

THE RONAN PIONEER

The Oldest Newspaper on the Flathead Indian Reservation

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JUMPS HIS BOND IN FEDERAL COURT

Ole Rosegg, who was arrested in January charged with introducing liquor on the reservation and placed under bonds to appear for trial in the federal court, failed to put in an appearance when his case was called in Missoula last week Friday. Judge Bourquin declared the bond forfeited and ordered a warrant issued for his arrest.

Many of Rosegg's friends, including his bondsmen, believed him innocent of the charge, but his action in jumping the bond provided by friends has had much to do with a change in opinion. The prevailing sentiment appears to be that a man who will leave his friends in the lurch on a bond is unprincipled enough to be guilty of most any charge.

TWISTING THE TAIL OF THE GOLDEN RULE

The Golden Rule is a good rule, but we often twist its tail to a frazzle. It was laid down as a guiding star to the faltering and wayward footsteps of humanity. But there are many feet in this town that neglect to tread the golden pathway of life. It has been taught to us at the mothers knee, preached to us from the pulpit, fed to us in the schools, declaimed from the lecture platform, and advocated from a thousand other sources.

But there are local ears that hear not and eyes that refuse to see. The tail of the golden rule is receiving some vigorous twists in this town. Often we are asked by some merchant to preach the doctrine of "trade at home." We preach it, and it helps to enrich the merchant who made the request. That is good, for we believe in patronizing local institutions—we like to see them grow—we want the money kept at home. But when the same merchant whose money till we have helped to fill sends out of town for his job printing we cannot but pity the isolation of the poor old golden rule. Some people make their money in this community, enjoy life in the community, educate their children at the expense of the community, and then buy their goods from merchants who are not in or of the community. It is some tug at the golden tail. There are some people who want the earth for what they sell and then expect to receive some of their own purchases for less than cost. And the Golden Rule is helpless—forgotten—kicked into the discard. A few people make a practice of parading their own virtues and sneering at the frailties of their neighbors. Some want to hog everything in sight, though the less fortunate experience the gnawing pains of hunger. Occasionally we see a sanctimonious countenance in church while the mind within is devising means of skinning others out of their hard earned dollars.

The Golden Rule? Why, the poor, decrepit old rule is strangling three hundred and sixty-five days in the year. Its coat of gold has turned to rust, and the once sparkling waters of its purity are stagnant from disuse.

The Golden Rule? Can you point out a soul in all this wide world who in all things does unto others as he would have others

do unto him? Possibly we, too, are twisting the tail of the Golden Rule when we publish this article, for we are telling others of their faults when we have many of our own—which we too often forget. And yet we repeat, the Golden Rule is a good rule. We may not walk steadfastly in accordance with its teachings, but we may at least practice a portion of that which we preach. We may accord to others a slight degree of that which we demand for ourselves. We may even trail along in the shadow of the Golden Rule, though our footsteps be faltering and our limbs over weary. For we are but human, and no human being of today is perfect. Yes, the tail of the Golden Rule receives many twists, yet it is the tail that never knows disjointment.

RECLAMATION PROJECTS TO HAVE REVALUATION

Secretary Lane has directed that a revaluation shall be made of the government projects, so that an equitable adjustment of construction charges to water users may be made. His plan of revision provides for the appointment of local boards in each of the six main divisions of the reclamation service, i. e., Southern Pacific, Central Idaho-Utah and Washington. These local boards are to be composed of reclamation service officials, water users and non-water users. The duties of the local boards will be: First, to ascertain the proper construction cost to be collected from settlers under each project as to which construction charges have been heretofore announced by public notice, and second, to fix the proper charges on projects where construction charges have not been announced. Instructions have been issued under which the local boards will operate. The local boards are to report to the secretary of the interior, these reports to be referred to him to a central board of review composed of Elwood Mead, General W. L. Marshall and I. D. O'Donnell, this board to have final jurisdiction in the establishment of construction charges.

The members of the local board for the Idaho-Utah division are F. E. Weymouth, P. M. Fogg and J. E. Lytel; for the Northern division, containing Montana projects, J. B. Bond and G. O. Sanford; for the Oregon and California projects, A. N. Burch, D. N. Cole, H. D. Newell and W. H. Sanders.

