

The Missouri river is open at Piusburg
It has been open there all winter.

The Apaches are again indulging in
their favorite pastime of raising hell—air.

The living skeleton has been deserted by
his wife. She said there wasn't enough
of him to sweat by.

Judge Conger is said to be one of the
most popular judges in Montana—that is
carpet-bag judges.

Something always happens to prevent a
Bentons' pugilist from whipping his man.
Generally he gets kicked.

Frank Walker, formerly of Benton
and The Record, is said to be the leading
duke of Washington society.

The *Bozeman Courier* reports with evi-
dent pride the fact that one of her citizens
has secured a belted shirt and a clean pair
of socks.

Butte City must be experiencing an un-
usually hard winter. The *Inter-Mountain*
reports that two horses nearly froze to
death while running away.

It is reported that about all the mem-
bers of the jury in the Emma Bond case
have gone plumb crazy, if a man can be
called "plumb" when his head is out of
level.

In reviewing the application of Mary
Miller for a license to command steam ves-
sels, secretary Folger says that any woman
who can paddle her own canoe has a right
to be examined for the position.

The Helena *Independent* suggests that if
Sherman and Manone desire to see some
real southern outrages and bloody shirts,
they should write Fred Douglass to make
a bridal tour through the southern states.

Under the heading "A Cour d'Alene
He and Old Gull," the *Miner* states that a
man was exhibiting specimens of quartz
and an assayer's certificate showing that
the rock went thirty-two thousand dollars
to the ton.

The prize fight at Butte, an account
of which, copied from the *Miner*, will be
found on our local page, seems to have
been a game affair. The men appear to
have been in dead earnest and would prob-
ably have fought to a draw if Rodda had
not won by a foul.

Old Carlos, chief of the Flatheads, don't
propose to leave his reservation. Small
blame to him. His land is valuable and
his people are happy and contented under
the management of agent Roman. It is
different in this section. The Piegiens and
Blackfeet are obliged to eat diseased and
putrid carcasses to keep life and soul to-
gether.

The *Live Stock Journal* asserts that
Buchloe Dactyloides is the most nutriti-
ous of all grasses grown in the Rocky
Mountains. After many hours of careful
search through the different departments
of our one hundred thousand-dollar library
we discovered that *Buchloe Dactyloides*
means buffalo grass. We are nothing if
we not classical.

If Arthur is shaping himself for another
term he will probably adopt the Grant
programme and keep his mouth shut. Af-
ter the nomination, however, he will re-
quire Grant's horse, sword and whisky
bottle, and these are not transferable. He
might, however, mount behind Grant and
do the spurring while the old man held the
reins and waved the sword.

Our friend Alex. C. Botkin is a strong
advocate for statehood. We were just
about to write a forcible article on the
subject when we received a copy of the
holiday *Inter-Mountain* containing his es-
say, and discovered that he had stolen all
our ideas about the matter and published
them as his own. We are sorry for this,
but shall not demand an investigation.

The advantage offered by northern Mont-
ana for cattle raising have often been de-
scented upon, but a short presentation of
facts relating thereto may prove interest-
ing to the uninformed. Joculantly called
the "banana belt," metaphorically the
"golden belt," it is in its climatic condi-
tions the terrestrial paradise of horned
stock. The supremacy of Texas in the
cattle industry has successively been dis-
puted by Colorado and Wyoming, and now
the sceptre is passing from the middle dis-
tricts of the more benign region of the
north.—*Live Stock Journal*

THE SISTERS' HOSPITAL.

It is a great disgrace to Benton that her
citizens did not complete the Sisters' hos-
pital before the winter set in. Having
carried the enterprise so far, there should
certainly have been energy and money
enough to plaster and furnish it. The
fearful cost to the county should have been
inducement enough, but people outside of
our town will soon begin to assert that
there is no enterprise in Benton, and that
will have more to do with preventing rail-
road communication than anything else
that could be said about us. There is al-
ready considerable indifference on the part
of our citizens and the withholding of
capital where a small loan on good security
would result in great public benefit. It
was not so a few years ago, when there
was less money and fewer
capitalists, and there appears to be a self-
ish suspicion creeping over our people that
was formerly unknown in Fort Benton.
Helena has been sustained for many years
by the liberality and enterprise of wealthy
men and Fort Benton has been safely
brought through several critical periods of
her existence by timely investments for
development of her resources. We have
the greatest natural advantages of any
town in Montana, but if we have not en-
ergy enough to complete so small an en-
terprise as this Sisters' hospital what is
the use of talking about developing a town
or building a railroad?

