

# THE RIVER PRESS.

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## ORTHOGRAPHICAL.

A young lady said to her beau,  
"I'm glad the snow's coming down seau,  
Because now, I can  
Well a sleigh riding gear,  
So half to the beautiful sleigh!"

The youth shook his head and he sighed.  
"I'm sorry," he sadly replied;  
"I can't hire a sleigh,  
For I'm dead broke to-day,  
And the pleasure to us is deniged."

—Somerville Journal.

## NANCY.

In brown holland apron she stood in the kitchen,  
Her sleeves were rolled up and her cheeks all aglow  
Her hair was coiled neatly—when I indiscreetly  
Stood watching while Nancy was kneading the dough.

Now, who could be neater, or brighter, or sweeter,  
Or who hum a song so delightfully low?  
Or who look so slender, so graceful, so tender,  
As Nancy, sweet Nancy, while kneading the dough?

How deftly she pressed it, squeezed and caressed it,  
And twisted and turned, now quick and now slow,  
Ah, me, but that madness, I've paid for in sadness!  
"I was my heart she was kneading as well as the dough."

At last, when she turned for her pan to the dresser,  
She saw me and blushed, and said "hy, I please  
go,  
Or my bread I'll be spoiling in spite of my toiling,  
If you stand here and watch while I'm kneading the dough."

I begged for permission to stay. She'd not listen;  
The sweet little tyrant said, "No, sir! no! no!"  
Yet when I had vanished on being thus banished,  
My heart was with Nancy while kneading the dough.

I'm dreaming, sweet Nancy, and see you in fancy,  
Your heart, love, has softened and pitied my woe;  
And we, dear, are rich in a dainty, wee kitchen,  
Where Nancy, sweet Nancy, stands kneading the dough.

## NEIHART AND SNOW CREEK.

An Interesting Review of These Promising Mining Districts.

Our promising camps are seen in the following light through the spectacles of the Salt Lake Tribune's "quartz harp." These camps should feel flattered that they are noticed at all, when the Barker and Maiden mining districts are not even named. He says:

The Montana district is a new district, just two years old, but was little known until last summer. It is situated in the heart of the Little Belt mountains, on Belt creek. The town is located on a narrow flat in the bed of the canyon. The mountains on either side rise at a steep angle, ranging in altitude from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above Neihart, the town. The highest peak is north and a little east of the town, and is known as Baldy, a very appropriate name. Its summit and its side is covered with slide rock, and utterly void of vegetation, except a bush here and there. The canyon courses east and west, nearly. The mines thus far are mainly confined to the north side of the canyon. The rocks of which the district is mainly made up are generally of a porphyritic nature, with some slate and syenitic granite porphyry. Almost all of the curious modifications of rocks between a true granite and true porphyry are represented in this district. The bands of slate rocks alternating with the granite give the whole the appearance of being bedded. The strike of these is east and west. The veins strike at right angles to the course of the country rock. This is the only objectionable feature to the district, if it may be called such. My preference is on the side of having the vein-fissures cut the enclosing rocks at same angle to their dip instead of at right angles to their strike. Still no one is foolish enough to condemn a district upon this ground; though in my experience the opposite class of veins have turned out most favorably.

The ores of the veins of this district are both milling and smelting, the latter, lead ore, a small percentage of carbonate and sulphate of lead is found near the surface in several places, but galena largely predominates. Some of the mines are purely milling ore, usually free, so far as the developments go, which are yet very limited. The gangue of the majority of the veins is sulphate of baryta (heavy spar); the exceptions carry a quartz gangue. In all there is more or less brown oxide of iron. Usually the ore is comparatively soft and easy to mine, as is the rock enclosing the vein. They vary in width from a foot to upwards of five feet. Occasional swells in some of the veins reach ten feet. Those of the mines most developed show good walls, carrying clay selvages at intervals, and at other points no clay. Some on the other hand are more or less blended with the wall rock. This is the peculiarity that is not regarded as favorable. It is a noted characteristic of veins of this class—the cut mentioned above.