It is expected the revaluation and revision of construction charges will serve to remove much of the friction that has heretofore existed between the reclamation service and settlers upon government irrigation projects.

Round Butte Items

Preaching at Round Butte at 11 o'clock, April 18th. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. All are welcome.

The Round Butte Ladies' Aid will be entertained by Mrs. Kata Richardson at the Round Butte church on April 21. Would like a good attendance as this is an election of officers.

Miss Mary McGrann is living on her homestead.

George Broughton and family have moved out on the ranch.

European powers have accorded Japan a free hand in China. A meal of stuffed turkey is good, but—yum, yum.

J. A. ASHRIDGE U. S. MARSHAL

The fight for the position of U. S. marshal for the district of Montana has finally come to an end, the result being that the plum falls to Joseph A. Ashridge, state senator from Musselshell county. Senators Myers and Walsh have been supporting different candidates, but on Saturday last came to an understanding and jointly recommended the appointment of Senator Ashridge.

Senator Walsh had been supporting Joseph Kirschwing of Great Falls and Senator Myers favored George W. Johnson of Stevensville. Recently Kirschwing wrote Senator Walsh that he feared his candidacy might be embarrassing to the administration and the contention to which it had given rise was operating to the disadvantage of the party in Montana. He requested the senator not to urge his appointment further. Thereupon Senators Walsh and Myers agreed upon Ashridge who has not been an active candidate, but whose name had been considered in connection with the place by both senators. It is understood Ashridge will take office at the expiration of Marshal Lindsay's term, May 1.

Mr. Ashridge has always been

an ardent supporter of Senator Walsh.

Two Sunday Fires

The Ernest Kering residence had a very close call from fire last Sunday night. Mr. and Miss Kering had been to Polson during the afternoon and returned just about church time, Miss Kering going immediately to the church. On reaching home shortly after nine o'clock the house was found to be on fire inside. Immediate help saved the building. The fire is thought to have started in a folding bed, but just how is a mystery. The building was damaged considerable, as was much of the furniture.

The large farm residence on the Joe Todd eighty northeast of Ronan, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Winn Davenport, burned to the ground Sunday night about ten o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport were not at home, having gone to Mr. Davenport's father's place to assist in spring seeding. Winn and his father had been at the house in the afternoon and built a fire in the cook stove, leaving there about five o'clock. The fire occurred about ten o'clock that night. Nothing was saved from the building, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport losing all their clothing except what they had on when they left home, together with a large amount of furniture and provisions, keepsakes, etc., and their loss will be heavy as there was no insurance. It is not known whether the building was insured or not.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.



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WILL EXAMINE GOVERNMENT RECLAMATION PROJECTS ISSUE CERTIFICATES TO NEW TOWN OFFICERS

A reclamation examining committee composed of Congressmen Fitzgerald, chairman; Gillette, Page, Mondell, Shirley, Borland, Davis, Good, Sisson and Johnson, will visit practically all the reclamation projects in the west during the present summer.

The members of the committee will meet in Chicago on June 1st, and from there will go first to New Mexico, thence to Arizona, California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. All of the reclamation projects will be thoroughly inspected on the trip excepting the Hondu, New Mexico, and Belle Fouché, S. D., and the Flathead. The committee will be in Montana from July 4 to July 11 inclusive.

Members of the Ronan town council met last Monday night and canvassed the vote of the election of Monday, April 5th. No change in the vote from that announced last week was found and certificates of election were issued to the following: J. A. Lemire, mayor; E. E. Durst and Richard Hart, aldermen for the first ward; Frank Menager, alderman second ward; L. M. Farnham, alderman third ward. The new council will hold its first meeting on the first Monday night in May.

Even peace has its advantages. Let's hang onto it.

DISCHARGED AGENT VISITS FLATHEAD

Major A. E. McFatrige, former superintendent of the Blackfeet reservation, but recently discharged by Commissioner Sells, visited last week with Major Morgan at the Flathead agency near Dixon. Major Morgan and Major McFatrige are old friends and the latter's recent removal gave him the opportunity of visiting his old friend.

