

## IT WANTS THE EARTH!

Or a Large Slice Thereof Situated Within the Confines of  
Madison County.

### THE INNATE MODESTY OF THE NOTRHERN PACIFIC

**The Company Files on thousands of Acres in Madison County Known to be Mineral—Citizens of Virginia in Mass Meeting Resolve to Make Vigorous Protest and Ask the Co-operation of All Citizens in the County—A Complete Description of the Lands Located in the Helena District.**

The Northern Pacific Railroad company has, within the past few weeks, given notice of its intention to patent thousands of acres of Madison county land, known to be mineral. It proposes to patent under the agricultural law. The land in question embraces choice mineral deposits all over the county and its value aggregates a dozen splendid fortunes.

Claim owners should lose no time in filing protests and adverse claims to the claim of the Northern Pacific. If the proper protest is not filed in the Helena land office before Feb. 15, the company will patent by default of action on the part of individual mine and claim owners, on the land on which it has filed. In the Bozeman land district the time for filing protests expires March 4. Proof that the land filed on by the company is mineral will save the land. See to it that your claims are protected.

We publish this week through the courtesy of the Virginia City citizens' committee a complete list of the land filed upon by the company in the Helena district in Madison county. The list of lands filed upon by the company in the Bozeman district in Madison county was unobtainable this week but will be published next week. These lists, revised by the local committee, while unofficial, are almost absolutely correct. They will be invaluable to persons materially interested in this fight.

In this matter the men of Virginia City have taken their initiative. They have started a fight that will extend all over the state and the MADISONIAN is with them.

#### The Mass Meeting.

Persuant to call published in the MADISONIAN a large number of citizens interested in the mineral land question met at Armory hall last Saturday evening to take concerted action to prevent the wholesale patenting of valuable mineral lands by the Northern Pacific Company under the agricultural law. The meeting was a representative one, nearly all the heavy tax payers in the city being present. H. L. Childs presided and County Surveyor Charles W. Mead was made secretary.

Addresses were made by Messrs. Henry Elling, A. J. Bennett, W. A. Clark, Lew. L. Callaway, and Col. Callaway and the speakers were unanimous in urging prompt and proper action by those who have mineral ground in Madison county.

After the matter had been discussed pro and con, on motion of Henry Elling the chair was empowered to appoint a committee of five, with full power to act on behalf of the citizens assembled. The chair appointed as such committee A. J. Bennett, W. A. Clark, S. B. Rice, L. A. Fenner, and Charles Dahler of Silver Star. The committee was authorized to incur any necessary expense in protecting the mineral interests of Madison county, and the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the committee.

#### How to Make a Proper Protest.

Of course every claim holder in or out of the county desires to know the

mode of procedure necessary to baffle the Northern Pacific in this matter. With a view of securing the opinion of the best authority on the question, County Surveyor Charles W. Mead wrote to Henry N. Copp, the Washington land attorney, when the matter was first called to his attention, and received in reply the following letter:

"We are in receipt of yours of the 27th ultimo, addressed to our Mr. Copp, in which you make inquiry with regard to the practice to be followed in protesting claims of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to lands supposed to be mineral in character. In general terms, it may be stated, that these protests are to be made in accordance with the provisions of the circular of the general land office governing mineral land protests and contests, on the ground of the character of the land. It is not necessary that the parties should have located a tract of land or have any interest in it themselves, in order to be recognized as protestants against the claim of the railroad company. No hearings have yet arisen under these proceedings to ascertain the character of railroad lands, but the officials in the general land office would prefer to include as many tracts of land in one hearing or investigation as possible. We would make the following suggestions as to the method to be followed in initiating a hearing:

Affidavits should be furnished as to each tract, or subdivision of land, by parties who, of their own knowledge, can swear that there is a valuable mineral deposit in the land, giving its extent and its probable value. It is not necessary that the land should have been actually mined, but if it has been, the result of such mining should be shown. If it has not been mined, then it should be shown that actual exploration has been made to a sufficient extent to enable the witnesses to swear positively that the land is more valuable for mineral than for agricultural purposes. These affidavits may be made by single individuals, corroborated by others, or by two or more joining in the same affidavit. Then, the several affiants or contestants, as to lands in the same vicinity or township could all join in one application, addressed to the commissioner of the general land office, asking for a hearing, and if the showing as to the character of the land is specific enough, a hearing will be ordered. Where the field notes of survey show the land to be mineral in character, the burden of proof would be on the railroad company to show its non-mineral character, and where it is returned as agricultural land, the burden will be on the protestants.

