Fort Benton Record

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The Montreal riots were too well advertised to pan out.

Democratic papers seem inclined to help along the Grant movement as much as possible.

The New York Sun denounces open back shirts as a fraud. Where's Potter's committee.

William Cullen Bryant usually slept through the sermons in church, and his days were long in the land.

The employes in the Brooklyn Tax Collector's office were promoted last week. An explosion did it for them.

Mrs. Jenks' name "Agnes," signifies "the lamb." This will of course suggest to some malicious people that Scriptural passage: "The lyin' and the lamb shall lie," etc.

Three men sat in a row in the Massachusetts Senate a few years since. Pond and Chase, two of these Ex-Senators, are now in the Penitentiary, and Winslow, the third, is a fugitive for crime.

The Duchess of Argyll left $250,000 to the poor. Wealthy people are continually leaving rich legacies to the poor, and where do they all go to? The poor can testify that they get very little good of them.

There are more than fifty-two thousand sick Russians in the Balkan peninsula, and one fourth of the recruits raised last year for the Armenian campaign are dead. No wonder they have quit buying our ships.

Beaconfield is afflicted with asthmatic gout. It kept him away from the Congress for several days, which time he was enabled to devote to the Anglo-Turkish treaty. It was a most seasonable gout.

The Philadelphia Times observes that "Ohio has the President of the United States, the General of the Army, the Chief Justice, the Ministership of France, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Don Cameron for a son in-law."

The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon takes Colonel Bob Ingersoll down the bank thus: "I should do nothing to convert such a man as Colonel Ingersoll. He is a green watermelon. The more he abounds, the sooner the public will turn from him.

According to some agricultural croakers the fruit crop is always a failure, the wheat is ruined by rust, the potatoes are consumed by bugs, and all we want is something to come along and drink all the water when our death by hunger and thirst will be assured.

The destruction of an oleomargarine factory by fire at Cambridge, Mass., reveals to a curious world some of the secrets connected with the manufacture of artificial butter. Great quantities of stearine, tallow and oil were consumed in that fire; but not a single cow.

Jesse Billings, a wealthy citizen of Saratoga County, New York, has been indicted by the grand jury for the alleged murder of his wife in a manner which was at once cold-blooded and cowardly. People who have kept an eye on the gallows for years to see a rich or influential man hang are anxious to see how it turns out with Billings.

From the land of the Pharaohs comes up a wail of distress like that which arose some three thousand and odd years ago when the Children of Israel were compelled to make brick without straw, and their first-born were torn from the maternal bosom. Now, as then, it is the laboring classes on whom the burden of war falls. In the olden era the direct hand of God was laid heavily on the heads of those in high places who had caused this wide-spread suffering. Even so it will be assuredly in the end now.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

We have lately had the honor and pleasure of conversing with many highly intelligent and well-informed gentlemen recently arrived from the States, many of whom are on visits of business or pleasure while others have come to Montana to remain permanently, and we have noted a remarkable uniformity in the first impressions of our Territory as received and expressed by these observing strangers. How is it possible that so small a community can support so many stores, saloons and large mercantile houses, and having such extensive commercial resources why is it the town is so slow of growth and so limited in population? These and similar questions are frequently asked by the inquiring stranger on landing for the first time at Benton. They are mysteries not easily solved by the uninitiated, yet how readily understood after a brief sojourn within the limits of the Territory. The natural inference is that the Territory outside of Benton is thickly settled and densely populated, but what must be the surprise of these people on learning that the total population of Montana hardly equals that of a single ward in one of the large cities of the States.

The cause of commercial activity at Benton can be readily explained. The leading firms are largely engaged in the northern trade, the fur traffic and river freighting, and nearly all have business houses at other points in Montana and the Northwest Territory, for which Benton is the principal depot of supply. The local trade of Benton is an important item and is earnestly competed for by all the business firms, but compared with the heavy business transactions of these houses outside of Benton it seems indeed a very small and unimportant feature. Hence it is evident that the leading business houses are not dependent upon the retail trade of Benton and the necessity for improvements and the encouragement of immigration is not so severely felt as it would be under other circumstances and as it probably is in other towns of the Territory.

