

# THE RONAN PIONEER

The Oldest Newspaper on the Flathead Indian Reservation

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## SENATOR MYERS ON THE JOB

Not discouraged because his bill for the relief of certain Flathead homesteaders did not pass the last congress, Senator Myers will again introduce his bill to reduce the appraisement of all Flathead lands homesteaded before June 12, 1912. The following letter will explain in detail his intentions:

Washington, D. C.,  
March 28, 1917.

My dear Mr. Rathbone:

Referring to the bill which I introduced in the last congress for the relief of the settlers on the Flathead and which failed of passage during that congress, will say, I intend to reintroduce this measure upon the convening of the 65th congress.

In anticipation of this action I have written to the secretary of the Interior and requested him to issue instructions to the general land office suspending all action upon Flathead entries pending the outcome of the legislation which I propose to introduce.

I am today in receipt of a letter from the department acknowledging the receipt of my request and advising me that it has issued instructions to the Commissioner of the General Land Office to suspend action on all the cases involved in said proposed legislation pending the outcome thereof.

Accordingly, for the present, no action will be taken by the General Land Office with respect to these entries. I shall introduce a bill providing for the relief as contained in the bill introduced in the last congress and as soon as the bill is printed I shall be pleased to send you a copy thereof.

At this time I do not know whether the special session, soon to convene, will consider matters other than the appropriation bills and general preparedness legislation. If general legislation is taken up I shall push this bill for the relief of the Flathead settlers. Otherwise, the matter will doubtless be compelled to go over until the regular session in December.

Yours most cordially,

H. L. MYERS.

P. S.—It was my bill to reduce appraisements, which passed the Senate last session but not the House.

## HOME GARDENS

"A garden for every home," is the slogan of M. J. Abbey, of the State College of Agriculture, who is in charge of the State Boys' and Girls' Industrial contests.

He furthermore states that all vacant tillable lands should be put to work. That the high cost of living will be reduced when vacant lots and unused back yards are made productive factors.

All this he states can be done by a systematic organization of our boys and girls. He would have every community cooperate with the local schools, commercial clubs, women's clubs and other organizations in forming garden canning clubs. Each boy and girl between the ages of ten and eighteen years would be given instruction in garden methods during the spring months and when the garden produces, all products which were surplus would be canned. "Every home a canning factory and every member a successful canner." He urges upon the people of the state, who are interested in the conservation of food products to take up and definitely promote the garden and canning project.

It is of interest to every city, town and farm woman, as well as farmer, to make a careful study of the new cold-pack method of canning. The plan, which the college proposes, is for local people to organize canning clubs in the schools, send the names of the club members to the college and each boy and girl will then receive at once a garden canning bulletin, giving full instructions for making a garden and for canning the surplus products. At stated intervals the college will send further directions for the contest work.

## PUBLIC OPINION

"All free governments, whatever their name, are in reality governments by public opinion; and it is on the quality of this public opinion that their prosperity depends."—James Russell Lowell.

## IS IT WORTH WHILE?

Play is one of the greatest factors in the education of our boys and girls. It is food for their character, the essence of manhood in its fullest sense.

Our local school, Post Creek, is lacking in adequate playground equipment. We are trying to raise a fund sufficient to provide suitable apparatus this year. To do this, the pupils of our school have prepared an operetta "Jack, the Giant Killer" for presentation on Saturday evening, April 7th. Favor us with your patronage, thus showing how much you appreciate the efforts of our school to make better men and women of tomorrow.—Jos. M. Alken.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTICE

By vote of the Sunday school, the time will be changed from 11:00 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. for the summer.

The Sunday school children will have charge of the Easter services Sunday morning.

Public cordially invited.

W. M. PEARSON, Supt.

Some of the John J. Rogers' children are confined to the house with measles.

The copper production in Montana in 1916 was worth \$97,000,000 and the zinc production was worth \$31,000,000.

George Lavis, the new road supervisor of the Round Butte district, has been doing considerable work on the roads in that country during the past two weeks.

B. J. Schaerer was a visitor in Missoula the latter part of last week and returned home with a new Ford car which he will use in his travels the coming summer.

W. A. Pearson of Horte, this week bought the 80 acre ranch of John Joyce near the Round Butte. It is understood that Mr. Joyce will still remain a resident of the valley and will move to an adjoining farm which he still owns.

