

# THE MONTANIAN.

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## A REMARKABLE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.

Combination is the characteristic of this age, and when capitalists are combining in trusts, working men in labor unions, and farmers in alliances, newspapers can hardly be blamed for joining the procession. Indeed it is remarkable that the press has not lead the way in taking advantage of the power of association, instead of lagging behind.

The Press Claims Company, whose advertisement appears in another column and will become familiar to our readers during the coming year, illustrates the advantages of co operation on an extensive scale. It is a combination of hundreds of the leading newspapers of the United States for the purpose of protecting their patrons against unscrupulous Washington claim agents, and securing prompt, efficient, and economical service to all persons having dealings with the government. Incidentally the company expects to make a profit for itself. It will secure patents and pensions, perfect land titles, and attend to all other legitimate business of the kind on terms that will make its employment a necessity to claimants having a proper regard for their own interests.

Membership in this company is a guaranty of the high standing of any newspaper. All applications for stock having been carefully considered and passed upon by the board of directors before allotment. The company comes before the public backed by the collective indorsement of over five hundred of the leading journals of the United States. That THE MONTANIAN has been admitted to such an association is a compliment which our readers will appreciate as highly as ourselves. We take pleasure in recommending the Press Claim Company to all who may desire the satisfactory transaction of business in its line.

ENGLAND, Scotland, France, Germany, all South America, Australia—every country almost—rejoices over the election of Mr. Cleveland and the overthrow (as they think) of protection in America, all the world, indeed, except the United States and Ireland. Why that rejoicing? They simply believe they can unload their products on America and get in return American food and American gold, and get the best of the trade. What makes them think so is that whenever that has been tried before it has been a success to them and a black eye to the United States. We shall see what we shall see.—Missoulian.

## THAT AMENDMENT.

As indicated in these columns last week a bill to amend the constitution has been introduced in the house by populist Bray, of Silver Bow county, and there is some danger of its passing through lack of understanding on the part of the members from the less populous counties, at the interests of whose constituents it is directly aimed. It will certainly pass the house as the populous counties can there have everything their own way because they have a majority in that branch of the assembly. The less populous counties, however, have a majority in the senate and should they be alive to the interests of their constituents, the bill cannot pass there. If it should, the small (?) counties are gone, because the vote of the big (?) counties would be cast solidly for the amendment, which vote, together with what scattering votes the monied men, who are most interested in it, could control on the outside, would secure its adoption.

The scheme is in the interests of the few who control the many in the great mining camps of the state, and is antagonistic to those opposed to the centralization of power. The subjugation of our people is to be brought about through the desires of some people for county division and the offices such division will establish for them. Having allowed the passage of four new county bills, the promoters of the amendment plan now refuse to make any more new counties unless the amendment law is passed, hoping in that way to secure a majority. And so great is the passion for office in Montana that there is great danger of the success of the scheme.

The Anaconda Standard, after discussing the status quo of the several county division schemes, adds:

"As the constitution now stands the senatorial representation argument against the creation of new counties is, of course, a strong one. The members of the constitutional convention who voted in favor of giving a senator to each county, no matter how small its population, admit now that they made a serious mistake. The bill introduced by Mr. Bray of Silver Bow, providing for an amendment to the constitution in this regard, is designed to remedy this evil. The terms of this measure provide that the state shall be divided into 20 senatorial, and 61 representative districts as nearly equal in population as may be, and composed of continuous territory to be called senatorial and representative districts. Each senatorial district shall elect one senator and each representative district shall elect one member of the house of representatives. The senatorial districts shall be numbered from 1 to 20 in numerical order and the representative districts shall be

numbered from 1 to 61 in the same order, commencing at the northern boundary of the state and ending at the southern boundary. To prevent gerrymandering as much as possible, it is provided that, in the formation of such districts, no county or city and county shall be divided unless it contains sufficient population within itself to form two or more districts; nor shall a part of any county or any city and county be united with any other county or city and county in forming any district. The enumeration taken in the year of 1895, shall be the base adjusting the senatorial and representative districts, and the legislature shall, at its first session after such enumeration, and after each national and state enumeration, that is once in every five years, adjust and apportion the representation to preserve the senatorial and representative districts respectively as nearly equal in population as possible.

## COUNTY BILLS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

"The discussion of the reduction of the salaries of the officials of Missoula county consequent upon the division of that county," says The Missoulian, "has developed the fact that the laws creating the new counties are unconstitutional because they reduce the class of the county remaining and consequently the salaries of the officers of such county while the constitution says that the emoluments of any county officer shall not be increased or diminished during the term of the office to which he was elected or appointed."

"Developed the fact that the law is unconstitutional?" Well, well, that's a pretty howdy dol. But let us see about that. May be it is the other ox that is gored.

Our esteemed contemporary, will admit that the constitution provides for the division and creation of new counties as well for the non reduction of salaries of officers, and that the creation of new counties is, therefore, constitutional, and any law that would stand in the way of the exercise of the constitutional right thus conferred would be in conflict with the constitution and therefore void. This is exactly the case with the law classifying the counties and fixing the salaries of the officers. It is unconstitutional because it interferes with the free exercise of the constitutional right to create new counties. The law creating new counties is therefore constitutional and any law in conflict therewith is unconstitutional and should be so declared.

County officers will do well to make a note of this.

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### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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MR. CLEVELAND'S anxiety to settle the silver question before the close of this congress is liable to result in a compromise in the house. The proposition is that the purchase of silver under the present law be stopped; that all the silver bullion in the treasury at this time be coined, and that hereafter the the government purchase no more silver, but coin two millions a month of American product on presentation at the mint by the owners, the coins to be taken away by the owners and not to pass into the possession of the government through the mint.

THE people of at least twelve of the sixteen counties of the state having representatives in the legislative assembly, should at once instruct those representatives to vote down the constitutional amendment bill, as its passage will forever deprive them of a voice in framing the laws of the state. The amendment is not for the welfare of the commonwealth at large, but in the interests of the few who control the many in the more populous sections of the state. Down with the amendment!

THE Panama Canal swindlers have been tried and sentenced as follows: Ferdinand De Lesseps, five years imprisonment and 5,000 francs fine; Charles De Lesseps, five years and 3,000 francs; Fontane and Cottu, two years and 3,000 francs each; Eiffel, two years and 20,000 francs. The sentences caused a profound sensation, especially that of Ferdinand De Lesseps. The judgment finds them guilty of swindling and breach of trust.

TERON COUNTY'S officers will be entitled to pay as follows: Treasurer, \$2,200; sheriff, \$2,700; assessor, \$1,500; clerk and recorder, \$2,200; clerk of court, \$1,500; supt. of schools, \$1,000; under sheriff, \$1,500; deputy sheriff, \$800. All other deputies receive \$1,200, but their number will be limited.

AS THE spirits in the thermometer continue to go up, so do the spirits of the stockmen rise.

## Better Than a Magazine.

The arrangements recently perfected by the St. Paul (Minn.) Weekly Pioneer Press for original reading matter for the ensuing year make it more desirable than a magazine, because the Pioneer Press also gives the current news of the day.

Robert Louis Stevenson has written an intensely interesting story especially for the Weekly Pioneer Press. It begins next week and runs three months. Other stories every week by the most noted authors in the land. New Women's Department, Youth's Department, Fiction Department, Scientific Department, etc. Correspondents doing special work all over Europe. Notes and Queries Department still a feature. Send postal for sample copy and illustrated premium supplement, giving particulars of 311 valuable premiums, all suitable for holiday gifts. Something for every member of every family.

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