

# The Ekalaka Eagle

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## EKALAKA, MONT.

As Seen By a Recent Visitor.

Ekalaka this year has shared the misfortune of a light crop in common with every section of the entire west, yet from this it must not be construed that the community has suffered to any noticeable extent. It has been said time and again that the Ekalaka country is one of the richest spots in all of eastern Montana and this is truly the case. From an agricultural point of view it has great possibilities and within the next few years there will doubtless be great development along this line.

People who have not visited Ekalaka for a year or more find great changes there. There has been a comparatively big influx of people during the past twenty-four months and this has not been due to advertising or boost methods, the same as has been characteristic of other sections of the state. It has been a natural substantial growth and none of the mushroom about it.

The rain fall this year has been lighter than at any time during the past ten years, yet the stock or sheep interests will not suffer because there will be plenty of hay, although it will not be of as good a quality as is usually grown when the conditions are normal.

Of the government land available for settlement thousands of acres have been taken up during the past two years and the next three will doubtless witness a far greater immigration into this section.

For the most part the people settling upon the land within the vicinity of Ekalaka are fairly well to do. Most all of them come prepared to withstand a little adversity, which fact has been demonstrated by the experiences of this year.

The range has long been considered about the best in Custer county and where good grasses grow it is evidence that diversified products may be cultivated successfully.

From a business point of view there are few of the smaller towns in the west that do a greater volume of business than the stores of Ekalaka. They carry excellent stocks and the best of everything. Until the advent of the Milwaukee road, Ekalaka did all of its freighting to and from Miles City, but now the stage line runs to Baker which is some 42 miles north. It makes a shorter haul, yet there is scarcely a man in Ekalaka who will not tell you that he looks back with considerable satisfaction to the good old days when they packed their goods across the country from Miles City.

But Ekalaka is not going to be long without a railroad of its own if apparently authentic rumors count for anything. Sure as fate they say this enterprising little metropolis of a vast inland empire will have rail transportation and that before a great while,

too. With a branch line built into Ekalaka its developments will be marvelous and it will be made the trading point for a vast and prolific strip of country. With a railroad built into the town it is only fair to assume that within the next three years it will have a population of over 1,500. It has all of the natural resources and there is no reason on earth why it should not be prosperous.

If character of citizenship is a factor in the development of any community then Ekalaka should become one of the most thriving and prosperous towns in all of eastern Montana. The people are noted for their hospitality and everywhere you go they will always tell you that they are substantial. The volume of hot air which they peddle is very limited, although every man there is in love with his town and he has great confidence in the future of it and all of the surrounding country.

There is now nearing completion there a handsome new school building which is the second finest in the county. It will have every modern facility, and will be maintained to the very highest state of efficiency.

Then the city will soon have a very adequate system of fire protection. In addition to the chemical engine now in use the business men have purchased a gasoline fire engine which will have a good capacity of fighting any conflagration that should break out. The water supply will be furnished from seven wells which are to be sunk in different portions of the town. The new engine has been ordered for some weeks, and it is expected will arrive and will be in readiness for use within the next ten days. Later other wells will be sunk and in time it is expected that Ekalaka will have one of the most efficient fire systems of any of the smaller cities in the west. By the installation of this system the citizens and business men are in hopes of getting a liberal reduction in insurance rates which they should receive.

There have been prairie fires within the vicinity of Ekalaka this year, but the damage done has been greatly exaggerated. There have been forest fires, too, and some damage has been done to the timber on the reserve, but no great loss has been sustained. The month of August was rather quiet in a business way, the merchants state, but from now on until the holidays there will be greater activity. The coming election, too, will have the effect of stimulating things, for every candidate for no matter what office wants to gain the good will of the people of Ekalaka. They are good boosters and usually land anything they go after. Then, too, it must be remembered that Ekalaka is the largest voting precinct outside of Miles City.

Notwithstanding this fact, Ekalaka is not looking for any county offices, that is, there have been no aspirants up to this time although there is no telling what

## LOCAL DOPE

Gathered By Our Reporter Since Last Week.

The public schools start here next Tuesday morning.

P. A. Malmquist has opened up for business in his new cafe.

Colin Munro, Jr. was in town from his sheep camp yesterday.

