

The Choteau Calumet.

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Choteau, Montana, Friday, Dec. 16, 1885.

THE CALUMET smokes for all.

Harper county, Kansas, has elected the widow Rice its county clerk.

If nothing else can induce President Cleveland to remove Judge Wade, somebody should send him a copy of Claire Lincoln.

Mr. Cleveland should be grateful for a little relief. The politicians are now busy trying to decide what to do with Mr. Randall.

Prince Colonna, the rather recent bridegroom of Bonanza Eva Mackay, is said to be already a bankrupt, despite a handsome settlement.

The present House of Representatives contains 188 Democrats and 143 Republicans. Of these about half, or 110 Democrats and 84 Republicans, were members of the last Congress.

Death—a journal devoted to suicide and murder—is a unique venture announced at Chambersburg, Penn. It proposes to give a complete chronicle of violent deaths occurring in the United States. Its projector is quite young.

The Boston Transcript, commenting on the "old fashioned pious and hearty New England flavor" of President Cleveland's Thanksgiving proclamation, thinks it shows "what genuine New England stock there is in his mental and religious make up."

President Cleveland is studying up the subject of private legislation to ascertain its extent and effect in clogging the business of Congress. He may recommend reform by giving the courts jurisdiction of a large class of cases which now require action by Congress.

The Virginia girl who advertised for a husband in a Dakota paper, not only got three thousand answers, but was the indirect means of raising the salary of her postmaster by the increased business. Some people are mean enough to insinuate that he was the girl himself.

Millie W. writes to the society editor of the World to ask: "Would you be kind enough to inform me in your valuable paper which is the proper thing to do in sending flowers to a corpse: Compliments of, or only 'From.'" N. B.—This is not a grind on the Mugwumps.

The Rev. Dr. Sunderland, of Washington, is reported as saying in a recent sermon: "Journalists are either heedless boys or inebriated men who write their matter in the midnight hour." If this is a sample of the preaching to which Mr. Cleveland listens on Sunday, he had better change his church.

W. S. Wetzel has set his colleagues an excellent example by resigning his position as county commissioner, and Col. M. J. Leaming has been appointed by the probate judge to take his place. Col. Leaming is rather a fair sort of man, for a Republican, and will doubtless make a good commissioner.

At the last session of the County Commissioners, Scho of District No. 1, was established as follows: "With the county Court House as a center, to include a radius of three miles from that point." This scholarly definition of School District No. 1, doesn't size up well with the fact that tax-payers within a stone's throw of Choteau, or about one hundred miles from Benton, have been obliged for the past two years to pay a special school tax to support District No. 1, or rather to help pay the big debt incurred in building the Benton School House. Peter Trudo, who lives within half a mile of Choteau and whose children attend the Choteau school, informs us that he has been forced, after a vigorous protest, to pay this tax, while several of his neighbors have been treated in a like manner. Mr. O. G. Cooper, who lives within twelve miles of Choteau and about ninety from Benton, has been favored with the same special tax, as have also a number of his neighbors, while others in the same vicin-

ity have escaped. These gentlemen propose to lay the facts before the next Grand Jury and demand an investigation. If they do, no amount of whitewash will be allowed to stick.

"Capt. Paul Boynton has been so successful in frightening the officers of that British ship that I'd like to see Cleveland make him the secretary of the navy. It would be a step in the direction of economy, and would greatly improve the efficiency of the department." "What makes you think so?" "Why, Boynton could be the secretary of the navy, and the navy too."—Endicott.

Mrs. Rebecca Ruter Springer, wife of Hon. Wm. M. Springer, of Illinois, is an authoress of recognized ability. Among the most noted productions of her pen are "Beachwood" and "Self," and she has contributed a number of beautiful poems to the leading magazines. A poem on the death of her friend, Mrs. Grace Hamilton, will be found on the local page of this issue of THE CALUMET.

That somewhat earnest Democratic organ, the New York World, is trying hard to knock the mugwump out of the Democratic president. It jabs him with the pin of satire, cudgels him with the club of threat, beseeches him with the appeal to pity and coaxes him with the argument of self-interest. The president is indeed a great anxiety to his party, and their labors to discipline him are at least earnest and sincere.

We do not guarantee Grover a wife if he journeys here in search of one; that is, we do not guarantee him a thoroughbred Georgia homespun girl. We simply propose to put him in the way to work out his own salvation. Honors, power and titles will avail him nothing, for the Georgia girl is not a mugwump, flirting first with one party and then another. She follows her heart, and sticketh closer than a brother. War cannot shake her off, pestilence disturbs her not, misfortune but tightens her grip, and poverty she laughs at. The man who marries a typical Georgia girl, and continues to be a man has a wife for all eternity.—Macon Telegraph.