We have endeavored to show in preced-
ing issues of THE RECORD that the com-
mercial depression now felt in Benton is
universal throughout the Territory. Deer
Lodge two years ago was like a deserted
village and it has never revived to any ex-
tent since; Bozeman is complaining bitter-
ly of dull times; Missoula has not even
had a railroad boom, although every res-
ident of the place expected to make a for-
tune and skip the country as soon as the
iron horse arrived; Butte has held her own
to some extent by booming her mines and
encouraging prize fights, but not one of
her wealthy men have
had the courage to build a respectable
hotel for the accommodation of the large
floating population with which the town
has been favored since the completion of
the Utah and Northern road. It is hardly
necessary to mention Virginia City for that
ancient burg died a sudden death the mo-
ment the capital of the territory was re-
moved to Helena. And what of Helena,
the former, and it may be said the present
commercial centre of Montana? Why,
when Benton made Helena a distributing
point for all freight via the Missouri river,
her business men made money and they
had the wisdom to secure the future pros-
perity of the town by investing their
means in every public and private enter-
prise that could attract capital and popu-
lation to her doors. And they have had
their reward. Poorly located, surrounded
by a few uncertain natural advantages, al-
most consumed by three great fires, the
town struggles on until it becomes a popu-
lous and wealthy community.

And yet, even Helena with all her
wealth and enterprise, is feeling severely
the same depression that now hangs like a
pall over Fort Benton. Not to the same
extent, perhaps, that all other towns of
Montana feel it, yet it is certainly taxing
the ingenuity of her people to carry them-
selves safely through it. Fort Benton,
heretofore has had no special reason to
complain. She has natural resources pos-
sessed by no other towns, and it remains
only for her residents to put their
shoulders to the wheel and make the best
use possible of time and money for her
benefit. Turning the screws upon those in
distress will accomplish nothing but ruin.
Weak heartedness, cowardly distrust,
seeking by treachery to undermine your
neighbor will never build a town.

Never in the history of Montana, since it
became recognized as the greatest grazing
ground in the west, was there so favorable
a season for cattle to rustle on the range.
Although this is the finest range in the
country, and as a rule is open and invit-
ing, this season thus far has been excep-
tionally mild. And it is fortunate that it is
so, for 42,000 head of young cattle have
been shipped here this year from the east-
ern states or have been trailed through
from the territories, and from Texas,
Colorado and Nebraska. The only cattle
that have come in this year that are in any
danger from the rigors of a region to which
they are not acclimated, are 3,000 head sent
out to Crow agency at Grey Cliff, by the in-
terior department. These were brought out
too late to be acclimated before the
advent of cold weather, and may suffer,
in fact, may serve only as a
feast for the ever-gaunt and hungry coy-
ote. Favoring conditions, however, may
save them from this fate. There were no
late, cold, fall rains to destroy the nutri-
tive quality of our grasses, which are noted

to be better cured this season than for
many in the past. The vast herds on the
upper Tongue river, along the Powder and
Rosebud ranges, are in fine, fat sleek con-
dition. Even across on the hitherto un-
tried ranges on the north side of the Yel-
lowstone, heretofore the stamping ground
of the buffalo, come glowing accounts of
the condition of stock.—*Livestock Journal.*

In a recent interview, W. H. Vander-
bilt told a *Commercial* reporter that rail-
road stocks had reached their lowest fig-
ures and that a reaction would soon set
in. William's opinion might be worth a
great deal of money if he would only tell
the truth, but he is about as likely to give
a candid view of the stock market as a
storekeeper is to explain the cost mark on
his goods. What he really thinks or knows
about railroad stocks is probably never re-
vealed until speculators have paid dearly
for the information. But the great man
likes to be interviewed and has always an
interesting story to tell.

Important changes in the National park
are again proposed. They will soon have
the hills leveled, the grounds laid out in
flower gardens and the geysers removed to
the Smithsonian institute.

Ben Hogan, the great Evangelist and ex-
pugilist, will not visit Fort Benton, al-
though he has tackled about every other
town in Montana. We are either too
wicked to hope for reformation or too good
to require it. Which is it, Hogan?

