

pay members of the constitutional convention, was read third time and lost—yeas, 7; nays, 7.

C. B. 33, an act to amend section 1,219, chapter 67, fifth division of the revised statutes, was read third time and passed—yeas, all.

Council resolved itself into committee of the whole, Buck in the chair, on general orders, and took up C. B. 6, an act to amend section 529 of the fifth division of the revised statutes, defining the qualification of voters. The bill was read and postponed.

Substitute for H. B. 32, an act relating to the duties of county clerks, was considered and ordered to be reported to the Council recommending passage.

Committee rose and Council resumed. Adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

House—Thirtieth Day, February 10.

House called to order. Roll called. Prayer by the chaplain. Minutes of previous session read and approved.

Sloan presented the petition of 833 citizens of Gallatin county, praying for the creation of the county of Park, with county seat at Livingston. Also, a second petition of citizens of Gallatin county, praying that no legislation be enacted cutting off any portion of Gallatin county and annexing the same to Yellowstone county.

Norton presented petition of residents of Gallatin county, praying that the eastern portion of the county be united to Yellowstone.

Speer, from judiciary committee, reported H. B. 54, an act to amend section 229, article 2, chapter 13, revised statutes, with amendment and recommendation that bill as amended do pass. Report adopted.

Also, C. B. 25, an act relating to chattel mortgages, with recommendation that bill do pass. Also, substitute for H. B. 31, amending act concerning fees of jurors in civil cases, with amendment. Also C. B. 30, amending section 342, fifth division revised statutes, with recommendation that bill do pass.

Kohrs, from committee on grazing and stock raising, reported H. B. 45, an act to suppress and prevent dissemination of infectious diseases among cattle, with recommendation that bill do pass.

On motion of Norton H. B. 7, detaching a portion of Gallatin and annexing it to Yellowstone, was placed on general orders.

MILLS INTRODUCED. By Hatch, H. J. R. 9, making appropriation to the Territory law library. The resolution appropriates \$2,000 for the purchasing of books. Read twice and referred to committee on Territorial affairs.

By Holt, H. B. 56, an act to enable the board of county commissioners to bond the indebtedness of Custer county. The bill authorizes the issue of bonds amounting to \$200,000, running not less than ten or more than twenty years, and bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum. Bill read twice and referred to committee on towns and counties.

By Holt, H. B. 57, a bill for the better protection of the live stock interests of the Territory. Bill read twice and ordered printed.

H. B. 58, amending an act to provide for a series of text-books for use of public schools. Bill read twice and ordered printed.

H. B. 59, an act to enable Gallatin county to issue bonds in aid of the Bozeman canal and water ditch company. Authorizes the issue of bonds amounting to \$100,000 to aid the Bozeman Water Ditch Co. The bonds to draw 6 per cent interest per annum. The question of issuing said bonds to be subject to the approval of the voters of the county. The county to be secured by a bond and mortgage, on the canal and ditch. Bill read twice and temporarily laid on the table.

C. B. 34, amending section 155, chapter 2, first division of revised statutes, relating to actions in claim and delivery. Bill read twice and referred to judiciary committee.

C. B. 36, an act to amend second subdivision of section 211, chapter 9, third division of revised statutes. Read twice and referred to judiciary committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Council met at 2 o'clock, and resolved itself into committee of the whole on general orders, Chesman in the chair.

H. B. 50, relative to the fees of sheriffs for the board of prisoners, was passed by the committee as amended by the committee of ways and means, which was for the board of prisoners, of five and under, 75 cents per day, and all over five 90 cents per day, and as amended ordered reported to the Council with a recommendation that it do pass.

C. B. 6, an act to define the qualification of voters and to prevent illegal voting, was amended so that a voter whose vote was challenged could prove his right by the affidavit of a householder or freeholder who the voter had resided in the precinct 30 days, and in the Territory six months, and as amended was ordered to be reported to the Council with a recommendation that it do pass.

C. B. 32, for the taxation of telegraph and telephone lines, was being considered in committee of the whole when our reporter closed.

House—Thirty-first Day, Feb. 11.