IS IT RIGHT?

Democratic office seekers have lost a friend and sympathizer by the death of Vice-President Hendricks. He was no believer in civil-service rules as interpreted by the civil-service commission. On one occasion Mr. Hendricks said: "I thought we were fighting for change, and I want to see these departments cleaned out so that the light of heaven may shine in and purify them." This expression does not differ in meaning from the Democratic battle-cry of the Presidential campaign—"Turn the rascals out." President Cleveland, on the contrary, insists upon a strict observance of the civil service rules, which mean, "Keep the rascals in." No good Democrat will question the purity of the President's motives in thus catering to the wishes of Republican office holders and disappointing the hopes of his own constituents, but no Democrat can fail to feel that Mr. Hendricks was right and that no real reform can be brought about without a complete change in all the departments. On the other hand, President Cleveland's evident desire to remove all objectionable Republicans and fill their places with Democrats will be readily admitted, and if the president were gifted with infinite wisdom and omnipresent power to enable him to detect the misdeeds of the obnoxious officials, ample cause for removal would hardly be wanting in a single case and there would soon be as complete a purification of the departments as even Mr. Hendricks could have wished. But the weakness of a system which restricts the Executive power to removal upon unquestionable evidence only lies in the fact that such evidence is nearly always wanting even in cases of the most flagrant abuse of official authority. If any doubt can exist upon this point, the truth of the affirmative may be readily proven by many striking illustrations here in our own Territory. Judge Wade, for instance, is a remarkable example of the extent to which abuse of official power may be carried without conviction and punishment. Incompetency is considered a proper cause for removal, but Judge Wade is probably the most incompetent as that ever disgraced a judicial bench. Corruption is certainly a good cause for removal, but the word loses its significance when applied to this representative of the judicial department of the government, whose office has been uniformly and shamelessly prostituted to the will of the money sharks of Montana. And yet, we venture to say that Judge Wade has been represented to the president as a wise and incorruptible official who should not be removed from office for mere political reasons. He has been a faithful and profitable servant to the Shylocks of the Territory, and so far as their influence can prevent it, President

Cleveland will never know that he is more fitted to grace the call of a repentant than to discharge the duties of the responsible position which he now occupies, and which indeed should be cleaned out, that the light of heaven may shine in and purify it.

On the occasion of a public meeting held in Albany a few days subsequent to the great Democratic victory the president gave some reason to hope that a sweeping change would be made immediately after the inauguration. He said, in effect, that while there were doubtless many honest and capable Republicans in office the interests of the government would be as well cared for by equally intelligent and trustworthy Democrats. On a later occasion he gave the people of the Territories to understand that all offices vacated by Republican carpet-baggers would be filled by resident Democrats. To say the least there appears to be great inconsistency between the president's words and actions in these instances, but the characteristic courage and honesty of Cleveland forbids us to question his sincerity and we must believe that he has been deceived by false representations of those upon whom he is compelled to rely for information.

Scarcely were kinder things ever said of any man than are now said of the vice-president. His most ardent opponents in life recognize and admit his great abilities, his wide popularity, the beauty of his private life and the great virtues of his personal character. He was a man of clean and open hands, a fascinating manner in society or on the platform, abounding in deeds of charity. As a student of public affairs he was perhaps more earnest and sympathetic than deep and philosophical. He was a Democrat of the old fashioned school, by whom the offices were conscientiously believed to belong to the victors and to be distributed as the rewards of party service. In this matter as in others he wore his heart upon his sleeve, and by contrast with his companion on the presidential ticket became the champion of those who had no faith in Civil Service Rules. His devotion to the Democratic party was intense, and taking the form it did on account of what he believed to be Mr. Cleveland's unreasonable neglect of his friends, became the most conspicuous element in his recent public life. But no one ever questioned the purity of his motives, his patriotism or his public and private integrity. He was not suited by temperament, training or belief to promote the progress of the questionable reform now most prominent in Government affairs, but his loss is not the less deplorable on that account.

The Choteau Road to Macleod.

The Mountain Road to Fort Macleod is every year becoming a more important highway to Montana, as well as to the settlements north of the boundary. To accommodate the increased travel, numerous stopping places have been established, among the most prominent of which is that of Julian F. Burds, about 32 miles from Choteau.