C. K. Putnam is spending this week out at his ranch, fixing up for winter.

A. E. Dague and Lacy Speelman, Sr. returned from Miles City Wednesday.

F. W. J. Johnson, the veterinarian of Knowlton is spending a few days in town.

P. C. Jensen and family of the Powder river country were visitors in town Wednesday.

A. J. Breckenridge and family were in town last week enjoying themselves at the dance.

The duck hunters are now busy, the season on these having opened on Thursday, Sept. 1st.

J. H. Booth returned Wednesday from Miles City where he went to take in Buffalo Bill's show.

A. L. Jolly and wife became the proud parents of a baby girl last Sunday at the T. S. Conger ranch.

Mrs. Amos Lambert returned Sunday from a three weeks visit with her daughter Mrs. Loula Laird in Baker.

Miss Anna Olsen returned Tuesday from an extended visit with friends and relatives in northern Minnesota.

Walter Martin, representing the N. P. land department with headquarters at Miles City was a visitor in this section this week. He was looking up the contest cases that will be heard here about the 10th.

Wm. J. Walsh returned to his home in Ansonia, Conn. Monday after spending nearly three months here visiting friends. Bill decided that his trip here was the best ever and expects to return at some future date.

Wm. H. Damon of Baker spent Saturday in town consulting with the Ekalaka delegation in regards to getting their support at the coming county convention. Mr. Damon is out after the office of county commissioner on the republican ticket, and being the only candidate from this part of the county, has a ten to one chance of being elected.

developments may take place up to the convention date.

The Ekalaka country, beginning Tuesday of this week, enjoyed a soaking rain, which will be of untold good in growing grass. There is yet plenty of time for late grass and with the present indications the people are feeling sanguine for a good lively fall and a favorable winter. — Miles City Independent.

The Republican primaries will be held tomorrow.

A good many of the young folks from Box Elder attended the dance at the hall last Friday evening.

R. F. Tuggle of Miles City announces himself as a candidate for the office of county auditor in this weeks issue.

Prof. W. R. Welker, the new professor of the Ekalaka schools arrived this week from Netel, Pennsylvania.

One of the best dances of the season was held in the hall last Friday evening. The music was furnished by Cory's orchestra of five pieces.

E. A. Sykes and Wm. Kendrick of LaBelle, Mo. arrived in town this week for a visit with friends. Mr. Sykes is a brother to Senator H. N. Sykes of Box Elder.

Elias Traweck will move his household goods in from the ranch this week. Mr. Traweck and family will occupy the June Olsen residence, this winter while sending the children to school.

The fair and gentle maiden, who loves the bashful boy, Assumes when in his presence a manner that is coy; She blushes and she trembles till he perceives at last, And clasps her closely to him and gladly holds her fast; And as he bends to kiss her and she serenely sighs, This fact is demonstrated: It pays to advertise.

The Gazette man followed the crowd to Box Elder last Saturday and partook of the festivities. He met a lot of new people and found many of them intending to visit Crook during the fair next month. Although it must be around thirty miles from Camp Crook to the point where the picnic was held, there were thirty persons present from this town, while Ekalaka, only eighteen miles away, had a representation of three or four. — Range Gazette

All of which sounds very nice in print, but did you ever stop to think that instead of "three or four" old puptown ended up the program with a delegation of over 20.

## ADDITIONAL NEWS

Picked Up Here and There In Town.

Harry Sykes, a nephew of Senator Sykes is now holding down the position of clerk at Peck's store.

James Mallough returned this week from Miles City where he had been taking in the Wild West show.

After August 15 all parties indebted to me for board will be charged at the rate of 50 cents per meal unless their bills are paid. I must have the money.

T. J. Martin

Dr. F. W. J. Johnston of Knowlton, Montana, will be at Ekalaka, Mont, on the first of every month for the purpose of treating sick and diseased stock and doing veterinary, dental and surgical work at Mallough's livery barn.

Contractor Kortfelt, of this city, has about completed the work of constructing the handsome new school building at Ekalaka. The people of that place pride themselves very highly upon the good work done by Mr. Kortfelt in the erection of this building. It is the second largest and best appointed school in Custer county and naturally the people of Ekalaka feel proud of it. — Independent.

A letter from Assistant Commissioner Proudfit of the general land office advises the local officers that nearly all lands in this land district are subject to the action of June 22, 1910, providing for agricultural entries on coal lands. Also that all homestead entries in this district will henceforth be subject to the enlarged homestead law. Two changes are also made in former regulations; one cancelling the commutation privilege, and the other limiting the desert land entry to one hundred and sixty acres—formerly three hundred and twenty acres was permissible under certain conditions. — Journal

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