

THE RONAN PIONEER

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State Historical Society

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FIRE DESTROYS BECKWITH AND SCEARCE WAREHOUSES

Fire at Ravalli early Tuesday morning entirely destroyed the Beckwith elevator and Searce warehouse and the Beckwith lumber yard. The fire is said to have originated in the Searce warehouse and was communicated to the other buildings and had such headway when discovered as to prevent saving the buildings. The depot and the livery stable were both in danger and only the arrival of a train at a critical moment and the switching of the engine to a position where a stream of water and steam from the engine, saved the depot. It required all the water in the engine tank to save the building and a wire brought another engine to the scene as soon as possible.

The Searce warehouse was sold last week to M. A. O'Connell and F. J. Reynolds of St. Ignatius, and it was being converted into an elevator. Mr. Searce had a small amount of merchandise stored in the building, but his loss is fully covered by insurance. Just what the loss to the Beckwith Mercantile Co. will be has not been learned, nor the amount of insurance carried.

One of the most serious losses is that of G. A. Townsend, a farmer southwest of Ronan on Crow Creek, who was loading a car of flax and it was also burned. It comes as a calamity to Mr. Townsend.

Caska Allen and Frank Carrington were sleeping in the Searce warehouse, and were awakened only in time to get out a few of their clothes, losing many of their carpenter tools. They were remodeling the warehouse into an elevator for O'Connell & Reynolds, and say the origin of the fire is a mystery to them. Caska had gone to bed about 1 o'clock and at about 3:30 the fire started. He thinks it must have started from the outside, probably in the shavings between that building and the Beckwith warehouse.

The Stone-Ordean-Wells Co. lost about 400 sacks of sugar, stored there for local distribution, but their loss is fully covered by insurance.

It has been learned that O'Connell & Reynolds will rebuild their elevator at once, assuring the farmers a modern method of handling their grain this season. The Beckwith Mercantile Co. will probably rebuild also, requiring more than one fire to put them out of the running.

It has been learned also that only about one-half a car of flax is the loss sustained by Mr. Townsend, but that is bad enough.

Frank Carrington lost all his carpenter tools, totaling about \$200 worth, and Caska Allen lost part of his, about \$50 worth. They were in Ronan this week stocking up again so as to be ready to commence rebuilding as soon as the Northern Pacific gives permission.

Raising More Hogs.

One of the best indications as to what is being done by the farmers generally on the Flathead in a way to increase the earnings of their farms is that they are commencing to raise so many hogs. Almost every farmer has a number and they all look fine. Considering the fact that many of them are hauling water, some of them several miles to water their stock, it shows a perseverance worthy of mention. Some farmers put in one-half their time hauling water and this is a labor entirely extra from what is generally

necessary on the average farm. They are realizing that it will be impossible for them to make both ends meet raising grain for the market and are endeavoring to raise and get together enough stock to eat all the wheat, oats and barley they produce. Hogs are now selling on the eastern market at from eight to nine cents, according to quality and weight. The local market is around seven cents per pound, live weight.

FEATURES OF THE STATE FAIR FOR NEXT WEEK

The final meeting of the board of directors of the Montana State Fair before the big exposition of the week of September 22-27, brought about the designation of special days for the week of the fair.

Monday, September 22, will be known as Children's Day and Old Soldiers' Day, when both the little tots of the state and the old time veterans will have special features devoted to their entertainment. The wearing of a small American flag in honor of the war veterans will be partaken in by all fair visitors.

Tuesday, September 23, was designated as Frontier Day, Shriners' Day and Western Montana Day. The pioneers of the state will mingle with those who wear the emblem of the Shriners and special train service will bring Western Montanans to the big state fair from the land of the red apple.

Wednesday will be Governor's Day, Derby Day and Beaverhead Day. Governor Sam V. Stewart will lead the stock parade in the afternoon and in the evening will be the guest of honor at the governor's reception and ball at the capital. The big State Fair Derby, offering \$1,500 will be run in the afternoon, being the feature running race of the week. Beaverhead enthusiasts will come to the fair on the "Beaverhead Special" and by proper boosting will put the southwestern county conspicuously on the map.

Thursday will be Northern Pacific Day and Elks' Day, when the officials of the "Route of the Great Big Baked Potato" will visit the fair and when the members of the horned tribe of fraternalism will evoke fun from the fair amusements.

Friday is Better Babies Day, Milwaukee Day and Automobile Day. Judges in the Better Babies contest will announce the prize winners on Friday, and medals awarded to be presented to the winning babies. Officials of the Milwaukee, St. Paul & Puget Sound will be on hand and car owners of the state will bring their machines to Helena for the official Automobile Day.

Saturday is given over as Great Northern Day, Commercial Day and Homesteaders and Dry Land Farmers' Day. Twenty executive officials of the Great Northern will be on hand and Louis W. Hill will meet the non-irrigating farmers and homesteaders in whom he has shown so much interest. The Montana traveling men will be given over Saturday as their day which has been called Commercial Day.