The entire distance to Macleod via this route hardly exceeds 160 miles. The distances between stations are as follows: From Choteau to Bynnum's, on the Muddy, 12 miles; Bynnum's to Julian F. Burd's, on Dupuyer, 20 miles; Burd's to Bristol's, on Birch creek, 8 miles; Bristol's to the Piegan Agency, on Badger creek, 12 miles; Agency to Two-Medicine creek, 4 miles; Two-Medicine to Wm. Kipp's on Cut Bank river, 18 miles; Cut Bank to South Fork of Milk River, 20 miles; South Fork to North Fork of Milk River, 7 miles; North Fork to St. Mary's river, 15 miles; St. Mary's river to Belly river, 25 miles; Belly river to Fort Macleod, 20 miles. Total, 161 miles.

Parties preferring to camp out, will find an abundance of wood, water and grass at convenient points. They can also purchase supplies at Burd's station, Mr. Burd having a store well-stocked with a full line of general merchandise.

About Mail Routes.

Choteau has now four mail routes, a tri-weekly to Sun River, and weekly to Piegan, Ferrysburg on the Teton, and Bellevue. The latter is a new office just established on Willow creek, twenty miles from Choteau. A new office, "Bynum," has also been established at the crossing of the Muddy, twelve miles from Choteau. Steps have been taken to have the Sun River service increased to daily and the Piegan to tri-weekly; also to extend the Bellevue route through to Augusta. We hope our Delegate, the Hon. J. K. Toole, will not neglect our numerous petitions, after the manner of the Benton Board of County Commissioners. Choteau will probably hereafter hold the balance of power in Choteau county and on Montana's admission as a state may be a stepping stone to the chair of Cleveland. Who knows?

A newspaper placed under the vest between the shoulder blades is said to be a sure protection against lung fever or pneumonia. Now is the time to subscribe.

A MODEL SHEEP RANCH.

What is a model sheep ranch? Any sheep ranch conducted upon strictly business principles is a model worthy of imitation. For the benefit of those readers of THE CALUMET who desire further information on this subject we will endeavor to describe one of the many well-conducted sheep ranches in this vicinity. The Clark Bros. & Co., located on the Muddy about 22 miles from Choteau, are the owners of about 8,000 acres of land and over 7,000 sheep. The land is divided into three ranges or pastures, for summer, fall and winter use. The winter or home ranch contains the principal and most expensive improvements. It is provided with three sheds, the largest of which is 60x175 feet, with two wings, one wing being used as a hospital for the sick and injured animals and the other as a granary and stable. The other sheds are smaller, but similarly arranged and all are provided with ventilators, and trap doors for throwing open the sheds from all sides so that the sheep may pass in or out without crowding, or by closing the doors the animals are thoroughly protected from the severest storms. Besides the sheds, barns, corrals, etc., there are five substantially built and comfortably furnished dwelling houses for the use of the owners and employees. The summer and fall ranches are also provided with dwelling houses and corrals, but the real work and expense of caring for the sheep begins when the winter sets in and every provision is made for their comfort and protection. But while no expense is spared to facilitate the proper handling of this property, the closest economy and most careful management are noticeable in the smallest details. The herders and other employees are not overworked and are well provided for, but they are required to earn their money and no waste is permitted. In severe weather the sheep are fed with hay, and care is taken that each animal receives its full allowance, but a careful estimate is made of the quantity of provision required to sustain each animal through the winter, and it receives no more, and the herd is never fed when it is possible to pasture them. System is also a noticeable feature in the management of this ranch and the routine of duty from day to day and year to year is performed with the regularity of clock work. Our space will not permit of a detailed description of the management of a model sheep ranch, but a few points on the general care of the property may be of use and interest. Messrs. Clark Bros. & Co., have found after long experience that an average of ten days' feeding in each month for three months, and three pounds per day to each animal will carry the sheep comfortably through the winter. Oats and rutabagas are fed to rams and poor or injured sheep. In the summer sulphur is fed with salt, which keeps the skin pure and the sheep healthy. On the Clark ranch there has been no disease among the flocks for years. Deep snow is the only obstacle to pasturing flocks, and the high winds of this locality soon clear the ranges after the heaviest storm. A barometer is kept and closely watched at headquarters, and when a storm is indicated the flocks are herded towards the North and allowed to feed back towards the corrals when the severe weather sets in, but unless the high winds are accompanied by snow the sheep are allowed to remain on the range, experience having proved that the flocks thrive better on pasture than when confined in corrals and sheds, although the percentage of loss by wolves when the herds become scattered is often heavy. But in spite of all precautions, emergencies will sometimes arise. In crossing the smallest streams, the leaders will often stop and the sheep will pile one upon the other until many are smothered or injured. To guard against accidents of this kind the Clarks have constructed bridges across every stream upon their property, which has not only saved the herders trouble but has made a very convenient highway for teams and horsemen. Again, "blizzards" will come up so suddenly that the herders would be unable to get the sheep into the corrals and sheds in time to save loss except for an ingenious arrangement which usually proves successful. Bundles of well pressed hay are hung up in the sheds. The employees at the ranch, on the first alarm, seize the bundles and carry them out to the flocks, and the latter having scented the hay will follow the men back to the sheds through the most blinding storm.