But passing beyond the limits of our little burg, the chief cause, or rather the real cause, of Montana's limited population is soon discovered, though perhaps not so easily accounted for. Extensive mines, the poorest of which if located in the States would enrich their owners, immense tracts of land affording the best possible facilities for farming and stock raising, large timber tracts and an almost unlimited demand for lumber, water power for woolen and paper mills, and in fact advantages for almost any industry that has ever been made profitable through energy and enterprise—all these are to be seen at every point in this favored land, and the commercial prosperity that is also visible everywhere is evidence enough that our people do not lack the necessary intelligence to appreciate the value of these advantages. But immigration is checked, every industry is discouraged, and commerce is compelled to labor against almost insurmountable difficulties through the want of proper transportation facilities. Intelligent strangers soon discover the cause of our slow advancement, and knowing the necessary capital, enterprise and energy are not wanting, they naturally wonder why the obstacle was not removed years ago. It is not so easy to frame an answer to the latter inquiry without reflecting somewhat upon the business people of the Territory, for it is a fact that cannot well be concealed that if the merchant or importer were alone to suffer the losses consequent upon the present system of transportation, there would soon be a very different state of affairs in our Territory. As it is, all the extra cost of importing supplies is borne by the consumer, and however great the need of a railroad the want is severely felt only by those who have not the capital and influence to procure one. But perhaps our business people are not altogether to blame. Their time and capital are devoted to commercial pursuits, and while they find the latter profitable enough under the present system they are, perhaps, justified in not seriously interesting themselves in an enterprise which might enable them to sell goods for less money, but could hardly increase their profits and would certainly encourage additional competition. But the time is not far distant when self interest will compel our capitalists to interest themselves in this transportation problem. In spite of all disadvantages the population of the Territory is increasing, while the the price of labor is every year declining, and the people who now pay the extra cost of transportation, must soon demand lower rates for goods or restrict themselves to the bare necessities of life. It will then be found advisable not only to build railroads, but also to assist the growth of towns and settlements by extensive investments in real estate improvements and the encouragement of mechanical and all other industries.

The "dog star rages." This is past a doubt. Though the almanacs give the 26th inst. as the date of the commencement of the reign of Sirius, it is evident that the star is now discounting his fervid favors in advance, and "without rebate." Everybody admits without hesitation that the weather is hot, very hot. And the rains which come in this vicinity as a blessing to the thirsty earth only seem to vary the weather from hot and dry to hot and moist. Under the circumstances—over which we have no control—it becomes the human family to exercise reason upon the circumstances and conditions over which they have control. These chiefly are found in diet and exposure, so far as body is considered, and in mastery of the mind, so far as mental worry may be subdued.

Mark Twain has sent for his pastor, the Rev. Mr. Twichell of Hartford, to join him in a tour through Switzerland and Germany at Mark's expense, and this pastor, the Reverend Mr. Twichell, will go. This is the reward held out to the rising generation of American humorists—the successful comic man will not only be able to afford a pastor, but to take him around Europe, and hang the expense. The pastor must, however, be careful that his humorous friend does not use him as material for some new "Innocents Abroad," because it might then turn out that the trip was at the pastor's expense after all.

People who prophesied a cool summer because we had an open winter did not reason well. A glance at the past shows that a cool summer usually follows a severely cold winter, and a very warm summer succeeds a mild winter. The reason for this, too, is obvious. A severe winter leaves all the mountains heavily capped with ice and snow to cool the breezes during the succeeding summer months, while an open winter leaves the mountain tops bare and the winds that much less cooling. These reasons can be safely presented now, as all will admit that they hold good in the present case.

The coinage of standard silver dollars within a period of a little more than four months, has amounted to about $8,500,000, or an average of more than $2,000,000 per month. A demand for small gold coins sprang up in the East, and to meet this demand the Philadelphia mint recently coined for the Assistant Treasurer at New York over $200,000 in quarter eagles and $110,000 in $3 gold pieces. During the last two months about $4,000,000 in silver has been exported from San Francisco to China.

Sir John Macdonald said in the Canadian Parliament recently: "That fellow Smith is the biggest liar I ever met." A multitude of Smiths now want to know what Smith he refers to.

If the devil is the father of Lize, how about Pinkston?

A great Mexican war, with the Mexicans left out, is still being fought at Washington.