As your letter only reached us to-day we fear our reply will not be in time for the meeting of which you speak. Your parties should, by all means, have attorneys employed here to represent their interests, as well as at the hearing, if one is ordered. The Northern Pacific has employed a very able firm in this city, to look after its interests, and a very strong effort will be made to prevent hearings from being ordered on such protests. We are in good shape to represent parties against railroad companies, as we have had extended practice both in mineral contests and fighting all kinds of claims by railroads. We shall be pleased to co-operate with you in representing the citizens of your county before the general land office and the department here.

If we can represent the protests of a large number of tracts, we can of course work to better advantage and on better terms than if we only have a few claims. If you desire our services, please let us know something as to the number of tracts involved in prospective protests, the acreage, the probable value of the lands, and what arrangements can be made for the payment of attorneys."

#### The Committee's Work and the List of Lands.

The Virginia City citizens' committee has been very busy this week preparing maps and plats of the lands in question. Through the courtesy of the committee the MADISONIAN is enabled to publish a description of all the lands entered by the railroad company through the Helena land office. The list is as follows:

#### Township 6, South Range 3 West—

[The townsite of Virginia City lies in Section 23 of this township. The land claimed by the company lies north and south of the townsite, northeast of Alder gulch and on the east side of Granite. The corporation, with becoming modesty, proposes to patent only 3,100 acres almost under the shadow of the court house.]

Section 1—Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4; s. half of n. e. quar, s. half of n. w. quar, s. w. quar, s. e. quar.

All of sec. 11.

Section 23—Lots 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7; northwest quarter of northwest quarter.

All of section 13.

Sec. 15—n. e. quar of n. e. quar, n. w. quar of n. e. quar, s. w. quar of n. e. quar, s. e. quar of n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. e. quar, n. w. quar of s. e. quar, s. w. quar of s. e. quar, s. e. quar of s. e. quar.

All of sec. 25.

#### Township 6, South Range 4 West—

[The company has located on 120 acres on the hill to the right of the Ruby valley road, about one mile east of A. N. Rodgers' place.]

Sec. 23—n. e. quar of n. e. quar, n. w. quar of n. e. quar, n. e. quar of n. w. quar.

#### Township 5, South Range 3 West—

[The land located by the company in this township embraces about 7,000 acres of valuable, heavily timbered land, known to be mineral, above the forks of Granite creek.]

Sec. 3—s. half of n. e. quar, s. half of n. w. quar, s. e. quar, s. w. quar, East half of sec. 9.

Sec. 11—w. half of n. e. quar, n. w. quar, s. e. quar, s. w. quar.

All of sections 13, 15, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 33.

Sec. 35—n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. e. quar, s. w. quar of s. e. quar, s. e. quar of s. e. quar.

#### Township 5, South Range 4 West—

[The land located by the railroad company in this township extends from Laurin down the Ruby about five miles and aggregates about 1700 acres.]

Sec. 7—n. e. quar, n. e. quar of n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. w. quar, s. e. quar of s. w. quar, s. e. quar.

Sec. 17—n. e. quar of n. w. quar, e. quar of n. w. quarter, n. w. quarter of n. w. quar, s. e. quar of n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. w. quar, s. e. quar, n. e. quar of s. e. quar, n. w. quar of n. e. quar, s. e. quar of n. e. quar.

Sec. 31—Lot 1, e. half of n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. e. quar.

Sec. 19—n. w. quar of s. e. quar, n. e. quar of s. w. quar.