Thus it will be seen that to make a sheep ranch profitable, experience, good management and economy are necessary, but it is a paying business when properly conducted. The Messrs. Clark Bros. & Co., are experienced business men and they well deserve the success they have attained in establishing a model sheep ranch and advancing the business of wool growing almost to a science.

It is said that we'll have a hard winter, and that fuel and food will be high. But oh let us pray that good Christmas will not fail to bring us turkey and pie.

LOCAL.

Good Season's Work.

Three hundred thousand feet of building lumber and not less than 200,000 shingles is the amount of work performed by the Bellevue saw mill, located at the head of the Teton, about twenty miles west of Choteau, and owned by D. J. Burnet. Considering the disadvantages Mr. Burnet has met with in his efforts to supply the Choteau market with much needed building material, this is a fine season's work. The spring freshets washed away the mill-dam taking with it a large number of saw logs. Fortunately most of the logs were recovered, but the time lost and expense incurred in rebuilding the dam and hauling the logs back to the mill played serious havoc with the season's profits. However, the mill is now in good repair, all of the lumber has been sold, and the industrious owner is enjoying well-deserved prosperity. The mill has closed down for the winter, but will be started up as early as possible next spring and it is believed will fully supply the market. Messrs. Hamilton & Hazlett are handling all the lumber from the Bellevue mill and are prepared to fill contracts at short notice and upon reasonable terms.

Wolves.

The cattle men along the Marias and Teton rivers are becoming seriously alarmed at the great increase and extensive depredations of wolves and coyotes, and it is proposed to raise a fund by subscription for the immediate extermination of these pests. A number of men are now employed in poisoning carcasses, but owing to mild weather the result has not been satisfactory.

Considering the high price of skins and the Territorial bounty, wolf poisoning ought to furnish profitable employment to a large number of men, after the first heavy snowfall and severe frost, but with the additional bounty which will probably soon be offered by the stockmen wolves should become as scarce as buffalo before spring. The following are the boundaries of the country which the proposed bounty will cover: From the head of Birch creek, near the Piegan agency, down the Marias to Baker's Battle Ground; thence to the mouth of Flat Coulee, on the Teton; thence up the Teton to Sun River crossing; thence to the North and South Fork of Sun River, the road marking the line; up the North Fork, along the base of the mountains to the starting point at the head of Birch creek.

Knights of Pythias.

A fine lodge of this flourishing order was instituted here on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., by acting D. D. G. C., Sam. Kohlberg and Jere Sullivan, of Benton. The following named constitute the officers for the initial term: Ernest Crutcher, Chancellor; Commander; W. H. Black, Vice-Chancellor; J. W. Armstrong, Past-Chancellor; A. B. Hamilton, Prelate; E. C. Garrett, Keeper of Records and Seal; I. N. Hazlett, Master of Finance; L. J. Wilde, Master of Exchequer; O. G. Cooper, Master at Arms.

Christmas Tree Festival.

The school children of Choteau will have a Christmas tree celebration at the school house on Christmas evening. Liberal contributions have already been made for this worthy purpose, but the subscription list is still open and should be signed by every resident of Choteau for some amount however small. Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Thomas W. Murphy, E. C. Garrett and Hamilton & Hazlett.

PERSONAL.

—Col. Moale and escort arrived from Fort Shaw on Sunday evening and left for the Piegan Agency on Monday.
 —Chas. Thomas and Joe. Kipp paid Choteau a brief visit and returned to Birch Creek on the 12th inst.
 —James Armstrong, Louis Wilde and Robert Steele returned from a brief visit to Helena on Tuesday.
 —Howell Harris and Dave Jenkins, after a brief sojourn at the Future Great, left for the North last week with a band of horses for the Mounted Police at Fort Macleod.
 —James Fisher leaves to-day for Fort Macleod on business in the interest of Messrs. Main & Dennis. He will probably be absent about ten days.
 —Mr. Phil Manix, of Augusta, recently visited Choteau and received a hearty welcome from his old-time friends. The blue air of the mountains is still favorable to Phil's physique and he remains as fat, hearty and good natured as when we first made his acquaintance some fifteen years ago.

LIST OF LETTERS.

Remaining uncalled for in the Postoffice at Choteau, M. T., December 18th, 1885:
 Cottrell, J. H. Jinan, E. S.
 Johnson, W. E. Lenahan, Mrs. M. D. Swanson, Robert.
 Persons calling for letters will please say "advertised" and give date of list.
 A. B. HAMILTON, P. M.