The removal of Major McFatrige has caused considerable commotion in Washington and among Indian officials all over the country. Of the matter the Philadelphia North American has the following to say:

Charges that politics has entered into the administration of the Indian bureau, with the usual blighting effect, promise to make that branch of the public service the subject of a scorching fight in the next session of congress.

Indian Commissioner Sells' enemies are lining up in an effort to prove that he has acted arbitrarily in dismissing employes from the service in an effort to excuse himself from censure for the condition of Indians in reservations.

Commissioner Sells and his friends assert that he has not acted arbitrarily, but only after the fullest investigation, and that every dismissal has been for the good of the Indians and the service in general.

The fight will undoubtedly center around the discharge of Major A. E. McFatrige from the superintendency of the Blackfeet agency in Montana. McFatrige, after 17 years' service among the Indians, with an untarnished record of steady promotions from school teacher to superintendent of several of the largest reservations in the country, was recently dismissed from the service by Mr. Sells on charges of gross misadministration.

According to McFatrige, he had no opportunity to prove the charges false, a thing which he claims he could easily have done if he had not been prejudged by the commissioner.

Sells, on the other hand, asserts that McFatrige was given the fullest hearing possible, more than the law allows, in fact, and that he failed to make good. He was discharged, according to the commissioner, because he was incompetent.

"If I was incompetent," reports McFatrige, "why did it take 17 years to find it out? Why was I steadily advanced in the service from teacher in an Indian school to superintendent of a vast agency of over one and a half million acres?"

For many years the Blackfeet agency has been one of the most troublesome in the country. The land within its borders is not suited to agriculture, and is available only to grazing, except in some restricted localities.

The Indians in the past have suffered all kinds of injustices at the hands of the white men, and have never had their wants properly looked after. Many of the Indians draw rations from the government. Many are what are known as "bad Indians," and are steady consumers of liquor when they can get it. For years every superintendent of the Blackfeet agency has been compelled to deal with fac-

tions among the Indians themselves, and to fight the machinations of the "bad Indians" who were in league with "bad whites" in the neighborhood and in Washington.

McFatrige went to the Blackfeet agency with a record for driving out the liquor and gambling dealers on every reservation he had been on. He proceeded to drive them off the Blackfeet reservation. In doing so he incurred the enmity of Indians as well as that of whites who were getting rich off the Indians.

Some of these persons, it is now charged, brought political influence to bear against McFatrige, and that his dismissal was due to this. However this may be, the discussion aroused is producing other charges and the general assertion that political management is having its usual effect upon the affairs of the Indians and producing hardships and injustices.

Commissioner Sells denies all the charges, but an investigation is apparently assured.

THE MISSOULA STAMPEDE IS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Missoula Stampede is making progress and promises to be about the biggest thing that Western Montana has ever undertaken. Reports from the management of the affair are to the effect that the show is getting bigger and better every day. The Stampede is being held under the auspices of the Missoula chamber of commerce and is being advertised all through the east by the railroads, who are distributing literature prepared by the chamber of commerce.

There are many who have the wrong idea in regard to the Stampede and the way it is to be conducted. It consists of wild west contests rather than a wild west show. The contestants are not paid men, but enter into competition with each other for the prize money hung up by the management. A good part of the stock in the roping and riding contests will be Western Montana stock. The actual staging of the affair will be in charge of the Drumbheller brothers of Washington, who own a large number of real bucking horses and are familiar with every detail incident to the staging of a wild west performance. There should be a large number of Western Montana contestants. Already the management has heard from "buckaroos" in many parts of the country who are figuring on entering into competition. The prize list will be ready within a week or so. That they will be liberal is assured. The prize for riding has already been decided on and will be \$850 in cash and a \$400 saddle. Other purses are to be in proportion and the show itself is a hummer. In addition to the show various other forms of amusement are being considered. The big parade on the morning of July 5th will be of real interest to every resident of Western Montana. On this date Missoula celebrates her fiftieth anniversary and an elaborate historical pageant is being planned. E. S. Paxson, the artist, with whom this section of the state is especially familiar is designing the floats which will reproduce the early history of Western Montana. Mr. Paxson is working in conjunction with Judge Woody and A. L. Stone, both of whom have made a study of our early history and are familiar with its important events.