Sec. 27—n. half n. w. quar, s. w. quar of n. w. quar, n. half of s. e. quar of n. w. quar. (Probable error.)

Sec. 29—s. w. quar of n. e. quar.

Sec. 33—n. e. quar, n. half of n. w. quar, s. e. quar of n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. w. quar, s. e. quar.

#### Township 5, South Range 5 West—

[This township embraces the east side of the Ruby valley, below Laurin, including the northern point of the Ruby mountains and extending out to the bench]

Sec. 3—n. half of s. e. quar.

Sec. 9—n. w. quar of n. w. quar, s. e. quar.

Sec. 11—n. e. quar, n. e. quar of the n. w. quar, n. w. quar of the n. w. quar, s. e. quar of the n. w. quar, s. w. quar of the s. e. quar.

Sec. 13—s. w. quarter of s. w. quar.

Sec. 15—n. e. quar of the s. w. quar,

n. w. quar of the s. e. quar.

Sec. 23—n. e. quar of the n. e. quar, n. w. quar n. e. quar, s. e. quar of the n. w. quar, n. e. quar of s. w. quar.

Sec. 25—n. e. quar, n. e. quar of the n. w. quar, n. w. quar of the n. w. quar, s. e. quar of the n. w. quar, n. e. quar of the s. w. quar, n. e. quar of the s. e. quar, n. w. quar of the s. e. quar, s. e. quar of the s. e. quar.

**Township 4, South Range 4 West—**  
[Here an error has evidently been made, either by the railroad company or by the land office officials. The two sections located lie on top of the Tobacco Root range, east of Sheridan, and are unsurveyed.]

All of sec. one.

All of sec. 3 except s. e. quarter.

N. w. quarter, section 19.

N. w. quar section 29.

All of section 31.

#### Township 4, South Range 5 West—

[This township includes the townsite of Sheridan, the bench north of Wisconsin Creek almost to Goodrich, and west to the Ruby river. The railroad company has given notice that it will endeavor to patent over 5,000 acres in this township alone]

South half section 3.

All of sections 5, 7 and 9.

Section 11—n. e. quar, n. w. quar, s. w. quar, n. w. quar of s. e. quar.

Section 13—n. e. quar of n. w. quar, s. e. quar of n. w. quar.

Section 15—n. w. quar of n. e. quar, w. quar, n. half of s. e. quar

Section 17—s. half of n. e. quar, s. w. quar, s. half of the n. w. quar, s. e. quar.

Section 21—n. half of n. w. quar, s. half of s. w. quar.

Section 23—n. e. quar, s. half of n. w. quar, n. half of s. w. quar, n. half of s. e. quar.

Section 25—s. half of n. e. quar, e. half of s. w. quar, n. half of s. e. quarter.

Section 29—n. e. quar, n. w. quar, w. half of s. w. quar, e. half of s. e. quar.

Section 35—n. half of n. e. quar, s. w. quar of n. e. quar, n. e. quar of n. w. quar, s. half of n. w. quarter, n. half of s. w. quar, s. w. quar of s. w. quar.

#### Township 3, South Range 5 West—

[The land wanted by the company in this township consists of all odd sections on the bench east of the Jefferson, extending from Goodrich to about one mile north of Dry Boulder.]

Sec. 3—n. half, n. e. quar of s. w. quar, n. w. quar of s. w. quar, s. w. quar of s. w. quar.

All of sec 5.

All of sec 7 except s. half of n. w. quar.

Sec 9—n. e. quar of n. e. quar, s. half.

All of sections 17, 19, 29, and 31.

All of sec 33 except s. half of s. w. quar.

#### Township 3, South Range 6 West—

[This is the township in which Twin Bridges is located. The land filed on by the company begins about one mile above Twin Bridges and extend almost to Silver Star. The land located is principally on the benches.]

All of sec one.

Sec 3—n. e. quar of s. w. quar, n. w. quar of s. w. quar, s. w. quar of s. w. quar.

