

The Madisonian.

Established 1873.
The Capitol Times.
 Established 1869.
The Montanian.
 Established 1870.

THE CAPITOL TIMES was absorbed by THE MONTANIAN in 1870; THE MONTANIAN was absorbed by THE MADISONIAN in 1876.

WILL W. CHEELY, PROPRIETOR.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One year..... \$2.50
 Six months..... 1.50
 Three months..... .75

PLEASING NONPARTISANSHIP.

In appointing Joseph Smith of this city commissioner to fill the office made vacant by the resignation of Chairman Johnson, Judge Showers' non-partisanship calls for the commendation of all fair-minded men, irrespective of party affiliation. Joe Smith is a Republican. Judge Showers was elected by a fusion of the Democratic-Populist forces. A Republican had resigned and the judge was evidently of the opinion that as the people had chosen a Republican to fill the office a Republican was entitled to the appointment and made his selection accordingly.

Such an act must be appreciated. In these days of corruption and extreme partisanship it is pleasing to find a man clothed in power who believes in the great principle of pure politics—that majority rule—and believing, has the nerve to live up to his convictions. The Fifth judicial district is fortunate in having so just a man on the bench as the Hon. Frank Showers.

CARTER IS ALL RIGHT.

Just now Senator Tom Carter is one of the bright, particular stars in the constellation of statesmen who are standing up for silver and the people. His utterances on the currency question may cost him his position as the official head of the party, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is a true son of the west and that he has proven the falsity of the accusation of his enemies who intimate that he is a weakling in the cause of silver. The chairman of the Republican National committee stands for silver, free and unlimited, at the ratio of 16 to 1. What party can make a better showing?

IMPORTANT TO MINING MEN.

The mineral land commissioners, appointed by Gov. Rickard's to look after the interest of mine owners within the boundaries of the Northern Pacific grant during the work of classification have issued the following address which every owner affected should cut out and paste in his hat for his guidance:

To the Owners of Mining Claims, and to the People of the State of Montana:
 On the 26th day of February, 1895, an act providing for the examination and classification of the lands claimed by the Northern Pacific railroad company under their grant, in the states of Montana and Idaho, was approved by the president.

In section III of said act, the following language is used: "Where mining locations have been heretofore made, or patents issued for mining ground, in any section of land, this shall be taken as prima facie evidence that the 40-acre subdivision within which it is located is mineral land." From this it is apparent to all that it is absolutely necessary to fix the locality of every 40-acre tract within the railroad grant, containing one or more unpatented mining locations.

The president of the United States, as provided by the act aforesaid, has appointed three commissioners for each of the Bozeman, Helena and Missoula land districts, for the purpose of examining and classifying these lands. The governor of Montana has requested us to carefully guard the interest of the people of Montana, and to render all assistance possible to said commissions for the purpose of securing a just classification of these lands as mineral or non-mineral.

The grant of the government to the Northern Pacific railway is every odd

numbered section of land for 40 miles on each side of its definitely located line, also two indemnity grants, comprising altogether every odd numbered section for 20 miles on each side of its grant, thus subjecting to the operation of this law, a section of the state of Montana 120 miles wide by about 480 miles long. To carry out the purposes of the law above quoted, we earnestly request the owners of every unpatented mining location within the limits of this grant, where the lands are surveyed and on odd numbered sections, to ascertain at once upon what 40-acre tract each mining claim is situated, so the proofs can be furnished to the several United States commissions as to the character of each legal subdivision.

Blank affidavits for such proof will be furnished on application to Thos. G. Merrill, president. These proofs should be made in duplicate, two copies filled for each proof and forwarded, as soon as practicable, to said president.

On lands that are unsurveyed, proofs should be made, giving the location of the mining claim as near as possible from some well known natural object, such as mouths or heads of streams, mountain or peak, or patented mine. It is desirable in each case to designate as near as possible, the county in which the mine or location is situated, its locality in relation to highways, railways or towns.

It is very important that these proofs be made at once, as these examinations and classifications will be entered upon by the several commissions immediately. The commissions agree to post in a conspicuous place in the United States land offices in their several districts, so that the same may be open to inspection or publication, a list of the lands to be examined during the ensuing month; it is earnestly requested that the citizens of each district interested select at least one man, thoroughly acquainted with the mining locations of that district, to see that these proofs are properly executed, and the location of the mining claims correctly fixed. Each proof will have a blank affidavit affixed that must be filled out and sworn to. These proofs can each cover numerous mining locations and legal subdivisions, and can be sworn to by one or more parties as is found convenient.

The person selected as above should have acquaintance with the locality, and the qualifications necessary to point out to the commissions the different mining locations in the district or neighborhood under examination.

The law provides: "That all said land shall be classified as mineral which, by reason of valuable mineral deposits, are open to exploration, occupation and purchase under the provisions of the United States mining laws; and the commissions in making the classification hereinafter provided for, shall take into consideration the mineral discovered or developed on or adjacent to such land; and the geological formation of all lands to be examined and classified or the lands adjacent thereto, and the reasonable probabilities of such land containing valuable mineral deposits, because of its said formation, location or character."

This renders it very important proofs should be furnished to the commissions as to the locations of all mineral belts and the course and direction in which they strike or run. Also as to the geological formation of the different districts, whether granite, porphyry, lime, etc., to assist in deciding whether or not from such formations the lands should properly be classed as mineral bearing. These latter proofs can be made either by affidavits or orally before the several commissions.

And to place before the commissions a full knowledge of the locality under examination with reference to the probability of its containing valuable mineral deposits, where such deposits do not outcrop, it is absolutely necessary that the inhabitants of such locality should provide the several commissions with the fullest reasons for a decision that the land is mineral. A competent person should at all times accompany the commissioners and facilitate their work. This the commissions invite, but request that the person so selected be clothed with authority of the neighborhood rather than that the neighborhood attend in a body.

The organization of the several commissions has been severely crippled by the small sum appropriated to carry out the purposes of the act, and they have determined to accept the offers of the Northern Pacific company of a surveyor to accompany each commission during the performance of their duty, who is to be used solely for the purpose

of information in identifying the legal subdivisions. While we do not see anything improper in this, it reminds us that the people will have to rely on themselves to take care of their several localities, and failing in this, they will have no one to blame but themselves.

The protection of the mineral lands of the state within the railroad grant has been the subject of earnest solicitude on the part of all the people of Montana, and a vigilant and careful pursuit of the people's rights has culminated in a law providing for a classification of said lands. Commissioners have been appointed under the law to perform the duties devolving upon them. They are on the ground to commence their work. It now remains for the people to perform a duty they owe to their districts and neighbors: first, to facilitate the work of the commission by every friendly aid within their power; second, to keep a vigilant guard over the performance of the trust imposed upon the several commissions to the end that they may not be influenced by untrustworthy information or moved by interested statements. From what we have seen of the several commissioners, we believe they will do their duty. We desire the people to do theirs.

THOMAS G. MERRILL,
 ARMISTEAD H. MITCHELL,
 GEO. W. IRVIN,
 Commissioners.

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 attention.

CHARLES W. MEAD,

(Member American Institute Mining Engineers)

U. S. Dep. Mineral

-and-

County Surveyor,

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA.
 Office at Court House.

J. A. KNIGHT,

Attorney at Law.

Virginia City, Montana.

J. E. CALLAWAY,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law,

Office in Masonic block over post office,
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