The official bands that will play during the week are the Gateway City Band of Livingston, the Boston and Montana Band of Butte, and the Great Falls Black Eagle Band. They will furnish martial tunes and classical and popular airs, and will add spice to the many outdoor free attractions that will include the aviatrice, seven vaudeville acts, and featureful wild west stunts.

SEASONABLE SUBURBAN EMOTIONS.



1913 GRAIN CROP ABOUT THRESHED

The Mission valley grain crop is almost threshed. A trip over the country reveals the fact that during the past two weeks, while there has been ideal weather for threshing purposes, the great bulk of the grain has been put through the machines and is now either in sacks or stored in granaries on the farms. There are some pieces of flax yet to harvest, but much of this is ready for the threshers.

Some localities are reporting good yields of wheat and oats, others fair and some very light. So far only one farmer, Fred Rouillier, has threshed his flax and reported the yield, his crop going 18 bushels per acre. It is said that Mr. Rouillier lost much flax by cutting it with a mower and raking into windrows, shattering and losing much by this method. Those familiar with flax raising say he must have lost 500 bushels, very materially reducing his average per acre.

Most of the grain in the valley this year is of an excellent quality and will bring the top price. Some pieces were affected by the dry weather and the berry will be shrunken, but these instances are not many.

Prices have advanced during the past two weeks several cents per bushel and considerable oats and wheat is being marketed, either for shipment or local consumption.

The acreage of fall wheat sown this year is much less than heretofore, owing to the continued dry weather prevailing. Summer fallowed land has been so devoid of moisture as to deter many from seeding and the acreage will be light. Fall wheat shows the effect of no rainfall, the grain coming up very uneven in many fields. Other fields look as good as usual.

There will be much spring grain sown next year according to present indications, the plowing being done this fall and the seed sown early in the spring. Farmers believe this will be better than to risk late fall seeding. Up to this time little fall plowing has been done, harvest and threshing taking the farmers time. The good weather has permitted them to do this work and the lack of moisture making plowing a difficult matter. Rain is needed very much over all the reservation.

BEN RAYMOND FARM HOUSE BURNED WEDNESDAY

The Ben Raymond farm house located north of town about two miles north of town was entirely destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. Just after noon the flames were noticed from Ronan and in a very short time the building was consumed, making a big fire for the time being. The building was of five or six rooms and was occupied by Clarence Beckhorn and family. Mr. Beckhorn being away from home at the time. Very little of the furniture was saved and the loss is almost total, there being no insurance. The origin of the fire has not been learned.

Misfortune does not come singly very often, as Mr. Beckhorn's family has been sick most of the summer and he has lost two valuable colts and one mare of his team.

Leon News

After a respite of two weeks, the Worth While society met at the home of Mrs. Marcy, with a large attendance. The business session was a long one and the ladies finally decided to entertain the gentlemen at a chicken pie supper on Oct. 10, instead of the harvest home supper previously announced. During the social hour the hostess served delicious refreshments. Mrs. J. Llewellyn, Mrs. M. Llewellyn and Mrs. J. C. Denny were guests of the society. Mrs. A. W. Nelson will entertain the society next week.

The school opened last Monday with a large enrollment. Miss Rich is assigned to teach the high school course and Miss Bertha Ellis will teach the grades. The patrons of the school are justly proud they will have a high school course this year and great credit is due the enterprising members of the school board. They work harmoniously at all times for the betterment of the schools and the results are manifest.

Next Sunday evening instead of the regular lesson, a temperance program will be given under the direction of Norah Newett and Bethel Bennett.

Miss Nellie Billings who has made an extended trip to Seattle and Tacoma, arrived home last week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lee, on Sept. 1, a daughter,

COST OF LIVING STILL SOARING

The cost of living on June 15 was approximately 60 per cent higher than the average between 1890 and 1900, more than 3 per cent higher than it was a year ago and nearly 15 per cent higher than it was two years ago, says a Washington dispatch.

Investigations of retail prices in 40 cities conducted by experts of the bureau of labor show prices at practically the same level as last November, when the high records of the last quarter of a century were reached.

Of 14 articles investigated, all except sugar showed a marked advance; bacon, which led in the soaring, went up 128.5 per cent.

Other articles showing remarkable advances were: Pork chops, 111 per cent; round steak, 102.5; smoked ham, 84; hens, 78.7; sirloin steak, 75.2; rib roasts, 75; lard, 66.5; cornmeal, 57.3; potatoes, 44.4; butter, 41.3; eggs, 40.8; milk, 38.4, and flour, 28.6. Bacon advanced 16.2 per cent during the year; smoked ham, 14.1; pork chops, 13.4; hens, 11.8; eggs, 11.7; round steak, 10.1; sirloin, 9.8; lard, 7.2; rib roast, 6.8; butter, 5.8, and milk, 4.1.

The other four declined as follows: Potatoes, 31.9; sugar, 15.2; wheat flour, 7.7, and cornmeal, 3.0.

These figures were taken by experts and are accurate in every respect.

Married

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Miss Celia May Myers to Mr. Fred A. Hughes. The wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Myers, on Mud creek, Sept. 17. Rev. John G. Ross of the Methodist church officiating.