House called to order at 10 a. m. Roll called. Prayer by the Chaplain. Minutes of last session read and approved.

Substitute for H. B. 31, concerning fees of jurors in civil cases, was read third time and passed.

House resolved itself into committee of the whole, Norton in the chair.

While in committee of the whole the House considered H. B. 32, an act regulating assessment life insurance companies. Committee rose and recommended that the bill do pass.

House resumed. Recess till 2 p. m.

GEN. WOLSELEY does not like correspondents, and was probably as well content to have them shot as any private in his ranks. It is generally true that military commanders, especially those responsible for plans of a campaign, detest correspondents. They are always telling something that gets to the enemy, and such a thing as secrecy becomes impossible.

We do not wonder at all at the feeling about correspondents, and yet the people want to know what is going on and from other than official sources. It is well understood that official reports are drawn for particular purposes, and the whole and exact truth is never told. On the same principle that induces a physician to deceive his patient oftentimes about the seriousness of his malady, so generals, in dispatches, always aim to keep the spirit of the army and make the public at home feel good. We never hear about anything but French and Spanish victories, no matter how the tide of war may ebb and flow. Free and intelligent people will insist on having and knowing the truth at all times and under all possible restrictions.

Good correspondents often aid a campaign more than a regiment of troops. A really great commander would try to utilize and not deprive himself of this source of strength.

The worst piece of demagoguery in the world is that which arrays itself against prison labor. As a matter of right, justice, prudence and even of mercy, we believe in making prisoners work. We would have them work, if there was no profit in it, but we would see that there was profit in it. The idea that it degrades free labor to have the competition of prison labor is too far-fetched. Honest, faithful labor dignifies and rewards everyone. Especially in a country like this, where wages are abnormally high, our convict labor ought to be self-supporting and could easily be made so. If it could be done in Kansas there is no reason why it may not be done in Montana. Most prisoners would prefer to work rather than remain idle, the prey of an accusing conscience, or of moody, vengeful feelings. Exercise promotes health and refreshing sleep. It was the very means that the Lord appointed for the redemption of fallen man. As an encouragement to labor we would have all the earnings of the prisoner, above the cost of his support, reserved for him, to be paid over to him on his release from prison, or, in case of life convicts, placed at their own disposal, within reasonable limits. But this one idea should be fundamental that prison labor should pay for the prisoners' support. If the members of our Legislature will address themselves to solve this problem they will solve the deficiency dilemma at once.

BLANCHARD, of Louisiana, in his speech on the river and harbor bill, defending the item of \$750,000 for Galveston harbor, took occasion to remark that the people of the United States were to-day doing one-third of all the world's mining, one-fourth of its manufacturing, one-fifth of its agriculture and one-sixth of its banking, on one-eighth of its land area, and that but partially reduced to use. It is a very pleasing picture, as well as that of our daily increase of wealth, amounting to two millions, or more than twice as much as our nearest rival. But it is still no reason for spending twice as much in improving Galveston harbor, under Capt. Eads, as our engineers say that it can be equally well done for without employing anyone outside of the regular officers. The latest reports are that Eads' backers have become scared and have voluntarily reduced the amount asked for to \$500,000.

SPECIAL telegrams to the St. Paul Pioneer Press state that the bill introduced by Senator Dawes for cutting down and consolidating the Indian Reservations in northern Montana is the result of a good deal of contention and compromising between our Delegate and the Interior Department. It is not by any means all that Montana ought to get, but it will add between eight and ten millions of acres to the public domain and is good so far. There are some people who think it more merciful to cut off a dog's tail an inch at a time. The fogies in the Indian bureau seem to be of that kind.

WITH these foreign anarchists and professional revolutionists preaching the gospel of violence and destruction, it is a wonder that more great crimes are not committed in this country. It is a question how far such disturbers of the peace may safely be allowed to go and whether they would do more or less harm if silenced. Our laws ought to be so fixed that a prompt and heavy hand shall fall upon them at the first movement they make to carry out their teachings. We want no more Pittsburgh and Cincinnati riots.

REDUCTION OF FEES AND SALARIES.