Sec 7—s. w. quar of s. w. quar, s. e. quar of s. w. quar, s. w. quar of s. e. quar, s. e. quar of s. e. quar.

All of sec 9.

Sec 11—n. e. quar, e. half of n. w. quar, e. half of s. w. quar, n. half of s. e. quar.

All of sec 13.

Sec 15—s. e. quar of n. e. quar, w. half of n. w. quar, s. w. quar.

All of sec 17.

E. half of n. e. quar, sec 19.

Sec 21—n. e. quar of n. e. quar, n. w. of n. w. quar, s. e. quar of s. w. quar.

All of sec 23, except w. half of n. w. quar.

All of sec 25.

Sec 29—w. half of n. e. quar, e. half of n. w. quar.

Sec 33—s. w. quar of n. e. quar, s. e. quar of n. e. quar, s. w. quar of s. e. quar.

Sec 35—n. e. quar of n. e. quar, s. w. quar of n. w. quar, n. w. quar of s. w. quar.

## COUNTY AFFAIRS

### AS TOLD BY MADISONIAN NEWS GATHERERS

**Newsy Letters From Various Sections of the County—Social Gossip, Personal Mention and Pen Pictures of the Doings of a Prosperous and Happy People.**

RICHMOND FLAT, Jan. 7.—[Special Correspondence.]—Moore Brothers & company recently made a good strike near Sterling. The vein is three feet wide and shows up nicely. Quartz sharps claim that it will mine \$25 per ton. A bank account and a check book is now in order.

Perine and Wallace are extracting some rich ore from the Reel claim, which they are working under lease.

Albert & Co. shipped 12 tons of ore to Butte last week for treatment, which they expect will sample \$70 per ton.

Chas. Stewart & Co. are pushing the shaft down nicely on the Galena mine. They expect to strike ore when they run levels that will surprise the natives and themselves too.

Maxwell & Co. have a streak of rich ore in the mine they are working under lease. The vein is narrow but rich.

At the Revenue mine business is lively. The ore bodies are looking better as development work proceeds. No time is lost at this mine.

The Monitor Company will have the shaft down to the vein inside of ten days. We look for a big thing when they cut the vein. We await the event with suspense.

Edward Johnson & Co. have the mill at Sterling ready for the machinery which will soon be on the ground. Mr. Johnson says that he can mill the ore for \$3 per ton, which if true will be a big thing for the prospector.

Pat McClary has uncovered on the Pay Rock, near Red Bluff, eight inches of high grade ore. Pat says if the vein holds out he will drop the Stuffed Phopet at Washington a line to the effect that he will take a few millions of those bonds to keep up this administration of free trade and low wages.

L. A. Dunham, general manager of the Revenue company visited Butte last week.

F. B. Turner has departed for Texas to visit his father, who is in poor health.

Chas. Miner, of the firm of Miner & Calvist, mining brokers of Pony, is inspecting the flat.

R. B. Turner had a slight attack of heart disease last week, but is better now. He went to Boleman to consult physicians.

The four hundred of Meadow creek, had a regular old Missouri hodown, Tuesday evening at the residence of William Allen. The dancing commenced at half past eight and continued until supper was announced. Singing and speech making was in order for two hours, when dancing was resumed until Old Sol showed himself in the east, when the guests departed for their homes, wishing such parties would come more frequently.

Mr. Slipsinghamer has opened an assay office at Meadow creek, where the boys can get rock tested for a nominal price.

## ENNIS.

**The Ice in the Madison Carries Away a Bridge.**

ENNIS, Jan. 9.—[Special Correspondence.]—The gorging of the Madison is doing more damage this winter than it has for many years. It has overflowed the grade in several places and swept away one of the bridges, thus cutting off people on the east side from the outside world. Several persons were on the east side when the bridge went out, and were obliged to remain there some time. After the water subsided somewhat on Saturday, our worthy road supervisor, Mr. Smith, repaired the breach by making a temporary bridge, and thus gave people an oppor-