The ores so far as ascertained are of all grades, from a few ounces in silver to several thousand dollars per ton. The developments are yet too limited to admit of an unqualified opinion as to their permanence or continuity in depth, but the indications so far as attained for the development of good paying mines are most favorable. The district is well supplied with wood and water; none better. This natural outlet is down Belt creek, toward Benton. I believe the Benton road is distant only from nine to twelve miles from Neihart; but the canyon is rough and rocky. A road was being built through at the time of our visit, and is no doubt completed through to the point of intersection. This district was discovered about two years and a half ago by Messrs. Neihart, O'Brien and Harley. The town consisted of seven or eight cabins, and a store in course of erection, when we were there. No whisky there up to that time, but plenty of pure water, and no fights—except with a bear, which came near terminating the life of one of the prospec-

tors, Mr. Sykes. Trout in Belt creek; deer, elk and bear in the hills. During the warm days of summer a few horse flies might be seen at a distance from the eye, probably about the wrists or hands. No flies in January, the boys told me, except those of the species blizzard.

Among those in camp were Messrs. Chamberlain, Sykes, Mackintosh, Carruthers, Fitzpatrick, Harley, and several others whose names I do not remember. These are the pioneers of the district, and all are interested in promising young mines. They calculated to winter there this season, and if they do, we trust they will not lie idle, but make the best of their time in further opening their properties, and next season we shall be enabled to further judge of their value and form an opinion as to their permanence.

Across the mountain, north and a little east of Neihart, immediately back of Baldy mountain, about five miles distant, is Snow creek. The mines on this creek are similar in character, I was informed, to those of Neihart. They are on an almost direct line with the latter, and if connection is established between the two camps, by discoveries on the intervening hills, it will be regarded as favorable to the continuity of the veins in depth. The general make-up of this region of the country, including the veins and their ores, is of a character that should command the attention of those who are seeking investments in mines. At present the developments are too limited to warrant the investment of any great amount of capital, and it is hoped the boys will do good work this winter, and next summer I promise to pay them another visit.

## Jumping at Barker.

We are informed by a gentleman just in from the camp that there was some mine jumping on New Year's day to enliven the otherwise quiet monotony of the place. The Edna, of the May & Edna, was jumped, although it was supposed that the requisite amount of assessment work had been done on it the last year. Several other claims also were taken possession of by the new parties, but the names of these mines were not remembered by our informant.

## Fireman's Ball.

At a special meeting of the engine company last Friday it was decided to hold the fireman's ball at the Grand Union on the 22d of February. This will not be a masquerade ball, as was first proposed. There will be a grand parade of the firemen on the same day, as the uniforms are expected here by that time. The following committees were appointed for the ball:

Honorary committee—C. E. Conrad, John Power, Ed. Maclay, W. S. Wetzel. Invitation committee—Jere Sullivan, Sol. Genzberger, T. J. Todd. Reception committee—T. Cummings, John H. Evans, T. Healy. Floor committee—Frank Coombs, W. I. Hinkle, S. J. Cline. Arrangement committee—P. Macdonald, N. Authier, Jos. Sullivan, F. Bucken, C. B. Fowler.

As this ball is for the special benefit of the firemen, to raise funds to procure their uniform, we know that our liberal minded citizens will cheerfully "loosen up" \$3, which is all a ticket will cost for the coming dance and supper.

## Montana Railroad Business.

The Northern Pacific business from Montana is thus stated by Vice President Oakes:

The cattle shipments for the fall of 1883 amounted 1,517 cars; wool shipments from Montana, 2,205,474 pounds; and the hide shipments 1,702,116 pounds. This shows an increase of 53 per cent. in the shipments of hides. The shipments of wheat since July 1 amount to 263,390,761 pounds (4,389,849 bu.). This is an increase over 1882 of 90,550,204 pounds (1,509,171 bu.). It is estimated there will remain of this season's crop to be shipped after January 1, 1884, 2,500,000 pounds. The mineral shipments from Montana have amounted to but 1,890 tons thus far, but the opening of the Helena & Jefferson branch, reaching as it does the mines of the Alta, Montana, Gregory, and other companies, will afford an outlet for many thousands of tons of low grade ores that would not otherwise bear transportation, and we have assurances from the managers of the mines referred to that their shipments this year will aggregate at least 10,000 tons.

In Oregon and Washington Territories thus far the grain shipments east of the Cascades have been 86,000 tons, against 44,000 tons for the same period in 1882, and there still remains 40,000 tons, which will bring the total surplus to 126,000 tons for the season of 1882. The mineral sections along the Northern Pacific railroad are rapidly developing, and from these districts the company will, during 1884, derive large revenue. The mining output of 1884 of the Territory of Montana is estimated by Mr. Hauser, president of the First National bank of Helena, at over \$30,000,000, more than double that of the previous year. The tonnage from the Butte section will be immense. Large reduction works are now under construction, which will reduce the low grade ores that could not heretofore be shipped to market. The amount of copper ore and matte to be shipped from Butte this year is estimated at 60,000 tons.