On questions of this nature there are necessarily two sides. On the one those who receive the fees and salaries, and on the other those who have to pay them. The one side is composed of the few with a great direct interest, the other of the many with a smaller and more uncertain interest. In a country where the majority rule, it would seem to be a very easy matter for the fee-payers to control the fee-takers, but this is not the case practically. The compact few generally get away with the scattered majority. They manage to be strongest at the point of contact.

It may be laid down generally that fees are too high. It is natural that it should be so. They were fixed at their present standard when prices of labor and all things used to support life were higher than at present and when there was less business also to contribute fees.

The first requisite for any just and solid legislation is full and accurate information. These wild guesses about official incomes are a poor basis for legislation. Nor is it enough to take the testimony of interested official. It needs testimony under oath and in detail such as has never been attempted. The usual way is to split the difference between those who exaggerate most in opposite directions.

We do not believe the members have accurate information enough to do justice. If there is no time to get at the whole and exact truth, at least get as near it as possible.

These horizontal reductions are the most deceptive and iniquitous of all schemes. They not only preserve, but magnify all inequalities that have existed.

There is one office at least of which the compensation is already too low, that of County Commissioner. Ten dollars per day for the few days officially occupied is little enough, and even at that rate there are many men in every county, the best qualified to fill the position, who would prefer to pay ten dollars per day than hold the office.

The importance of the business devolved upon the County Commissioners requires the best talent and character in a community. At present it is a personal sacrifice to every man fitted to hold the position.

Fees should never be so high as to induce officers to multiply and foster business that will bring fees.

Nor is it a matter of indifference what fees are charged so that they do not come out of the public treasury. It is the first care of the peoples' representatives to take care of the interests of the people and protect them from any extortionist levy.

It is as much a duty to see that people are not charged an unreasonable price for recording a deed, as that the county is not taxed unreasonably for the board of prisoners.

The true aim should be to reach a fair compensation for good talent and character. As sure as an officer thinks himself insufficiently paid, he will begin to devise means to get more indirectly, and it is rare that he fails.

Where it is possible, even in an office supported by fees, there should be a limit to the amount received, and all above should go into the public treasury. Fees are only a random approximation to compensation. It may be too little and may also be too much.

There should be some county auditor before whom all accounts are to be submitted and by whom they should be carefully scrutinized.

There should be some attempt to make the compensation of public officers more nearly uniform than it is. Some are receiving nearly twice as much as others for business no more difficult, dangerous or responsible.

If the members of the present Legislature find it impossible to procure such full and accurate information as they need, let them come as near doing equity to all parties as possible, and provide for such a full and exact account of every cent received from fees from every officer in the Territory, that the next Legislature that assembles shall have the means to reach still better results from fuller information.

We have reason to believe that many of the Senators who voted against the confirmation of the Nicaragua treaty voted against the general sentiment of the States they represent. The Times-Democrat, of New Orleans, says Senator Gibson, of Louisiana, voted against the universal sentiment and conviction of his State on the question. It is our deliberate opinion that most of the Southern Senators will come back from a visit home with instructions of a very emphatic kind to support that treaty actively. We are no advocate of breaking treaties, but we do not concede that Great Britain alone has the right to interpret those treaties. If Great Britain refuses to accede to our interpretation, or to modify the treaty, or abolish it, we are very certain, after spending a reasonable amount of time to satisfy the scruples of honor and good faith, we should go on and do what our own interests demanded, let the consequences be what they may.

It is not saying too much to assert that the appropriations for public surveys are not one-tenth as much as they ought to be. And we cannot help thinking that some influence is at work hostile to the public good to prevent these surveys from being made. Every acre granted the railroads should be surveyed as soon as possible and the roads compelled to make their selection. The lands that are thus owned should be taxed to pay their due share of improvements which benefit them. The sooner railroad lands are taxed, the sooner they will be sold and cultivated.

NEW COUNTIES.

