

# THE RONAN PIONEER

State Historical Society

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## HOPE OF RELIEF FOR SETTLERS

Through the efforts of Senator Myers it looks very much as though a large number of homesteaders on the Flathead would be granted relief from the exorbitant appraisal made by the recent board appointed to appraise and classify the lands that were omitted from the first classification and appraisal of Flathead lands opened for settlement. Early in the present session of congress Senator Myers introduced a bill providing for their relief and fixing 87 per acre as the maximum charge for any of the lands entered. On February 2nd the committee on public lands, of which Senator Myers is chairman, submitted the following report:

"The committee on public lands, to which was referred the bill to provide for the payment of certain lands within the former Flathead Indian reservation, in the State of Montana, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report it back to the senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

The bill was referred to the board of Indian commissioners for report. In response thereto the board submitted a report to the committee wherein it advises that it sent the Rev. William H. Ketchum, a member of the board, also the board's secretary, Mr. F. H. Abbott, out to the Flathead Reservation, Montana, for the purpose of thoroughly investigating the subject matter of this legislation. The report of this investigation made to the chairman of the board of Indian commissioners, and by him transmitted to this committee, contains the following statement of facts and data, showing the necessity for the passage of this bill:

It is difficult in brief space to set out clearly the situation that has developed in connection with the opening to settlement of the Flathead Indian reservation. The confusion and complications could hardly be more and greater than they have been. The files of the interior department contain much conflicting correspondence with field representatives of the Indian bureau and homestead settlers on the surplus lands, numerous requests for reclassification and reappraisal of homestead entries and reports thereon, bills have been introduced to relieve the situation and have met with adverse reports from the department of the interior, and a complicated situation has gradually grown more complicated. In an attempt to adjust the difficulties a bill was introduced by Senator Myers of Montana, chairman of the committee on public lands, and was referred to the board of Indian commissioners with request "for such suggestion or other information as they may be able to offer with respect to the same." The difficulties appear to have arisen chiefly from the following facts:

First. About 21,000 acres of agricultural lands originally allotted to Indians were subsequently relinquished by them and allotments selected elsewhere. These relinquished allotments, under the terms of the president's proclamation which opened the reservation lands to settlement, became subject to homestead entry on Nov. 2, 1910. These lands be-

ing Indian allotments at the time of the appraisal of lands by the first commission, were not appraised by said commission, but were included in a subsequent appraisal approved Oct. 13, 1913.

Second. Under the act of Mch. 3, 1909, approximately 50,000 acres were withdrawn and reserved for proposed water-power and reservoir sites. A considerable portion of these lands so withdrawn were released from reservation by letters of the secretary of the interior during 1910 to Oct. 26, 1914. Indians had selected allotments approximating 7,000 acres within the area thus reserved. To provide for lieu allotments for these Indians other lands were temporarily withdrawn from settlement and reserved.

Third. The relinquished allotments and some of the lands withdrawn and reserved were subsequently restored to entry and settlement by the secretary of the interior. These restored lands naturally were unclassified and unappraised and the commission which made the original appraisal in 1908 had disbanded and ceased to have any legal existence.

(Continued on page three)

## Adopt Resolutions

At a meeting of the Montana State Press association held in Helena on February 5 and 6, resolutions were adopted objecting to any tinkering at this time with the law governing public printing, endorsing the School of Journalism and asking the legislature to make an appropriation for its maintenance, and favoring the enactment into law of Senate Bill No. 71 relating to newspaper libel in Montana. The work of the department of agriculture and publicity was unstintingly endorsed and the legislature asked to provide sufficient funds for continuing the work.

The present law governing public printing is entirely satisfactory and just to all concerned, except, possibly, in the manner in which it is administered. It is often taken advantage of by boards of county commissioners to reward some newspapers for favors received and to get even with others for opposition. A provision in the law making it compulsory to award contracts to the lowest bidders would be acceptable to most publishers in the state.