Now that election is over, it is to be hoped that active preparations will be made to install a system of water supply in Ronan. The newly-elected mayor and aldermen can make a record for themselves by hurrying the matter as rapidly as possible. We can never make a town here and live out of a water barrel.

Dr. A. K. Resner and sons Carl and Roy, last week purchased the ranch property of Mr. George Gierke comprising 120 acres eight miles southwest of Ronan. This land lies in the immediate vicinity of the ranch already owned by the former gentlemen and with this addition to their holdings will have one of the best bodies of land on the Flathead. The price is not known but is understood to have brought a good price.

County Commissioners John J. Flynn and Clarence Prescott, accompanied by County Surveyor Thayer Stoddard, were in Ronan last Friday having been on a trip of inspection of the new county bridge built at the lower end of Crow creek. The bridge has been accepted and will be a great help to the people of that part of the valley.

A. W. Wood, formerly president of the Missoula chamber of commerce, has accepted the position of manager in the Stanley Searce store, and assumed the duties. Mr. Wood is an old time merchant and brings years of experience to the place. Mrs. Wood and their son, M. L. Wood, accompanied him to Ronan, the latter accepting a position in the hardware department.

## SPEAKER CHAMP

### CLARK RE-ELECTED

Washington, April 2—Speaker Champ Clark was reelected today by a vote of 217 to 205 over his republican opponent Representative Mann, as the first step in the organization of the house—the necessary preliminary to the delivery of President Wilson's war address. It is expected on every hand that he will ask congress to declare a state of war existing between the United States and Germany. This seemed so certain that Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee the administration spokesman there, prepared a resolution to declare a state of war and authorize the president to act.

## ACTION OF CONGRESS MEANS BEGINNING OF WAR

The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany was passed on Wednesday, April 4, by an overwhelming majority. Senator McCumber's substitute to declare the existence of a state of war upon the sinking of another American ship by Germany was defeated without a roll call. The war resolution was passed by a vote of 82 to 6.

Senators who cast the negative votes were: Gronna of North Dakota, LaFollette of Wisconsin, Norris of Nebraska, Lane of Oregon, Stone of Missouri and Vardaman of Mississippi.

The resolution, drafted after consultation with the state department and already accepted by the house committee, says the state of war thrust upon the United States by Germany is formally declared and directs the president to employ the entire military and naval forces and the resources of the government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination.

## \$2.00 WHEAT BREAKS RECORDS

Wheat went to \$2.00 per bushel in Chicago on Wednesday of this week, the highest price ever paid on a normal market. The quotation was on May wheat and the sales were made at that figure at the opening of the board of trade.

In 1864 the \$2 mark was received by values expressed in terms of depreciated paper and in the 80's when "Old Hutch," by his famous corner of the market manipulated the price to \$2.25.

When shorts settled with "Old Hutch" the price immediately dropped to the old level.

Present values are said to represent actual values. The advance has been gradual since the war in Europe began. Short crops helped the advance along and this season's crop damage reports and the shutting off of the Argentine supply has helped.

A few minutes after the opening May sold at \$2.01. It then sold back to \$1.99½, and, in a moment again at \$2.00.

## EASTER NOTICE

Next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock the M. E. Sunday school will celebrate the Easter occasion with an appropriate program to which the public is invited. The evening service will consist of special Easter music by our large chorus choir and a sermon by the pastor.

E. D. SWISHER.

## THANKS

I desire to thank the citizens and people of Ronan for their efforts and support in nominating and electing me your mayor for the coming term. It shall be my highest ambition to serve you well and make good.

JOHN P. SWEE.

## Keep Cool.

"This cold and stately beauty seems to have a great many admirers."  
"Yes. She's a sort of cold storage proposition."  
"How's that?"  
"When a man intrusts his heart to her she puts it on ice."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

## Riddle of the Ages.

O woman, you're a mystery!  
You'll spend four hours of time  
And ten bucks' worth of energy  
To save a measly dime.  
—Spokane Review.

## The New Scholar.

"Did the serpent tempt Eve with the apple?" asked the lady teacher of the boy who was present for the first time.

"Pa says she wheedled it out of him, and maw says pa thinks he knows everything."—Richmond Times-Dispatch

## Net So.

"All's fair in love."  
They say, and yet  
How can that be?  
There's the brunette  
—Boston Transcript.