We have always advocated the propriety of cutting up our larger counties into smaller ones. The county is about the only form of local government and organization we have except in the few larger places, where city organization has been rather prematurely introduced. Counties should be of such convenient size that a person could go to the county seat and home again in a day from any part of it. There the courts are held and the records are kept, in which every citizen is directly and personally interested. There is danger, of course, that subdivision may be carried to excess. Such charge can hardly be borne out in any of the changes contemplated in Montana. Our own county is one of the smallest, and yet we do not wonder or complain that the people of Sun River want a county organization of their own, nor do we asperse the motives of those urging the measure by charging that it is all in the interest of the town of Sun River.

But how about the new offices created and the new buildings required? These will certainly in the aggregate increase expenses and taxation. For instance, there is the county of Missoula, half as large as New York and three times as large as Massachusetts. It is virtually insolvent and never, of late years, has raised enough by taxation to reduce its indebtedness. It looks as if it would be utter ruin to try to carry three sets of county officers and maintain three county seats. It reminds us of the case of a rather slow-witted person who could hardly support himself, who got married, as such fellows always will, and had a large family, as such persons are sure to have. In answer to some one remonstrating against his improvidence, he said he could most make a living alone and it would be funny if he couldn't do it entirely with a wife to help him.

It may be stated as a general truth that it is not the size of a tax that makes it heavy, but the consideration whether the money goes to general relief. If spent for what people can see and feel and have the benefit of, they do not complain. Missoula divided into three counties will within three years represent an aggregate of enterprise and wealth very much greater than if all remained in one. It will foster local pride, energy and enterprise. The increase of population is going to be greater in the three years to come than it has been in the twenty past years. At first it may hurt Missoula some, but ten years from now it will be looked upon as a general benefit. There is much of the money spent now that seems to do no one any good. We would rather have a log building for a court house than to live in continual jealousy and recrimination. It is very evident that smaller salaries, reduced fees and less expensive court houses and jails must be provided for, and for the rest the people of the new counties will hold the purse strings. There could be ten more counties in Montana and each of them be of the size of the State of Massachusetts.

ENGLISH EXCITEMENT.

Between the dynamite explosions and the fall of Khartoum the people of England are in an unusual state of excitement. The press of England has undoubtedly acted wisely and on some general understanding to allay the excitement, but private dispatches leave no room to doubt that the excitement is intense and universal.

To us, who can look upon both sides somewhat disinterestedly and dispassionately, there does not seem reason in either event to cause excitement. We have watched with greatest interest to see how large a portion of Irishmen and friends of Ireland would disavow the method of the dynamiters. It is an opportunity that could be turned to good account for Ireland if properly improved. For instance, if a large majority of the real Irish leaders would vigorously disavow and aid to punish those who believe in private assassination, and still worse, those who adopt methods of vengeance that involve the destruction of property, public and private, and the lives of more innocent than guilty, they could turn the feeling in England in their own favor and secure much legislation for Ireland that would be of the greatest benefit.

But as to the fall of Khartoum, we can see very little cause for excitement. It is to be regretted, and still more if Gordon has been killed. But Khartoum was not defended by British troops and its fall is not a defeat of British arms. We hardly see how it could seriously impair the prestige of British arms among the Moslems of India. In every encounter thus far the British have triumphed gloriously. It is costing some money and many valuable lives. The English dissatisfaction at the bottom of the present excitement, as we take it, is because the government still announces its purpose of withdrawing from Upper Egypt and the Sudan, after all the cost of conquest has been incurred. We do not think that Gladstone represents the English people at all in his policy of withdrawal. The more blood and money spent in Egypt, the more the English people will insist on permanent and undivided possession and control of the whole country, even at the hazard of war with France and Germany and Turkey and all the rest of the European powers. That is what we want to see, not less for the glory of England, than for the interests of the serfs of Egypt and in the general interests of civilization and trade. We want to see Moslem power broken everywhere, whether in Europe, Asia or Africa. It has been a blight to every land it has overshadowed. And we rather rejoice at the prospect that the English government will be forced to change its policy and conquer and hold all of Egypt and the Sudan.

