

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

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH

The MADISONIAN bids the many visitors to the city welcome and hopes that their sojourn in this ancient and proverbially hospitable town will be pleasant and profitable. Never on previous occasions has the city exerted itself to the extent that it has this year and the program for the Fourth is replete with novelties. From the first gun at sunrise to-morrow (this was written Friday afternoon) until the last strains of the home waltz die away Saturday evening joy will be unconfined.

And as you participate in the passing pleasures of the day try to remember the occasion; don't let the fact escape you the common liberty which you enjoy by right and almost without thought, came dearly, and that this observance is given, not so much for the pleasure which it furnishes, but more in commemoration of the undying deeds of heroes, long since dead, but the memory of whom should be ever green.

Twin Bridges will be represented at the celebration to-morrow by Tom Baker, the wicked, versatile scribe, who represents the Anaconda Standard in Madison county and puts in his spare moments in editing the official organ of the Twin Bridges fair association—the Monitor. Twin Bridges is not the newsiest place in the world, except during a certain rainy season in September, but not withstanding this drawback Tom gets out a newsy paper—he could get out a newsy paper in a balloon. He is due in Virginia to-night at 10:30, at least that was the purport of a telephone message received a few hours ago from Sheridan.

METHOD IN HIS MADNESS.

Colonel Sanders long ago contracted the habit of talking through his hat. When he advocated the candidacy of Horace Greeley he told Montanians that Greeley's election was a certainty; when he was senator he told the people he represented that he was in favor of the free coinage of silver; when he wanted to be senator again he told his political friends that he was sure to be elected; now he is saying that McKinley will carry Montana. As a political seer the debonaire Colonel has demonstrated that he is not a howling success, and the dear people, who have known the Colonel more or less intimately for 30 years, have learned, by experience to put a copper on his utterances.

It is said that the colonel wants the post of minister to Mexico. If so there is method in his madness and reason in his vociferation. He has the unqualified permission of this newspaper to go, if that will do him any good. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good and the election of McKinley might mean the removal of a distinguished citizen who has out lived his usefulness. Montana can spare him. The Colonel is a titan-tinted piece of duplicity.

WILL BE SOME SHY.

"Will McKinley carry Montana?" was asked Charlie Hartman in Helena recently by a reporter of the Independent.

"I have no hesitancy in expressing myself on that subject," he replied. "I think there is no doubt that McKinley or any other single standard man will receive less than 4,000 votes in Montana."

"Do you think that the next Republican state convention will nominate McKinley electors?"

"No sir." The congressman spoke emphatically. "It will instruct its electors to vote for Senator Teller and for no other man who is not in favor of the free coinage of silver. This compels them, you will see, to vote for a silver man in any event."

"If the convention does nominate men as electors who cannot vote for McKinley, will there be another set of electors nominated?"

"Ask Col. Sanders." Mr. Hartman replied. "I don't care a cent whether there are or not. I think it would be a good time now to try that on."

Mr. Hartman said that he would not criticize the candidate for the nomination for the presidency at Chicago, but he hinted that at some future day he might have a word or two to say about one of them.

BY OTHER FELLOWS.

There are some republican organs in Montana, however, who have boldly come to the front in denunciation of the financial plank in the St. Louis platform and declare themselves in with Congressman Hartman in the stand which he took in leaving the convention. Notable among these is the Madisonian.—Monitor.

The only delegate to St. Louis who sold his birthright for a mess of postage was J. W. Strevelle, of Miles City, who, contrary to his instructions, voted for McKinley.—Meagher County News.

MILLIONS TAKEN OUT.

A Bit of Montana Ground Which Gave Its Owners a Fortune.

The richest half acre of gold ground ever known in the world is now again being brought into prominence, and with it the shipment of gold dust to the value of \$1,200,000 in ordinary nail kegs from the upper Missouri to St. Joseph, Missouri. The story reads like a romance. It is brought up now by the recent discoveries made in York district in Montana. It is what is known as the Montana Bar, in Confederate gulch, about fourteen miles from Helena. The luck of no other prospector has ever been equal to that of its discoverers—George E. Wright, James Sullivan, Chris Fredericks and A. McGregor. It was in the spring of 1864. The men were of the ordinary class of prospectors, embracing the different grades of society. In their peregrinations in search of the precious metal they were struggling through the foothills on the east side of the Missouri river when by a lucky chance one of them picked up a handful of dirt on the richest part of the bar. It looked like very common dirt, but if by washing it showed even a color it would have been cause for satisfaction as pickings had been dry. His astonishment can be imagined when out of the single shovel full of dirt he washed about \$40 in coarse dust. He announced the discovery to his companions in a somewhat excited manner and they at once made another panning with the same result. Then they commenced work in earnest, and by night had a pile of dust and nuggets that weighed out a value of \$21,000. They were up early the next morning, as early as they could see to do anything. The first thing they did was to properly locate all ground the law allowed by driving stakes with the usual posted notices. After that all hands turned to regular labor.