## THE ROYAL NEIGHBORS COMPLETE ORGANIZATION

Fannie Black, deputy supreme Oracle of the Royal Neighbors, completed the organization of a "central camp" of Royal Neighbors in Ronan Friday evening, Feb. 12. While the work of organization was slow, owing to weather conditions and hard times, the results show that there are people who appreciate belonging to the largest women's order in the world. As soon as the weather permits, the deputy expects to return, when the Polson degree team will come to Ronan and initiate another team, putting on all the floor work. Polson has one of the best degree teams in the state and we are looking forth to the treat. The Royal Neighbors are an auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen of America and this organization should be a great inspiration to the brother lodge, and we expect at this meeting to have a public installation to which all M. W. A. will be invited.

## SOCIALISTS IN FAMILY QUARREL

The radical wing of the socialists of Missoula are apparently as dissatisfied after winning a victory in the city of Missoula, and a partial victory in Missoula county, as they were before. In fact, their victories bid fair to be their undoing.

Disgruntled with their sheriff-elect, they proceeded to recall him through a referendum vote of the socialist locals of Missoula, Bonner and Stark. Sheriff Whitaker, however, refused to be recalled and renounced his pre-election resignation in the hands of the Missoula local. Whitaker is still on the job.

Mayor Getchell and Alderman Hodson of Missoula, have since incurred the displeasure of the radicals of the party in Missoula and on last Sunday the Missoula local voted to file the resignation of those two officers with the one remaining alderman of the city. This was done early Monday morning. Mayor Getchell and Alderman Hodson, however, refused to accept the resignations so filed, and along with other prominent socialists of Missoula, have withdrawn from the Missoula local and will hereafter go it alone. But the war is still on and promises to end socialist rule in Missoula as well as socialist success in the county.

## Valentine Party

The Freshman class of the Ronan school gave a Valentine party last Thursday night in Miss Oyen's room, entertaining the other pupils and the teachers. All pupils were admitted free, but the teachers were compelled to buy their way in, and on entering each received a program, only to find that they were on for a subject selected by the program committee, as follows: Harold Resner, song—"What's the Matter With Dad?" Miss Marie Myers—"The Value of a Chamois Skin."

Prof. Frye—"Frozen Ears." Miss Alma Myers—"How It Seems to be the Brightest One In Her Class." Melvin Dix—"My Dear Old Ireland."

Miss Kate Titus—"The Latest Fashions." Walter Fisher—"What to Do for the Feet After Jumping." Miss Rafferty—"One Hundred Nights on Broadway." Miss Alice Oyen—"The Mission Range." Miss Barbara Kain—"Gasoline." Miss Azelie Savage—"Whistling Solo."

The impromptu remarks were fine and the subjects assigned at times caused much merriment. The entertainment was greatly enjoyed. Superintendent S. R. Logan was present and pronounced the party a success in every sense and congratulated the Freshman class accordingly.

## Celebrates Birthday

A. M. Sterling celebrated his 44th birthday last Friday, February 12, and in honor of the event Mrs. Sterling gave a seven o'clock dinner followed by a card party. The guests reported on time and were seated at a table beautifully decorated, a large, handsome and delicious birthday cake, on which burned 44 candles, occupying the center. A four course dinner was served, including roast turkey, creamed

potatoes, salad, celery, asparagus tips, and many choice delicacies, in the preparation of which the accomplished hostess excelled.

After dinner, solo and whist was indulged in until the small hours of the morning when the guests reluctantly departed wishing their host and hostess many future occasions of a like nature. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Sterling, Iver M. Brandjord, G. E. Broughton, J. N. Bailey, Dr. Fuhrer, Fec. Farrell, Fred T. Potvin and E. H. Rathbone.

## No More Extracts

Some at least, and probably all of the merchants on the Flathead reservation, received notices the first of the week from Superintendent Morgan of the Flathead reservation, that on and after March 1st they would not be allowed to sell, give away, or introduce, extracts. They are given two weeks in which to dispose of any stock on hand, and thereafter handling the same is forbidden under the liquor laws governing this Indian country.