THERE is said to be great despondency among those who are engaged or interested in foreign immigration. There is said to be a prospect of a great falling off in business. We had thought that it might be increased during the first of the season by fear of cholera spreading over Europe as summer approaches. This cause does not seem to scare any one in the north of Europe from whence most of our emigration comes. Bismarck is undoubtedly doing all that he possibly can, without being too openly hostile, to prevent German emigration to America. He will have to offer some more attractive country than West Africa to satisfy emigrants. And the probability is that all the inducements that could be offered of any sort, will never seriously deflect the tide from our shores. There is a certain class, of the tramp variety, that Bismarck may perhaps turn in other directions by assistance. It is not a class that we care to have and not a class of which thirty colonies can be built up. The class of emigrants that Montana is most interested to secure is that from the Eastern States of our own country—men and women educated in Eastern schools, familiar with the forms and spirit of our institutions and with the best methods of farm and dairy and stock management. If business depression continues at the East, we shall get a large accession of population. In any event we believe Montana has a reputation that will draw a large share of the movers. Dakota will undoubtedly get the most, but its first and best chances are taken. If Congress would only act upon the matter of cutting down our vast reservations, it would do much to assure and increase settlement.

THE COMING ECLIPSE.

The receipt of diagrams representing the appearance of the Sun in this vicinity during its annular eclipse on the 16th day of March next, reminds us that we are among the favored ones for being near the centre line of obscuration, which will enter the United States about twenty miles south of Eureka, California, cut across the northwest corner of Nevada, Bakertown, in Oregon, and Boise City, Idaho, and will cross the line of the Northern Pacific near Tosten station. If the moon were a little nearer to us at the time, the eclipse would be total, but it is fortunate that it is not, for the annular eclipse is much the most interesting. At the time of the eclipse the sun and moon will be in the constellation of the Fishes and within a few degrees of the vernal Equinox. The conjunction of the sun and moon at this particular point are by some considered as indicative of important epochs in nature and human affairs. We know that the conjunction of the sun and moon affect the tides; and if the waters, then they would affect the more mobile elements of the atmosphere, and to some less extent the more solid material of the earth's crust. These conjunctions however occur every year and month and will differ little this year from ordinary monthly occurrences. We think there is a natural tendency toward superstition among those who study the heavens. We cannot think of the grotesque conceits of the great Kepler without a smile.

We acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. F. Hess, formerly of Wickes, now of Fort Dodge, Iowa, for diagrams and papers giving particulars of the route of central obscuration.

ONE of the most interesting pieces of legislation anywhere pending is the German "workman's insurance bill" before the Reichstag, to carry out a purpose that Bismarck has been maturing for three years past. It is a system of government life and accident insurance. The premium is to be paid largely by the employers of workmen. If the workman's annual earnings are less than \$157, two-thirds of the insurance comes out of the employer and one-third out of the poor rate. If the earnings exceed \$157, per annum, the employer pays half and the workman half. In case of death 10 per cent of the workman's yearly earnings will go for funeral expenses, 20 per cent to the widow and a like amount for dependent parents and 10 per cent for each child under 14 years. It may be that government life and accident insurance will yet become general all over the world and displace all other methods of support for the poor.

REGARDING CATTLE DISEASES.

We have read with some care the bill introduced by Mr. Kohrs into our Legislature to suppress contagious and infectious diseases among cattle, horses and mules. While not professing any special qualifications to judge of its merits, it seems to be a well devised measure and worthy of general approval. Our stock interests are large and increasing. We have, as we believe, a health country for stock, where few diseases will originate, and with proper effort diseases may be kept out and our stock be above reproach and suspicion. Almost all of the expenditures contemplated are to be paid out of the avails of a special half mill tax on the stock that is protected. If stock owners are willing to tax themselves, why should others complain? They are intelligent enough to see that the benefits, protection and insurance are of more value to them than the amount of tax they will have to pay. The existence of such a law will alone accomplish much of the end sought. It will prevent any one attempting to introduce diseased stock and will give increased confidence to purchasers of Montana stock.

To protect the small owner of three or four cows or a span of horses and mules, such are exempt from the tax and the application of the law.

It looks to us as if the several provisions of this bill had been so well considered that there was little room for amendment or opposition. We shall expect to see it become a law and that its fruits will justify the aims of its originators.