The Cheyennes have received some
rations. Whenever this rare event occurs
the Associated press telegraphs it to every
small village in the country, every rep-
ublican newspaper publishes a two
column editorial and every leading clergy-
man announces it from the pulpit.

The Marquis de Mores reports a new
sheep disease. The animals swell up and
then get the nose-bleed. The Marquis
himself was recently afflicted with similar
symptoms after one of his herders had put
a head on him.

Butler says he is out of politics altogeth-
er now and has no political ambition in or
out of Massachusetts. The chief issues in
the coming campaign will be the failure of
the civil rights bill and the tariff question.

According to Henry Ward Beecher it is
a great crime to print newspapers in small
type; because, although God might wink
at such a crime, a man who continually
reads such type would soon be deprived of
the pleasure of winking at all.

The people of San Francisco are prepar-
ing a bill to present to congress requiring
all Chinese residents of the city to have
their photographs taken, and all the pho-
tographers in the Union are getting ready
to move to San Francisco in a body.

President Arthur to a *Tribune* reporter:
"No, thank you; I am not even indisposed.
Do I look like a sick man? I feel less like
one. I have seldom been in better health.
I cannot imagine where or how the annoy-
ing rumor could have had its origin, but I
am sick of being talked to death about it."

Arthur's chances for the Republican
nomination seem to be growing thinner
every day. Prominent Republicans say
that he cannot carry either New York or
Ohio. The President is now in the former
state canvassing his prospects, and he will
probably return to Washington wiser but
not less satisfied.

The unusual number of 18 postmasters
of the presidential grade have resigned re-
cently because of dissatisfaction with the
recent readjustment, resulting in some
cases in lowering of salaries, and with the
small allowances made by the department
for clerk hire, office equipment and other
items.

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General Repairs of Watches, Clocks Pis-
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Next door to Hirschberg & Nathan's.

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First-Class Accommodations
For Man and Beast

FINEST OF WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.

Situated at the forks of the Belt Creek, Sand
Coolie and Barker roads, nine miles from Benton,
a pleasant drive for pleasure-seekers from Ben-
ton. A well of clear, cold spring water at the
house.
[1st St.]

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Billiard Hall!

(Next door to Largent House.)

SUN RIVER CROSSING, M. T.

All the best and most popular brands of

WINES, LIQUORS, SEGARS AND
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Constantly on hand.

Sandy Camerons SALOON!

Front St., 3d door above postoffice,

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Wines, Liquors, Cigars.

All kinds of Mixed and Fancy Drinks 12 1/2 c.

BENTON STABLES.

The undersigned has opened up the Benton
Stables which have been refitted in good
style, and is now fully prepared for
all business in his line.

Sale, Feed and Livery Stables

The stables are centrally located, with a good
corral, and parties wishing to buy or sell horses
will find it headquarters for that business.

Just

HENRY WRIGHT.

Atlantic Saloon

Cor. St. John and Front Sts.,

BENTON - - MONTANA.

Gilkerson & Burge,

Proprietors.

Wines,
Liquors and
Cigars.

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Front street between Baker and St. John.

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Fresh Oysters served in any style.

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We Transact a General Banking
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check without notice.

WE BUY NOTES AND PAY INTEREST
ON TIME DEPOSITS

Make loans of money secured by personal en-
dorsement. We buy and sell exchange on
the commercial centres of the United
States.

We will give Special Attention to
the Business of Northern and
Central Montana,

will make such loans to stock men and farm-
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Local Securities a Specialty.

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will receive prompt and careful attention

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Parlor!

J. A. STEINBACH, Proprietor.

Four doors above Postoffice,
FORT BENTON, M. T.

HAIR CUTTING AND SHAVING.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate of O. H. Morgan, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, ad-
ministrator of the estate of O. H. Morgan, de-
ceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having
claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them
with the necessary vouchers, within four months af-
ter the first publication of this notice, to the said ad-
ministrator at the law office of Buck & Hunt, the
same being the place for the transaction of the
business of said estate, in the city of Fort Benton,
in the county of Choteau.

HORACER BUCK,
Administrator of the estate of O. H. Morgan, de-
ceased.
Dated at Fort Benton, M. T., December 5th, 1883.
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