Inspections of the various stocks will be made from time to time and any merchant found with the goods will be subject to punishment. This will undoubtedly do away with the use of lemon, vanilla and other extracts in this country and we will eat our ice cream, cake frosting, puddings, etc., plain and unadulterated, and the youth of the land will not form an appetite for strong drink from their youthful indulgence in sweets and ice cream. In the years to come the Flathead reservation promises to be the model from which all truly moral reforms are moulded.

A. J. Breitenstein, formerly secretary of the Missoula chamber of commerce, and for the past two years secretary of the Montana state fair, has resigned the latter position to accept the position of secretary of the Great Falls commercial club. The state fair loses a most competent secretary and Great Falls gains a faithful and efficient worker.

## AFTER FIVE LONG YEARS

### STANLEY SCEARCE VISITS

After five years of close application to his business in Ronan, Stanley Scearce left last Sunday for a vacation of some six weeks. Mr. Scearce came to Ronan in the fall of 1909 and commenced the erection of buildings for his mammoth department store, which was subsequently opened for business about the first of January, 1910. From that time until last Sunday, with the exception of an occasional short business trip to Missoula, Mr. Scearce has been found at his desk in the big store continuously. He has well earned a vacation and his many friends on the reservation will wish him all the pleasure possible from a trip such as he is taking.

Mr. Scearce stopped over one day in Missoula, thence to Helena for a day, and from there he would go to Butte and on to Salt Lake. At the latter place he would meet Mrs. Scearce and the children and together they will visit Los Angeles, take in the Panama fairs at San Diego and San Francisco, and visit other points in California. They will return via Portland, Tacoma and Seattle, stopping off in each city for short visits with old Klondike friends and relatives. Here's hoping he has the good time he deserves.

## THE MILITARY ANVIL CHORUS

Concerning the adequacy of national defense on land and sea there are as many opinions as there are winds in the west. The voice of the western press is raised in a chorus so discordant and shrill, so many varieties of disaster are prophesied no matter what kind of a policy the United States might pursue that the audience bewildered and frightened, cannot possibly arrive at an intelligent conclusion. One set of papers, led by the Los Angeles Times, the Portland Oregonian and the Hearst organs, is vociferously demanding the immediate construction of a dominant naval force and the enlargement of the army. And the Times thus reinforces its demands for armament augmentation:

"Those who oppose such an increase of our army and navy and such enlargement and organization of our militia as will guard our country effectively in the event of war with England and Japan—and war with one would mean war with the other—are dwelling in a fool's paradise. All the assurances of amity and distinguished consideration that Sir Edward Grey may send to Secretary Bryan, all the utterances concerning kinship and friendship with America that the British press may print will amount to absolutely nothing if those who control England's policy conclude that her interests will be advanced by a war with the United States."

The Portland Oregonian combines an attack upon the administration with its oft repeated plea for a larger and more efficient navy, demanding that congress not only authorize more dreadnaughts but also provide a sufficient number of auxiliary ships, such as tankers, transports, repair, supply and hospital ships. The Tacoma Tribune deprecates the lack of a fixed, continuous naval plan of comprehensive development. The lack of such a permanent policy is blamed for the comparatively poor showing made by the American navy despite appropriations larger than those of Germany and Austria combined. The Oakland Enquirer fires its heavy editorial artillery at President Wilson because he opposed an inquiry into the military preparedness of the country. The Sacramento Bee, discussing the plan to protect the Pacific coast by stationing military aerial patrols at intervals of twenty-five miles, becomes sarcastic and remarks:

"But our coast aviators, to be of much usefulness, must learn the art of staying in the air."

"Seven military aeroplanes started from San Diego for Los Angeles the other day, flying over the sea, and only two reached their destination. One fell into the water and its pilot was drowned."