CONGRESS is engrossed with the River and Harbor bill. The item for the improvement of Galveston Harbor seems to excite the most spirited controversy. Capt. Eads has a proposition to construct a harbor and channel twenty-six feet deep and maintain them for ten years for about \$8,000,000. Government engineers say that the work can be done for half that sum by the regular officers of that department, and they think if opened to free competition it could be done for considerable less. On every piece of public work there seems to be as widely different estimates as among doctors of different schools. It would seem if there must be as many quack engineers and architects as there are doctors. The great problem to be solved is how to improve the Mississippi river. It is said that there has been little accomplished by all the recent lavish expenditures and that the members of the commission have lost faith in the feasibility of all schemes of improvement. If there was satisfactory reason to believe that a practicable plan of improvement had been devised, no matter how long it would take to execute it or how much it would cost, we could work steadily forward to its completion with some satisfaction and the country would cheerfully devote all the necessary means, but it is very demoralizing to have one set of engineers assert on their honor and professional reputation that all the money spent to carry out the plans of other engineers of equal reputation, is worse than wasted. Some insist that all improvements of the Mississippi must begin at the mouth and proceed up till the head is reached. Others are full as positive that work should begin at the head. Others still despair of any practical general scheme and say that all that can be hoped is to alleviate some of the worst dangers and difficulties. In view of the very wide divergence of opinions it hardly seems best to make large appropriations. There are plenty of purposes for which all of our vast revenues may be devoted with certainty of making a good investment. Why would it not be a good idea for the government to offer a premium of \$10,000 for the best plan that might be submitted for the general improvement of the river. If even \$100,000 were offered and a second, third, or fourth prize offered, so that there would be enough to induce the best talent of the world to make a study of the subject, we believe haste would be made and money saved in the end.

The financial exhibit of the Dominion is not a flattering one. During 1884 the debt was increased from \$202,000,000 to \$248,500,000. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad will double the Dominion debt. The annual interest burden has been increased a million during the last year and is now \$7,349,000. The debt of Canada in England has increased to \$153,000,000. In connection with the rapid increase of debt, the imports fell off \$15,000,000 during the year and the exports fell off about half that amount. Imports from the United States for the year were \$50,000,000, while those from Great Britain were only \$43,400,000. There is something ominous in this rapid growth of the Dominion debt. It may appear small with our vast war debt, but viewed in connection with the resources of the country and its diminishing revenues there is cause for alarm. The construction of our Pacific roads may seem to us large, but they have indirectly been the source of benefits that already exceed their entire cost, and those roads have reached a stage of self-support. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that the Canadian Pacific will not pay operating expenses for many years, if ever. Rates of transportation will be necessarily so high that it will retard the settlement of the tributary country. We hardly see how much through business can be looked for in competition with all of our American roads, and as for the local patronage it is likely to be small and increase slowly.

WORLD IT NOT be worth the while to pass a law prescribing a penalty for buying and selling votes, a loss of the right to vote and attaching no other penalty. So long as there is only the ordinary penalty of fine or imprisonment experience shows that there are plenty who will take the risk. Let us try to make that offense disgraceful by attaching a brand that cannot be effaced. Men who think so little of the elective franchise that they will sell it, ought not to have it.

SOME of the papers, we notice, have sensational headings to the effect that 2,000 British troops were massacred in Khartoum. It is uncertain yet that any one was massacred. Certainly it could not have been British troops, for the very good reason that there were none in Khartoum, and only about a hundred Europeans, and those mostly Greeks.

BENTON BUZZING.

Matters That Concern the River Metropolis—The Northern Reservation Curtailed—A Flouring Mill Enterprise—Opposition to County Division—Railroad Agitation.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.] FORT BENTON, February 6.—The citizens of Fort Benton are just at present considerably agitated over a few matters which are of vital importance to this section of the Territory. The opening of the great northern reservation; the building of a flouring mill, and the threatened scheme of county division are the topics that are creating no little excitement in this city, and the outcome of each of these projects is awaited with some anxiety.