## TELEPHONE LINES ARE EXPANDING

A. H. Stevens of the Flathead Independent Telephone company, was in Ronan last week installing new phones in the city and making arrangements for the extension of the line into the territory southwest of Ronan. A line will also be built to accommodate the people living to the northeast. With the completion of these extensions a large part of the valley will be in touch with the towns and trading centers on the reservation.

The exchange at Ronan will work three eight-hour shifts, conforming with the new eight-hour law now in effect.

Joe Hall defended himself in a Helena justice court on a charge of theft and did so well that it took the jury just 74 seconds to find him guilty.

## MAY LEASE INDIAN LANDS

Just now, when every effort is being made to have every available acre of land under cultivation, the plan of the Indian bureau to lease the vacant Indian land on the Flathead, will be welcome news to a great many. In the past, the efforts of those who have lived here since 1910 have been fruitless in this respect, every advance being flatly refused heretofore.

During 1910-11-12, the Ronan Commercial club made repeated efforts to have the secretary of the interior so change the rules that the local agent might of his own accord make long term leases of the vacant, unoccupied and uncultivated portion which constituted at that period so vast an area that it was considered wasteful to have it lie idle. To every appeal a deaf ear was turned, and at times the refusal bordered so closely on insult that many refused to again insist upon any change being made. They did not wish to be made the object of department sarcasm. Now, however, things have changed. It is said that this subject is receiving the serious attention of the department at the present time, and hopes are entertained that all the vacant Indian lands on the Flathead will be speedily under lease and cultivation.

Attention has been called to the fact that since 1912 there has been over 12,000 acres of Indian land under the reclamation on the big flat, which even to this date has never had a plow stuck into the virgin soil and all that vast amount of cultivatable land is as desirable as any here for all kinds of farming. It has always been considered a shame to have it lie idle when so many farmers were more than anxious to lease the same and make it productive both to themselves and the Indian owners. Red tape in the department prevented and no one was benefitted. With the possibilities of war, the needs of the country appear to have had some effect upon those who are in responsible positions and it appears now that the rules can be easily changed to meet the demands. If the forecast of war has done nothing else, it has been of benefit to the Flathead, provided the rumors are not wrong.

## ROUND BUTTE SCHOOL NOTES

A declamation contest among the pupils of the Round Butte school will be held Saturday, April 21. After the speaking a dance will be given by the boys base ball team. Every one is invited. Tickets \$1.00.

The Equity gave its last big dance of the season last Saturday, and though there was not a very large crowd, everyone had a good time.

The boys base ball team has been organized with Mr. Fisher as president, and Cyrille Reeve, captain.

## DEATH OF MRS. JOS. BRODIE

Mrs. Mattie Brodie, wife of Joseph Brodie, formerly of Ravalli, died at her home in Detroit, Mich., on March 22. Besides her husband, she leaves three small children—one twelve years of age, another nine, and the youngest an infant. The funeral was held on March 26. The Brodie family have a great many friends on the reservation, having lived at Ravalli for about two years, during which time Mr. Brodie was in partnership with his brother-in-law, R. G. Hall, in the automobile stage business. A year ago last fall Mr. Brodie was offered a position with the Packard Motor Car company of Detroit, and the family returned to their former home.—St. Ignatius Post.

## EASTER SERVICES

The Easter morning services at the Catholic church in Ronan will be made especially attractive on Sunday, April 8, by special music by the choir. Everybody cordially invited.

## THE LIGHT HERALD— ING A NEW DAWN

During the past two years and a half many a devout soul has asked why the awful war in the east was permitted. The answers are beginning to come. One can be read in the story of the rejoicing of the people over the return of the political prisoners from the icy depths of Siberia; where, for so long a time, hearts that would be free have been breaking, and no God has seemed to hear their prayers. Another can be read in the exultation of the Jews of Russia over the assurance that equal citizenship for them will soon be an established fact. Another can be seen in the near approach of the soldiers to Armenia; in the certainty that they are carrying freedom to that unhappy people, and that they will soon recover the Holy Sepulcher from the merciless Turks.

When the war first began, the Turks sent an army to capture or destroy the Suez canal. They were driven off and the British army pursued them. That army is now in Palestine and drawing near to the very gates of Jerusalem. The light is growing brighter on the Cross. Nine hundred years ago a cry rang through Europe to rally and save the Holy Sepulcher. It was swiftly answered and three hundred thousand of the crusaders perished in vain; and since then the Turk has had rule over all that land which Christians hold as sacred because of its wonderful memories.