The German army horse buying commission have this year bought, in 449 markets, 7,054 horses, at an average of \$170. The highest paid was \$350, the lowest \$75. Six thousand six hundred and thirteen are three-year-olds; the rest older.

## THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Notes of the Proceedings of the Late Regular and Special Sessions.

At the last sessions of the commissioners there were full boards of three members—Messrs. Wetzel, Arnoux and Conrad—and it can be justly said that business was dispatched with more system and that better work was done than at some of the preceding sessions that we know of. Following is a synopsis of the work of the board:

### REGULAR SESSION, DECEMBER TERM.

By order of the board two mills of the taxes were transferred from the road to the general fund.

The wages for a man and team, on road work, was fixed at \$5 per day.

Rebates on taxes erroneously assessed were made as follows:

Atkinson & Knedler	\$ 65.4
Hamilton & Hazlett	119.00
D. G. Brown	53.30
C. M. Launing & Co.	16.15
Hill & Gibson	210.00
Total	\$454.79

Road Supervisor Boyle was ordered to construct three culverts at different points on the Barker road, and in this county.

An order was issued stopping the rent of the cellar or dungeon, leased for the district court, on December 1st, 1883. Why rent was paid up to that time is something difficult to understand. The commissioners responsible for the outrage should be made to pay it out of their own pockets.

Hereafter, by order of the board, any officer purchasing anything chargeable to Choteau county will be required to certify to the amount of such purchase and merchants and others must send in such certificates with their bills.

A petition for a road from the south side of Belt creek to the county line was received and granted, the following gentlemen being appointed viewers: J. H. Seifred, J. B. Wetzel and Chas. W. Black.

A petition from the residents of the Teton for a school district was received and granted. The boundaries of said district are not to be lower than O'Fallon's ranch, nor further up the valley than Poindexter's ranch.

The petition from the residents of the upper Teton for a school district was laid over until the next term.

The assessment on the Masonic hall was reduced to \$5,000.

A warrant for \$800 was ordered drawn in favor of the city in payment of the work of resurveying the town of Fort Benton.

The accounts of the treasurer for the fourth quarter were audited and found correct.

A petition was presented to the board by citizens of Choteau and Meagher counties asking that the LaMott toll road, at the Arrow creek hill, be purchased by the county and made a free road. Mr. LaMott was present and made an offer to the board, which was accepted, as follows: The sum of \$1,400 in two separate payments, \$700 at the December (1883) term, and \$700 at the March (1884) term. It was also ordered that the Arrow creek road, as then used (known as the Carothers road), be discontinued and the former made a county road, to divert from the old road at a point about two miles the other side of Steele's ranch.

All bids for physicians, medicines, etc., were rejected by the board.

It was ordered that the jail be used as heretofore for city prisoners, the city authorities to make their own arrangements with the sheriff and jailor; if such arrangements can not be made the city has the privilege of using the old jail, rent free, until further ordered.

### SPECIAL SESSION, JANUARY 7.

Commissioners Wetzel, Conrad and Arnoux were present and the tax levy for 1874 was made. It has already been published in the RIVER PRESS.

It was ordered that hereafter only \$2.50 a day be allowed for road work.

A petition from the citizens in the vicinity of Willow creek, asking for the continuance of the county road from Highwood to Willow creek, was favorably received and the following road viewers appointed: R. W. Buckland, C. H. Boyle and James Gullett. The terrible Willow creek hill has been surveyed and a grade established, and it is the purpose of the commissioners to improve it materially this spring.

The treasurer was ordered to omit the collection of road tax to the amount of \$2.50 from residents of the city.

The matter of fixing or moving the Belt creek bridge was discussed by the board, and it was determined that they should go out soon and examine into the matter. The bridge must either have some work done on it, or be moved as is contemplated, if it is desired to have it stand through the June rise. This bridge cost the county about \$6,000 and it will not do to take any chances on it.