Two or three weeks ago a number of our citizens met together and dispatched a sort of ultimatum to Major Maginnis, drawing his attention to the non-fulfillment of promises made year after year regarding the Blackfoot reservation, while he was running for office, and, strange to say, the gallant Major suddenly awoke to his duty in the matter. As a result of his efforts, a bill has just been favorably reported to Congress recommending a more limited reservation for the Indians, and throwing open a goodly portion of their present domain to settlement. The people of Choteau county are profoundly thankful for this small favor, and have strong hopes that their representative will push the matter to a satisfactory termination.

Regarding the flouring mill it may be said there is but little doubt that Fort Benton will have one within her borders early this summer. Her citizens cannot any longer tolerate the idea of sending east for produce which can be raised just as cheaply at home, and recognize that a flouring mill will be a most potent factor in encouraging home industries. They have determined to help themselves in this matter. Quite a handsome amount has been raised as a bonus for the coming mill owner, and applications for the same are now in order.

By the far the most important topic in the new scheme of county division, now under discussion by our legislators in your city. Such a scheme would command attention anywhere—its exhibition of superlative gall being its most prominent feature. It seems that a small ring of ambitious office seekers in the vicinity of Sun River cast about them for a plan whereby their hearts' desires might be gratified—the Dearborn county scheme is the result. This scheme is certainly not put forward in the interest of tax payers in the counties affected; every new county created needs a new set of officers, and it is self-evident that the creation of the county of Dearborn would compel the tax paying public to provide salaries for two sets of officers instead of but one set, as at present. But of course that would be of little consequence so long as these office seekers obtained what they are striving after.

According to the Sun River Sun, the boundary lines of the proposed new county were at first drawn so as to include Great Falls and the Sand Conlee country, but that folly has since been remedied. One of the agitators became impressed with the fact that Great Falls might soon become a formidable rival to Sun River as a candidate for the county seat—and then good-bye to fat offices. The lines are now nicely adjusted so as to leave the field clear for Sun River—no rivals allowed in the charmed circle. What plainer evidence is needed as to the real import of this scheme.

Choteau county has area large enough to form three or four new counties, but her population at present is insufficient to even pay the running expenses of one board of county officials. To divide such a county would be a gross outrage, and we believe that the gentlemen of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly of Montana have too great a sense of justice to be parties to such a scheme.

By the bye, there is another little matter just beginning to be agitated—the Helena and Benton railroad. Fort Benton offered what was considered a most liberal amount in support of this enterprise last year, but Helena failed to respond? Who will start the ball rolling this year? K.

NINE out of every ten, if not more, of those who figure as socialists and dynamiters in this country have been reared in dens of infamy to lives of crime; they are poor because they will not work and those who work squander their earnings in riotous living. There is not one in ten thousand in this country that can give an honest, respectable reason for his opinions. It is somewhat different in Europe, but even there the discontent is not proportioned to the oppression. The subjects of Great Britain are better off than those of any country on the Continent, but are by no means more contented. It is race and religious prejudice as much as anything else that inspires private warfare, assassination and dynamiting.

WHEN we gave up the duties on tea and coffee we got nothing in return. If we would admit sugar free of duty the remitted duty would go to the benefit of our own people, and besides we would get something in return of commercial and market advantages. There is not an article on our entire list of imports of so general use as sugar. There is not a penny of revenue that would be so generally distributed among all classes so evenly as this sugar tax. Democratic hostility must be inspired by some other motive than to lighten popular burdens and distribute needless revenues among the mass of our own people.

We believe in retiring the trade dollar. It was a mistake from the beginning and did much to injure silver. It kept constantly and painfully before the people the difference between the market and legal tender value of silver. These trade dollars have gone out of the hands of the people at a discount and are in the hands of speculators mostly, who want the government to take them off their hands at a profit. They never pretended to be anything but bullion, and they should be so treated to the end.

Matters That Concern the River Metropolis—The Northern Reservation Curtailed—A Flouring Mill Enterprise—Opposition to County Division—Railroad Agitation.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.] FORT BENTON, February 6.—The citizens of Fort Benton are just at present considerably agitated over a few matters which are of vital importance to this section of the Territory. The opening of the great northern reservation; the building of a flouring mill, and the threatened scheme of county division are the topics that are creating no little excitement in this city, and the outcome of each of these projects is awaited with some anxiety.