The political status of woman is as much a matter of dispute in England as in this country, and a bill to enfranchise her and grant her certain other privileges was lost on its second reading in the House of Commons only only a few weeks ago. The bill is described as one for removing certain disabilities which it would be impossible now to enforce, and which remain as a relic of the old time, when a woman was treated as an inferior sort of animal, reared only to be the slave of her lord—the man. It is astonishing how nearly the advance in the laws relating to women in this country has kept pace with those on the same subject in England.

The London Times, speaking of this bill and the laws that have already been passed pertaining to the interest of women, says: "Slowly indeed her social position has been altered. She can sue for a divorce, she can trade for a living, she can possess property of her own. Politically, too, she has a vote for the School Board and the Board of Guardians, and may sit at each Board and also discharge the office of overseer." But when it comes to telling what she can not now do, and what disabilities it is proposed to remove by this bill, there is one which strikes us in this country as a little singular. The same article continues: "But she must not vote for members of Parliament, and, stranger still, she may not sit within the communion rails in our churches. In these two places the supremacy of man is as fiercely upheld as if the existence of society depended upon it."

The right to vote for members of Parliament is the same as that for which female suffragists in this country clamor. A right to vote for members of Parliament means a right to exercise the right of franchise, equally with the other sex. The right of sitting within the communion rails of the church is like the other church question of England, one which the people of this country, where Church and State are so entirely separate, neither can nor desire to understand. The London Times, in closing its article on the subject, takes strong grounds in favor of the passage of the bill. Its arguments are worth quoting, as they are just as applicable to this country as to England. It says: "Let woman be as free as man; let her be a citizen in the full sense of the word, so long as she is called upon to discharge a citizen's duties. There are plenty of women householders who are far more competent to vote for a member of Parliament than the men who now exercise that right The Baroness Burdett Coutts and Miss Nightingale are of less weight than two petty greengrocers; and if Her Majesty were to leave her throne and become a private lady, she, too, would be excluded from voting at a Parliamentary election, not so much by the direct words of any law as by the judicial interpretation of certain words. A woman loses her husband, a tradesman; she takes to his business, carries it on successfully, rears her children virtuously—but she is not entitled to a vote. Surely there is something wrong here, We suggest that it is not the business of women to show why they ought to be admitted to the full privileges of citizenship, but for her opponents to show why she should be excluded. Whether the unmarried women who would be enfranchised are many or few, is nothing to the question. Right should be done, if only a score should come forward to exert their rights."

"All the world and the rest of mankind" appear to be suffering from hard times. Nearly all the nations of Europe tell the same story of depressed business that is heard in every part of this country. The whole civilized world seems to have had a period of extravagance in living, over-production in manufacture, and speculation in merchandise and real estate, and at last the panic came and all nations are suffering. Local, political and other troubles aggravate the distress in many places. A firm of Australian mercantile agents has just issued a circular giving an account of the state of affairs there. It says: "The evil consequences of the late political crisis are now being felt throughout the whole of Victoria. The confidence of capitalists and others interested in the permanent welfare of the colony has been rudely shaken, and as a necessary consequence money that would, under different circumstances, have been expended here, is being sent away to other colonies. Therefore it is no wonder we have to report a great falling off in the demand for all descriptions of building materials, and we fear it will take some time before the building trade regains the position of one of the leading industries of the colony.

A sensible writer in the July number of Scribner's Monthly says some sensible things regarding the mania for making big papers that affects certain journalists. He says. "No one can read one of our great dailies through and digest its contents, and have time or strength left for other duties. He can only pass his eyes over and very indistinctly gather and remember the leading matters of news. It is a huge jumble, in the main, of unimportant facts—facts that have no relation to his life. Now, any newspaper man knows that the essential matters in his colums can be crowded into one-tenth of the space that they occupy, and that he fills his colums with material that it is a waste of any man's time to read. He must compete with his neighbor, therefore he must give acres of space to trash. Few can read it, and nobody would miss it, or be the poorer or worse for losing it. One page of a small paper is enough to furnish a record of any week's news—of every thing that is desirable to see or remember."

It is said that one of the most amusing features of the Paris Exposition is a genuine Frenchman trying to get drunk at the American bar.