Now a victorious army is kneeling at those gates. Again another army is foraging its way step to step through that land further east, where the cradles of civilization were rocked—the land that has lain prone as if in a trance while five and twenty centuries have been unravelling.

What awaits that land when it shall be awakened from its Rip Van Winkle sleep?

Another lesson can be read in the new Russia's proclamation that Poland with her gallant people is to be given back her old place among the nations and that her people are henceforth to be free.

Another is that the wild riders of Arabia have been awakened in their desert fastness to strike the flanks of that power which since the days of Saladin, have been their oppressor.

The great spectacle is seen in crumbling thrones and the emancipation of men who for centuries have been half slaves.

It may be said that these emancipated peoples are not capable of self-government. No doubt many mistakes will be made, for "long is the way and dark, that out of hell leads up to the light;" but we know instinctively that never again can Russia be what she was a few brief months ago—she has had "a new birth of freedom, and government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."—Goodwin's Weekly.

It looks like new people almost, to go into the Big Store now, so many new faces appearing there. Mrs. Manning of Missoula, is in charge of the dry goods department, in place of Alma Myers who lately resigned; G. A. Mason is a new man in the clothing department, and Grover Leonard is the new general utility man lately of Miles City.

## SWEE, DURST LEMIRE, WARNER

The Ronan town election last Monday failed to develop any excitement, there being no contests on for any of the offices, except in the Third ward. Two candidate's names appeared on the ballot for aldermen in the Third, Cash Coulter and Judson T. Warner. Neither of them made any effort toward election and after the 37 ballots cast in that ward were counted it developed that Warner received 30, Coulter 7. Mr. Warner succeeds L. M. Parnham and his friends believe he will be a valuable man to his ward and to the town as a whole.

John Swee received practically all the votes cast, having no opposition for the majority during the coming two years. In the third ward one vote was cast for A. M. Sterling and one for Ed. Durst for mayor.

In the first ward Ed. Durst was re-elected, only thirteen votes being cast to indicate a choice for that position. Mr. Durst has been alderman for two years and is endorsed by his constituents for another two years.

Only 12 voters turned out in the second ward and Ross Lemire was selected to serve the ensuing term.

Peter Livingston, E. Waterman and Wm. Moser were Judges and clerks in the first ward; A. Sutherland, R. A. Jensen and A. C. Marshman in the second; C. F. Rathbone, E. D. Covell and Mrs. Hazel Putney in the third.

The Ronan Women's club had a very enjoyable meeting at the Domestic Science building Tuesday evening. Mrs. Armstrong and Miss Myrtle Armstrong were hostesses. On account of the nearness of Easter the whole program was planned with reference to this festival. The members responded to roll call with some expression of Easter sentiment. Miss Irene Teagarden gave a fine lecture on "Wild Flowers." It dealt with the flowers of Montana and of this locality. The lecture was of scientific value, of literary merit and many and appropriate and beautiful lessons were drawn from the lines of the flowers, applicable to human life, and especially fitting during the Easter season. Miss Hilda Marsh gave an exceedingly interesting lecture on "Honey Bees." She told of their lives and habits, their work in relation to the flowers, and of their commercial value. The leading current events were discussed. Mrs. C. F. Rathbone furnished the music by means of the Victrola. Altogether the meeting was rich in scientific, literary and human interests.

## APE OWE 'EM

When fur stews can this ill ear I'm  
Toot rye tomb ache them c'en ink  
Lear

Youth inked wood be butt way sting  
thyme

Use a "It's imp lean on cents Shear."  
Gnome attar, Anna lies align  
Nation nice lend her verse says knot  
Pork rip tick poet real like mine  
How Aaron weal demesnes allot.  
—Deems Taylor in Century Magazine.  
What do you make of this? Next week a translation of the same will be printed, or as near as we can make it out. Watch for it.

## MAN FOUND DEAD MURDER SUSPECTED

Polson had a murder last week, according to the findings of a coroner's jury investigating the death by shooting of Joe Moss, a young man about 19 years old. The victim was found dead in his cabin with a bullet hole through his head and a rifle lying across his body. At first it resembled a suicide, but investigation developed that it was in all probability a murder.

When found the body lay just as if it had been prepared for burial, the limbs having been straightened out and showing that someone had arranged the body after death. Two notes, stating that he intended to kill himself, were found in the house but the writing in no respect is similar to that of the deceased and the jury believed that someone had purposely made it appear that he had shot himself.

The sheriff attended the hearing and is bending every effort to discover the murderer.