The locality was somewhat isolated, and their special location hidden by natural obstructions, so that they were enabled to work without being disturbed. No one knew of the rich results of their labors. Their needed supplies were drawn from Helena. Whenever they had to have anything, one of their number went to that place. They had some gold coin, and with this they made all their purchases. The currency of the country in those days was dust, but to have used that would have been to give away the fact that they had found something. They took not only this but other precautions to avert suspicion. A log cabin was thrown up for their habitation, and under it the gold was hidden away as rapidly as it was taken out so as to avoid even a chance observation. The pocket was of such unprecedented richness that in three months they had accumulated 3½ tons of gold, mixed with the usual quantity of black sand of course, and difficult of separation. They had worked but half an acre of ground. An idea of the richness can be had from the fact that pure gold is rated at \$20 an ounce. The coarse gold of the Missouri river country runs about \$16 an ounce. This that they had accumulated, dirt and all, went about \$12 an ounce.

It is but a simple matter of mathematics to figure out what the 3½ tons would go. It was a very big fortune to be divided among the four prospectors. With all their dreams of wealth they had ever hoped for, and they began to

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think about "realizing" and of getting back to civilization. There was another reason for this also. The water in the small stream in the gulch was getting very low, and their operations were consequently more or less handicapped. After duly discussing the matter they decided to get out. It was one thing to determine to leave and a very different one to do so. Finally one of the four went to Helena and secured a covered freight wagon with a four-horse team. Fearing that the purchase of bags or the usual receptacles for gold dust would betray their secret, he drove to the rear of a hardware store where he loaded up about twenty empty nail kegs with all the loose heads he could find. With these he drove back to the cabin on the bar. The idea of carrying the dust in the nail kegs was a novel one. The kegs of course had to be lined with whatever material was at hand. This was finally done and at the end of the end of the week the dust was packed in kegs and the latter securely bound with throngs of raw hide. This was only one problem. The greatest one was before them. Fort Benton, 120 miles north, was the head of navigation, but the boating season was ended and the only other outlet was Salt Lake, 500 miles south, over a road infested by highwaymen of the most desperate character. It was clearly out of the question.

It had been ascertained during this time that the treasure had a value of about \$1,200,000. It was finally, after a great deal of deliberation, decided to take the nail kegs to Fort Benton and there construct a light draught raft or flat-boat that would go over the shallow places and with it float down the Missouri to St. Joseph. This idea was carried out, though only after several startling experiences. One of the men returned to his native country, Germany, married a banker's daughter, and succeeded to a profitable business. The others disappeared completely and were not heard from again.

After the departure of the discoverers a stampede to the Confederate gulch set in. Many good friends were made. In one instance, an Irishman who had just staked off a claim and experimentally found good prospects, was bantered by a by-stander who owned a couple of pack horses for a trade. This was quickly agreed to and in a few weeks the new owner took out dust to the value of \$56,000. Another claim which yielded \$20,000 was bought with a Colt's revolver.

The total yield of the gulch was then in excess of \$3,000,000. All of the gulches called ravines in the east, opened to the Missouri river for a distance of 50 miles below its three main tributaries were very rich in gold and many millions of dollars were recovered. The old bars left by the receding water were the most profitable but the opinion prevails that if the water of the river could be reverted so that the bottom ground could be washed at least \$200,000,000 would be the reward, or, as one old placer miner residing in that section puts it "There is enough gold there to load a steamboat."

Last Chance gulch is one of those which seems to give foundation for the possibility extravagant idea of this old miner. It is one in which Helena is located. It has yielded \$30,000,000 and in every direction for a distance of 50 miles the ground seems to be impregnated with placer gold.—Philipsburg Mail.

A LETTER TO THE DUKE.

A Northern Montana Cowboy Astonishes Dr. Ferguson.

A cowboy from one of the ranges of Northern Montana has been in Columbus hospital for some time under the treatment of Dr. Ferguson. He is now convalescent and yesterday walked into the doctor's office to thank him for his services and say good-bye. Just before leaving the office the cowboy remarked:

"Doctor, I understand you are about to leave on a year's absence and that during your absence you will visit Scotland. If such is the case I would like to give you a letter to some friends of mine."

The doctor replied that he would probably visit Scotland and would be pleased to take charge of the letter. The cowboy sat down to a desk and wrote a brief letter, sealed it in an envelope and addressed it to the "Duke of Craigie," at some castle or other in Scotland, and handed it to Dr. Ferguson.

The doctor looked at the address, rather astonished, and said: "Is this gentleman an acquaintance?"

"Well, yes," replied the range rider; "I think probably he will remember me. He is my father and I shall be glad to have you call on him and tell him I am getting along all right."

The doctor was astonished, but will make it a point to cultivate the ac-

quaintance of the "Duke."—Great Falls Special to the Standard.

COUNTY FINANCES.

Report of County Treasurer Albright for June.

County Treasurer Albright filed his monthly report with the county clerk, Wednesday. The report shows the following healthy balances:

Balance on hand June 1.....	\$26,159.12
Received from taxes.....	10.55
Received from licenses.....	485.70
Received from county officers' fees.....	540.85
Transferred from general to contingent and bridge funds.....	3,075.20
Received from other sources.....	537.00
Total.....	\$30,808.52

DISBURSMENTS.

Paid out during month..... \$13,855.31

Balance on hand June 30.... \$16,953.21

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