found here in the Flathead. "Why," said he, "you have the richest of soil, the best of water, are protected by the high mountains to the west and east, have unlimited timber for all purposes and the only thing to fear is that with all these blessings you may become shiftless though not being made to exert yourselves in making fine homes."

Coming from such an authority that sounded good to us. But does Farmes Gregg understand the matter all the way through? Does he realize just how much there is to discourage, and just what obstacles are thrown in the way of the settler who has located here intending to carve for himself and family a home? With all the vast amount of timber to be seen skirting the high mountains to the east of us, there is not one stick available to the settler with which to improve his land. The settler must have a permit to cut a little wood for fuel; he must have a permit to cut a fence post, to cut a house log, or to use the timber for any purpose. After securing the permit, he must pay a price fixed by some bureau chief in Washington for the timber.

The settler finds that he cannot secure the building of a road to and from his farm, owing to the fact that some allotment may be touched enroute. He finds that a telephone line cannot be constructed to his farm home for the same reason. He finds that instead of aiding him to make improvements and develop the resources of the country, the government is placing every possible obstacle in the way.

The thought occurs, what would he say about such treatment if he only knew?

## Farmers' Institute Tuesday Was Well Attended

The farmers' institute advertised to be held Tuesday was well attended by the farmers living tributary to Ronan. The day was pleasant and the speakers arrived before noon from Polson, where they had held a similar meeting the day before.

Professor Cooley, superintendent of farmers' institutes at the agricultural cultural college, was in charge of the speakers, among whom were Farmer Gregg of Minnesota, of whom it is said no man, dead or alive, has done so much for the farmers of that state; Prof. M. L. Wilson, in charge of experimental stations in the eastern part of the state and of the faculty at Bozeman; T. A. Hoverstad superintendent of farmers' institutes at Fargo, N. D.

The meeting was held in the opera house at 2 o'clock, and the higher grades of the public school attended in a body, being in charge of Principal Healey, and all of the pupils gave close attention to what was said. The course of study adopted for Montana carries a study of agriculture with the other branches and it was deemed wise to have the pupils attend these lectures.

Superintendent Hoverstad talked on poultry subjects and gave the experience of the station at Fargo, in its care of chickens and the means adopted to get the hens to lay best in winter. What he said should be of value to the farmers here and should give the industry added value.

Prof. Wilson talked on flax culture, and while it is probable that very little of this crop will be attempted again next year, by reason of the results attending the efforts of those who sowed it last year, what he had to say on the subject should be taken in account by anyone who may venture to do so.

Farmer Gregg lectured on strawberry raising as done by a Minnesota farmer and his experience is a valuable asset to those who may contemplate setting out beds of this most desirable fruit. He told how to get the best results from the least work, a matter of great concern to the busy farmer.

In the evening at 7:30 another meeting was held and the same interest was shown as at the afternoon meeting. Lectures on subjects were discussed, and besides those who spoke in the afternoon State Supt. Harmon talked on his experience as a Gallatin valley farmer. Mr. Harmon owns and operates a farm near Bozeman and while he may be termed an educator he is also a good farmer and is realizing handsome profits from his exercise of modern methods thereon.

Taken all in all, the meetings held in Ronan and in other towns on the reservation will be of incalculable benefit to the new farmers and will give them better ideas on how to start in right.

From here the entire party went to St. Ignatius and good meetings were held there both afternoon and evening on Wednesday.

### Double Purpose Chickens

E. E. Healey, principal of the Ronan schools, is a chicken fancier. He has devoted considerable time and study to the business and prides himself on having some of the best of the different breeds he owns. He has

some of the finest Leghorns and gets eggs every day, more than enough to supply his family wants and sells a dozen every once in a while to the writer. They are good eggs, and when one says a good egg that means considerable. There is not any degree of goodness when it is applied to eggs. Then he has what he calls his "double purpose" chickens, and they are the Buff Cochins. He has a rooster, a mammoth fellow which he intends to harness to the cart when he moves on the farm next year, and may use him to plow with. Mr. Healey says he has a breast, like a Percheron and can travel as fast as a turtle, so if that is not a chicken for a farmer to breed where will you find one?

### Big Poultry Show

The Western Montana Poultry association will hold its first annual exhibition at Missoula, January 9 to 13, inclusive. The state show was held in Missoula last winter and served as an eye-opener to the possibilities of the poultry industry in Western Montana. It is confidently expected that the coming show at Missoula will be one of the biggest and best in the Northwest this winter. The premium list is ready for distribution and contains an attractive list of prizes. Poultry breeders and fanciers are invited to send birds to the show at Missoula. If you desire a premium list, send your name and address to L. W. Austin, Secretary-treasurer, Missoula, Montana.

### Mrs. Mix Dead.

Word was received in Ronan Wednesday of the death of Mrs. Norman A. Mix at the family home in Missoula early that morning. Mrs. Mix was the wife of N. A. Mix who clerked for Fred Potvin about a year ago, and was well known to many people here. She was a niece of Mrs. Potvin and Mr. and Mrs. Potvin and Mr. Rainville left at once to attend the funeral. Besides the sorrowing husband she leaves a young baby and three other small children.

### Married in Missoula

On Dec. 14th, 1911, Mr. C. S. Lionberger and Mrs. Ella McDonald, by Rev. H. S. Saitley, at the home of F. M. Truesdale. The bride and groom were accompanied to Missoula by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Vandenburg. Supper was served following the ceremony and the happy couple are now at home on the ranch northwest of Ronan. Mr. and Mrs. Vandenburg have also returned home.

### Moving Picture Show.

On Christmas day, Monday next, at 2 and 4 p. m., the motion picture show will be on the boards at the Ronan opera house. The electric light will be used for the first time and special pictures will be shown. Admission 15 cents.

Captain John W. Swanson of the City of Polson, running between Somers and Polson during the summer months, was in town Wednesday and filed on a homestead in section 8-21-21.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Luallin have moved back to Ravalli where the former's business requires his presence.