### A good word for Villard

It is reported that Villard has not only lost \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 himself, but that he has handed over to other losers the \$300,000 that he gave a year ago to his wife, a daughter of William Lloyd Garrison. I hope this is not true. A man should not pay so dearly as that for a miscalculation. There's only one thing that makes me think the report may be true. In the autumn of 1862 he came into the army of the Potomac as a correspondent. I was writing letters to the New York Tribune. His horse was a better one than mine, and he always kept ahead—excepting, perhaps, on a retreat. One night when the army was being transferred from the Rapidan over

to Fredericksburg, and Villard and I were trying to keep along with it, we found ourselves a good way from any eligible house and compelled to camp, soldier-fashion, on the ground. We picked our horses, then brought a dozen nice, soft, three-cornered rails from a worm fence near by, laid them gracefully together side by side in the wet grass, as close together as possible, and went to bed. As it was cold, we put our blankets together and laid them over us; and as there were no mosquitoes we got along fairly well. The only disturbance was made by Villard. I awoke suddenly about midnight and found Villard sitting up in bed and carefully pushing the blankets over me, saying "excuse me." This happened three or four times during the night. I didn't suppose that such a man as that ever would be rich. Maybe he has been so foolish as to give away his wife's property and start from bedrock again. Who knows?—Cor. Pioneer Press.

## MAGINNIS TO THE FRONT.

Bills and Resolutions Introduced by Our Delegate in Congress—What He Says About Reducing the Reservations.

The following bills were introduced by Delegate Maginnis on the 7th inst.: Granting and confirming title to the Montana collegiate institute of certain lands situated in the town of Deer Lodge; for the erection of a public building at Helena, to cost \$50,000; for the relief of Capt. A. Girard, of the United States army, for quarters burned at Fort Keogh; to give every man who has served in one grade fifteen years below the rank of major the pay of the rank above; to reduce the price of lands in the Bitter Root valley to \$1.25 per acre, and seven relief bills.

He also presented several joint resolutions of the Montana legislature. These resolutions were sent to him at the close of the last session of congress, but it being then too late to secure the objects desired, Maginnis carried them over to the present session. These resolutions ask congress to pass bills concerning the treatment of Indians for depredations committed by them upon the settlers and their property; for the reduction of the military reservation at Fort Keogh; for the increase of rates for surveying; to take measures to prevent pleuropneumonia among cattle, and to exclude from the boundaries of the Yellowstone park Clark's mining district.

### REDUCING THE RESERVATIONS.

The following is a portion of a special dispatch to the Pioneer Press of the 8th: "The Indian commission, of which Senator Dawes is chairman, are awaiting a communication from the secretary of the interior enclosing the correspondence and documents of the Sioux commission. When those are received Mr. Dawes will call a meeting of the commission to consider the subject and prepare their report for transmission to congress. The object of the commission was to visit certain Indian reservations, among them the great Sioux in Dakota, and the Crow and Piegan reservations in Montana, with the view of ascertaining the propriety of vacating or reducing them. Delegate Maginnis, who is a member of the Dawes commission, said to-day he believed the commission would favor a reduction of all the reservations in Montana and of the Sioux reservation in Dakota. He thinks these reservations are much larger than they should be to meet the requirements of the Indians, and that the rapid occupation of the northwest by white settlers is creating a demand for the millions of acres embraced in these reservations."

### Sheep Notes.

In conversation with an intelligent sheep raiser yesterday we gleaned a few points which would probably never occur to a person who had only made the business pay with paper and pencil by the side of a hot stove. Our informant has rustled with sheep on the range for the last three winters, and as he is a close observer his words ought to carry some weight. Speaking of the amount of snow now lying on the ground, he says that amounts to nothing so long as it does not get crusted by a rain or a chinook catching cold. Any reasonable amount of snow, say a foot or fifteen inches, does not seem to retard the sheep's feeding in the least, as they can easily nose around in that much of the fleecy covering for their daily bunch grass. Then, again, when the ground is bare and grass easy to get the frisky animals are doing more racing around than eating. They will nibble a bite, and then seeing a tall, waving bunch a rod ahead, off they start for that, and so they spend the whole day, when they ought to be filling their stomachs, in looking at the country and only sampling the feed as they go along. With snow on the ground, our informant told us, it was quite different. A sheep would make a clean up as he went along, the cold snow not being near as inviting for a run and a frolic as the grass-covered plain, so that the animal really seemed to get more to eat when there was a liberal sprinkling of snow over his fodder. There are always little points and knolls which the wind has blown bare, and the flock soon make clean work of a picnic of that kind. The inevitable cold stormy days, with the wind in the north and lots of snow flying will find the sheep of the good shepherd peacefully nibbling away on some hay within the shelter of the corral and sheds. Shelter and some food besides that which is rustled for on the range is now provided by all intelligent wool growers, as it is a "penny wise and a pound foolish" policy when they try to save a few dollars and do without.

