

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Wyoming's Northern Metropolis the Center of Marked Activity.

THE BURLINGTON PULLS INTO SHERIDAN

Freightless Railroad Work on Paper—Public Land in Utah—An Idaho Hero—The Coast Deluge—Summary of Northwest News.

Broad streets with wooden and brick buildings, most of the latter being in the course of construction; people hurrying to and fro, many with hand baggage indicating that they are strangers; groups talking of the raise in real estate and the amount made by acquaintances from an investment of a few weeks ago; clear streams; a basin of level land encircled by hills except where the creeks have cut channels; majestic snow-capped mountains in the distance.

This is Sheridan, the Burlington's terminus in Wyoming.

Not the Sheridan of old stage days, but the new metropolis which is springing up as if by magic in northern Wyoming. Situated at the gateway of the mountains with one of the finest natural sceneries in the nation, it is not surprising that the advent of the Burlington railroad has caused an impetus to its growth that is phenomenal.

There are at present ninety-five firms doing business in the city and new buildings for which the contracts have been let or are in the course of construction.

The developed resources are coal, mining, stock raising, flour milling and tanning. The stock business is freedom for many years, and not until an extensive irrigation system had been inaugurated did the desert bloom as a rose. There are 600 miles of main ditches with several thousand miles of branches. But a small portion of the water is used for the irrigation of cereals or orchards, the main portion being used for the cultivation of hay ranches. Being cut off from the population of the country, there has been heretofore a limited market for their wool, and the unexcelled flour made, hence it was only necessary to supply the home market. Yields of 131 bushels of oats to the acre, weighing fifty-two pounds per bushel and sixty bushels of wheat per acre are examples of what can be accomplished there. There are 270,000 acres of land water being watered will give like returns if properly cultivated. The experimental farm, situated less than two miles from the court house, has shown conclusively that farming is yet in its infancy in Sheridan country. As an eastern visitor appropriately remarked: "It should not be called an experimental farm, but one of the most productive farms in the west." Rye grown on this farm yielded ninety bushels per acre and sugar beets twenty-two tons per acre, containing 23 per cent sugar. Orchard and small fruits do equally as well and vegetables are of mammoth size.

The principal minerals are silver, copper, mineral paint, ceterite (steam fuel), coal, platinum and asbestos. The last mentioned mineral is of long fiber and unequalled in the United States for making fireproof roofing, clothing, paint, etc. The coal is in close proximity to the city and is, practically speaking, inexhaustible, some of the veins being twenty feet in thickness. But little work has been done on the tin claims, but enough to demonstrate the fact that they would pay if reduction works were erected. The percentage of tin exceeds that of any of the ores named in the Black Hills.

There are thousands of acres of gravel concrete carrying gold. One company at Bald Mountain, forty miles from the city, has expended \$30,000 in machinery for crushing and washing this dirt and has lately made a most satisfactory clean-up. A capitalist from Fort Scott, Kan., has been here looking for a site for a woolen hosiery mill. He became enthusiastic when speaking of the inducements offered in this country and to locate at Sheridan and said: "You have power enough to operate hundreds of mills, and with plenty of wool, wheat, lumber and coal there is no reason why Sheridan should not be a large manufacturing center in the near future." And this is the verdict of all who have examined the country adjacent to this embryo Chicago. With everything that is needed to make it a city and no competitor nearer than Helena, Mont., why should it not be a metropolis?

The Burlington's Extension to the Sound. The newspapers of Montana and Idaho have long since mapped and staked the route the Burlington will take in penetrating those states. Sites for depots in old towns and new townships have been decided upon by these enterprising builders of railroads on paper. For some inexplicable reason they refrained from constructing the road, but they fixed a definite time for its completion to their respective localities. The press of the state of Washington has imbibed the contagion, and settled satisfactorily when and where the Burlington will penetrate the state. The mere fact that the present termini of the road at Sheridan, Wyo., is fully 1,000 miles distant from the Sound does not appear to dismay or dampen the imagination of the northwest coasters. They span the intervening space between Seattle and do not stop to consult the capitalists concerned in the company's plans.

Reports from Tacoma indicate the Burlington is gobbling up acres of Sound bottom and picking up a plug road here and there and in other ways showing an anxiety to push Tacoma several leagues ahead of Seattle. Seattle has not been heard from, but as soon as the town catches her second wind she will anchor the Burlington main line throughout with extensive shops, round houses and other necessaries. Meanwhile the Burlington's northwest extension will winter at Sheridan, Wyo.