The Arizona Gazette believes that every boy sixteen years of over should have a military training. The Los Angeles Call shouts for more ships and coast fortifications; the Salt Lake Tribune maintains that coast forts are practically worthless in preventing an invasion, while the Boise News advises the government not to spend much money on the fleet, but rather to rely upon coast forts and mines.

On the other hand there are numerous champions of a peaceable policy. Says the Portland Telegram:

"Now that the preparedness propaganda is fairly under way military experts, naval experts, the powder works, the gun works, the armor-plate works and all those other works that have a special interest in the sale of war material are of one voice that we should not be chary of expense, and that a citizen soldiery will never do. Trailing along with vociferous approval of this comes the jingo."

"Considering the time and circumstances it is a most peculiar promulgation. There never was time and occasion within the knowledge of man when militarism was so discredited by the good conscience of the world as it is now. In our own history there never was less cause to respond to the false and destructive lure of it than now."

The Los Angeles Tribune indorses these sentiments and remarks that "the best defense America can offer against attack is to deal justly with all nations." A host of other papers, including such staunch supporters of

the Progressive cause as the San Francisco Bulletin, likewise denounce the attempts to press a larger, sharper sword into Uncle Sam's hand and ever earnestly that any increase in the military establishment of the United States is bound to lead eventually to war. And with equal fervor the champions of more forts, mines, dreadnaughts, soldiers and submarines declare that failure to provide more armament is certain to make of the United States easy prey of the first robber nation to come along.

The outcome will probably be that America will wobble along on her military crutches in the future as she did in the past.—From February number of Sunset Magazine.

## THE SLIT SKIRT AND MASCULINE VIRTUE

It is possible for that pitifully frail and volatile thing—masculine virtue—to be imperiled by fashions precisely contrary. The full skirt and the scant skirt and the slit skirt affect it alike disastrously. At different periods man's apprehension of his own susceptibility have been awakened by the tight bodice, by the Mother Hubbard, by the Simple Susan. He has become vocal and vituperative over the danger—to himself—in high heels and no heels, paniers, too many petticoats and too few. One age thunders against corsets; another is shocked at the natural figure. One shrieks with hysterical fear of veils; another exclaims at the uncovered face. One sounds alarm at clocked stockings; another pants at the threat to virtue in white spats. One is panic stricken at the use of starch; another pants in terror of the insidious corruption in silk. And the waist line, as it rises or falls, is the barometer of sexual morals, carrying with it man's uneasy susceptibility; only it always registers the same degree of pressure and whatever it points to, it invariably threatens storm!

The esthetic intention of costuming is not always clear, but its effect seems to be to put emphasis now upon one part of woman's body, now another; on the ankle and leg in 1900, on the arm and back in 1800, on the hips in 1700, on the bosom in 1600, on the abdomen in 1400. And though fashion may come and fashion may go, in every instance the bell of male susceptibility rings out in alarm against the personal offender—in matters of costume, a call to arms to grave students of sociology, men of affairs, clergymen, criminologists against what the leading religious paper of the twentieth century denominates the "shameless styles."

What is modesty for women so far as clothes express it? Who invented it—the men who set women's fashions or the men who cry out against them? It certainly had its origin in the sex that is still devout and decorous and chaste—by proxy.

"The fewer clothes women wear the better for their health," says the Chicago woman who is almost revered in irreverent America today. She who has been called the Pope of American Women declines to be shocked by so ephemeral and irrelevant a thing as fashion.—Miriam Michelson in February number of Sunset Magazine.

## More States

There is talk of dividing Texas into three states, namely, North, West, and South Texas. California also wants to divide and make North and South California. Then the new state of Lincoln, out of portions of Washington and Idaho is talked of. The division of Texas is the most likely. Texas was an independent republic when it joined the United States and the ordinance of admission provided that new states of convenient size, not to exceed four in number, could thereafter be formed after having a sufficient population. Advantage of this provision could have been taken at any time but the people of the state have preferred to remain a single state until this time. A resolution has been introduced in the legislature providing for the division and if passed the question will be up to the voters of the state.