Two or three weeks ago a number of our citizens met together and dispatched a sort of ultimatum to Major Maginnis, drawing his attention to the non-fulfillment of promises made year after year regarding the Blackfoot reservation, while he was running for office, and, strange to say, the gallant Major suddenly awoke to his duty in the matter. As a result of his efforts, a bill has just been favorably reported to Congress recommending a more limited reservation for the Indians, and throwing open a goodly portion of their present domain to settlement. The people of Choteau county are profoundly thankful for this small favor, and have strong hopes that their representative will push the matter to a satisfactory termination.

Regarding the flouring mill it may be said there is but little doubt that Fort Benton will have one within her borders early this summer. Her citizens cannot any longer tolerate the idea of sending east for produce which can be raised just as cheaply at home, and recognize that a flouring mill will be a most potent factor in encouraging home industries. They have determined to help themselves in this matter. Quite a handsome amount has been raised as a bonus for the coming mill owner, and applications for the same are now in order.

By the far the most important topic in the new scheme of county division, now under discussion by our legislators in your city. Such a scheme would command attention anywhere—its exhibition of superlative gall being its most prominent feature. It seems that a small ring of ambitious office seekers in the vicinity of Sun River cast about them for a plan whereby their hearts' desires might be gratified—the Dearborn county scheme is the result. This scheme is certainly not put forward in the interest of tax payers in the counties affected; every new county created needs a new set of officers, and it is self-evident that the creation of the county of Dearborn would compel the tax paying public to provide salaries for two sets of officers instead of but one set, as at present. But of course that would be of little consequence so long as these office seekers obtained what they are striving after.

According to the Sun River Sun, the boundary lines of the proposed new county were at first drawn so as to include Great Falls and the Sand Conlee country, but that folly has since been remedied. One of the agitators became impressed with the fact that Great Falls might soon become a formidable rival to Sun River as a candidate for the county seat—and then good-bye to fat offices. The lines are now nicely adjusted so as to leave the field clear for Sun River—no rivals allowed in the charmed circle. What plainer evidence is needed as to the real import of this scheme.

Choteau county has area large enough to form three or four new counties, but her population at present is insufficient to even pay the running expenses of one board of county officials. To divide such a county would be a gross outrage, and we believe that the gentlemen of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly of Montana have too great a sense of justice to be parties to such a scheme.

By the bye, there is another little matter just beginning to be agitated—the Helena and Benton railroad. Fort Benton offered what was considered a most liberal amount in support of this enterprise last year, but Helena failed to respond? Who will start the ball rolling this year? K.

NINE out of every ten, if not more, of those who figure as socialists and dynamiters in this country have been reared in dens of infamy to lives of crime; they are poor because they will not work and those who work squander their earnings in riotous living. There is not one in ten thousand in this country that can give an honest, respectable reason for his opinions. It is somewhat different in Europe, but even there the discontent is not proportioned to the oppression. The subjects of Great Britain are better off than those of any country on the Continent, but are by no means more contented. It is race and religious prejudice as much as anything else that inspires private warfare, assassination and dynamiting.

WHEN we gave up the duties on tea and coffee we got nothing in return. If we would admit sugar free of duty the remitted duty would go to the benefit of our own people, and besides we would get something in return of commercial and market advantages. There is not an article on our entire list of imports of so general use as sugar. There is not a penny of revenue that would be so generally distributed among all classes so evenly as this sugar tax. Democratic hostility must be inspired by some other motive than to lighten popular burdens and distribute needless revenues among the mass of our own people.

We believe in retiring the trade dollar. It was a mistake from the beginning and did much to injure silver. It kept constantly and painfully before the people the difference between the market and legal tender value of silver. These trade dollars have gone out of the hands of the people at a discount and are in the hands of speculators mostly, who want the government to take them off their hands at a profit. They never pretended to be anything but bullion, and they should be so treated to the end.