They will be at home to their friends after October 1, 1913.

Christian Sunday School

Glacier View school house every Sunday at 10 o'clock a. m.

The season for big eggs seems to continue all the year on the Flathead. Mrs. Sam'l Higham brought in one the other day which weighed just 3 3-4 ounces accurate weight and it contained only one yolk. That is going some.

FEW RAILROAD FACILITIES DETRIMENT TO MONTANA

What Montana needs more than anything else at the present time is better railroad facilities, says the Butte Miner in a leading editorial.

The Miner says further: In spite of the fact that within the past few years a new trans-continental railway has been built across the state, and this road and others have constructed numerous branches, it is still true that, in spite of this, railroad construction is lagging behind the development and actual necessities of the commonwealth. It is probable that no matter how enterprising the transportation companies entering this state might be, they could not keep pace with the remarkable growth of Montana during the last few years, so that the railway corporations are hardly to be blamed for being a little behind in their extension work.

A few weeks ago the Miner gave it as his opinion that there was no line in this state that was as badly needed as one bringing the Flathead country in closer connection with Butte and the southwestern and southeastern portion of the commonwealth.

Since making that statement this newspaper, after a more thorough and closer investigation, is still more firmly convinced regarding the absolute correctness of its former declaration.

Not only that, but anyone who crosses that portion of the Flathead reservation which was thrown open to settlement three years ago, cannot help believing that some railroad will be obliged for selfish, if for no other reason, to tap this wonderful grain producing country.

The miles and miles of waving fields of grain encountered on the stage trip from Ravalli to Polson surrounding Ronan tell their own story of the immense tonnage that awaits any railroad that has sufficient enterprise to go after it.

The Flathead reservation field is a rich prize held out to any transportation company that has sufficient get up to go after it.

Here is a large area of most productive land raising many thousands of bushels of grain every year that has no railroad facilities at all, and it would not be surprising that while it is crying for one railroad today that just as soon as it has one line built other competing roads, jealous of their rival's business, will also build into this section.

That is the usual procedure. Frequently a district may be held back for want of transportation facilities for some time, when of a sudden one company will start construction work, which is an immediate signal for other companies to do likewise. Kalispell is badly in need of another railroad, for owing to changes made in the Great Northern line, it has been left on a branch of that system.

Ever since the Milwaukee built across this state, it has been reported that that company would construct a line up the Blackfoot and Swan lake country into Kalispell, but after extending a few miles from Bonner work was stopped on this extension and its completion is still hanging fire. Both these lines are needed badly and as far as the road across the Flathead reservation is concerned, the railroads with-in striking distance of this wonderfully fertile section that have failed to build in there, are virtually guilty of an economic, and industrial crime.

Quite a number of local men

have been drawn to serve as jurors in Judge Patterson's division of the district court, and yesterday the notices were received by registered mail informing them of the fact. Those for whom notices have been sent are W. H. Reichard, Dwight Large, Thos. Bergevin, C. A. Swanson, F. W. Cammack, J. L. Ozmun and A. M. Sterling. As the latter is postmaster, he will probably claim the exemption and be excused.

A petition asking for the submission of the question of loaning state school money on farms in Montana and a workmen's compensation act, can be signed at the Pioneer office. These laws will be initiated under the direct legislation act and will be voted on at the next election by all voters. Come in and sign the petition.

Mrs. Mose Delaware and Miss Edna Hull are in Spokane this week attending the fair.

Potato Growing Contest

The pupils of the Missoula county schools were invited last spring to engage in a potato growing contest and on Tuesday those from the vicinity of Ronan who entered this contest, had their product judged. Superintendent Logan had previously written to Stanley Searce, Rev. J. G. Ross and C. F. Rathbone asking that they act as judges who were to select the best exhibit for the county contest which takes place at Missoula next week. There being only two contestants, and two being needed to fill the number allotted the reservation, both were recommended for the contest.

The potatoes shown were of the Early Ohio and White Burbank varieties. They were of even size in each exhibit and while not as large as usually grown on the reservation, this evidently not being a potato year, they were very nice indeed.

In the corset cover contest, Miss Kate Titus was the judge and her duties were even less arduous than befell those in the potato contest, there being but one contestant.

Mrs. Rinehard, county superintendent, was present and sent all the exhibits to Missoula as entered in the county contest.

HAULING PUPILS TO SCHOOL COMMENCED

The trustees of district No. 28, have six wagons in service at the present time hauling the pupils to many of the schools of the district. Of this number two are at Arlee, one at St. Ignatius, one at Leon, one at Crow creek and the other in Ronan.

Almon Adamson has the contract here and his route takes in the territory south of town five miles. This method of conveying pupils to and from the schools is working out nicely in every community where it has been tried and it tends to centralize the schools. It obviates the necessity of many additional schools and enables the pupils to enter the grades in which their learning demands and besides is a saving in the annual expenditure. With graded schools at one central point better results are obtained and the idea will probably grow until at some future date all the rural schools will be graded schools just the same as in the towns, with the pupils all conveyed to and from school. That is the tendency of the times at least.