## TUNNEL TALK.

A Company Organized to Bring the Water of the Teton into Fort Benton.

The readers of the RIVER PRESS will remember that a few months ago we published an interview with Sheriff McDevitt in regard to turning the Teton river through the city by means of a tunnel, bringing the stream out in the coulee back of the Brinkman butte, in the neighborhood of Kennedy & Kelly's slaughter house. The sheriff at that time expressed the most implicit confidence in the feasibility of the project, and stated that it was at once the cheapest, easiest and best plan for supplying Benton with an abundance of water, either with or without water works, and at the same time first class water power. The tunnel (which will be about a mile in length) he said could be constructed at a cost of not more than \$10,000, securing all the great advantages enumerated above.

The publication of the article in the RIVER PRESS created a good deal of interest and comment, while some of the sheriff's friends were mean enough to allude to him as the "tunnel crank," etc. As recent events go to show, however, he is not the only one who has faith like unto a mountain in this enterprise. A stock company, composed of some of our wealthiest and most enterprising citizens, has recently been organized to put the project through, and Messrs. Griffith & Ingersoll are already engaged to make the necessary surveys so that the work of driving the tunnel may begin without delay. This company, however, is not to have the field alone. Sheriff McDevitt never gave up the project, even if it is a big one, and some time ago he quietly filed on the water right and will, he says, in a few days, commence work on his tunnel and put the enterprise through as speedily as possible, meantime forming a company to carry the project out on a grand scale. He has the prior water right, and to this extent has the "bulge" on the company already organized.

The RIVER PRESS is glad to see that his matter is considered of such importance as to bring about a contest, but we would respectfully suggest that the parties "pool their issues" and unite heartily in the great and good work of supplying Benton with water works, water power, etc. The enterprise is big enough for all of them. Of its entire feasibility and the fact that it will prove a profitable investment there is no doubt whatever.

### A Good Move.

Messrs. Hauser, Holter and others propose taking up a large tract of desert land in Choteau county and improving the same by a large ditch from Sun river. This is as it should be; for large portions of our territory can never be put in cultivation unless some such system be adopted to provide for the irrigation, since very few settlers have the means of constructing the necessary ditches; and if they had the means, it would not be profitable to construct them for single farms, save in very rare cases.

Either companies must be formed to construct ditches and manage the water after the farms are taken up, as experience has shown to be necessary in the Prickly Pear valley, or such companies must take up the land, construct the ditches and then sell the farms with water rights thus secured and provided.

We understand that two or three other companies are already at work in Choteau county, or are preparing to commence operations on a large scale, in that part of the territory.

If the vast plateau of rich lands in this part of the territory can be made available to settlers by such irrigating ditches, no distant day will see numerous and prosperous people following close upon the heels of the Indian and the buffalo, and making the desert bloom like the rose and wave with the golden grain.

The proposed preservation of the forests in the mountains north, which now supply the waters of the Dearborn, Sun, Teton, Marias and Milk rivers, will prevent any shrinkage in those streams and secure an increasing supply of water for this vast area of excellent lands.

We rejoice to see these lands going into the hands of our own citizens rather than into the possession of non-residents, particularly if those non-residents be aliens; for we have been abundantly shown that non-resident owners are sometimes an injury rather than a benefit to a country, as were the owners of the Comstock mine, and the landlords of Ireland.—Independent.

### A Red Robber.

A bold, bad Indian had the audacity to steal one of Charley Sheridan's cayuses Saturday night and then come back Sunday night and take the remaining one out to his tepee on the Teton. The aggrieved man found the rascal yesterday morning, and made such a forcible gun play at him that the Indian went at once to the Teton and brought back the horses. Not satisfied with the return of his property, the owner turned the now repentant buck over to the tender mercies of Sheriff McDevitt. The transgressor now languishes in jail, as his copper-colored brethren could not raise bonds sufficient to keep him out of durance vile.

Seventy-four more Vermont Merinos were shipped to Australia last week. They cost the exporters \$22,100.

Richard King is having a pasture enclosed on the gulf coast and lower Rio Grande, in Texas, that requires 83 miles of wire for two sides.