A Trifle Wet. The old saying "It never rains but it pours," pictures the present condition of western Oregon and Washington. Torrents are pouring through dry cañons; rivulets have become rivers and rivers have spread over miles of surrounding country. The June deluge in Chicago was heavy, but they compare with the wetness of the northwest coast. From Mount Tacoma to the ocean the levels are vast lakes, overflowing inevitable damages on the country. Five lives are known to have been lost.

Utah Public Lands. By order of President Harrison the lands reserved from public sale in Utah by President Arthur in 1884, have been restored to the public domain. The order of President Arthur mentioned withheld from sale and settlement and set apart for "Indian purposes" a very

much larger tract that, besides including the lands now restored, extended east into Colorado and south into Arizona, and to the north line of the Moqui reservation. The lands now restored are only the western half of a small part lying in the territory of Utah, and there is strong reason to believe the section is very rich in mineral, gold and copper. An application will probably be made to Congress to open the Uintah reservation in Utah to settlement. It lies on the southern slope of the Uintah mountains and is seventy-eight miles by sixty in extent. Hunters and prospectors who have penetrated the country say that at least one-third of it is fertile and if cultivated would prove highly productive. In its present state the reservation barely furnishes a hunting ground to the 1,021 Indians who roam its valleys. Probably 100,000 white settlers could support themselves by farming the land, where it is not too rough to cultivate, and thousands of heads of cattle could be grazed on the hills. Repeated efforts have been made to civilize the Indian occupants, but with little success. Out of 2,000,000 acres only 243 are said to be under cultivation.

A Brave Boy. About two months ago the skull of George Marshall, a fisherman, was found bottom up near Walters Ferry, Snake river, Idaho. Marshall's hat was a few days later found floating in the stream, and the supposition was that the unfortunate man had been drowned. The fact that Marshall had four motherless children was entirely overlooked by the few people who knew him, and but for an accidental visit to their dugout last week by the Gallert boys they might have succumbed to neglect. The little ones when discovered were nearly naked and their constant diet on canned goods and dried fish was beginning to have a bad effect upon their weak systems. Three of the children are girls, and the oldest child, a boy, is only 10 years old. The youngest is aged 4 and she is quite ill with gastritis. The boy informed the Gallerts that he had taken care of his sisters since their father's death. He did not know where his father had gone, but he was sure he would soon return. His father had told him one morning he was leaving to visit his salmon, to protect his sisters and remain near the dugout, and he had obeyed these orders. They had been sick and cold sometimes, he said, but they were comforted by the thought that their father would soon come. When the lad was informed that his father was dead he cried a little and sobbed, saying, "Well, the river took my father and now it took my mother, I can't have my little sisters." The brave lad was very anxious to remain in the cabin a week or two longer in order to be there if his father came, but the Gallert boys took the quartet of orphans to their farm, where they will have a home.

Reviving Hydraulic Mining. The second annual convention of the California Miners association was held in San Francisco a few days ago. A number of plans were discussed for the resumption of hydraulic mining in the state, an industry that once yielded from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 annually, but which was absolutely suspended ten years ago because of injury done to orchards in the valleys by the deposits of mining debris brought down in the waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The convention in London, the Gamble bill now before congress, but added an appeal for an appropriation of \$450,000 for building dams to impound debris, and also a request for a modification of the law granting title to drift mines. Four thousand miners are on the rolls of the association, and they are earnest in their efforts to revive hydraulic mining and make it once more a leading California industry.

Norfolk wants a new board of trade organized. The thieves have invaded the apiaries in the neighborhood of Stanton.

Hunt's meat market at Hardy was destroyed by fire and there was no insurance.

Senator-elect Orlando Huff of Cass county has gone on a bear hunting trip in Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hagaman of Blue Spring, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary last week.

It is estimated that fifty families will remove from Sioux county to Sioux county within the next few months.

A horse fell and rolled over Louis Deets, an 11-year-old Kearney boy, but the lad still lives though badly injured.

Coal and chicken thieves are rampant at Gandy, and there promises to be bloodshed if the guilty ones are discovered.

Rev. H. W. Conley of Homer has relinquished preaching and will devote his energies to editing the Emerson Enterprise.

Helen C. Reinicke has relinquished control of the Schuyler Herald and H. E. Phelps will resume the management of the paper.

C. B. Host has been appointed clerk of the district court of Johnson county, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of W. R. Gore.

When Ponca went to test its waterworks it was found that the mains leaked badly, and the contractor will have to patch them up.

Triplets were born to the wife of R. E. Mead, a hardware merchant of Ong last week. The mother and the babies, all girls, are doing well.

Mrs. Julius C. Miller of Crete died suddenly last week of heart failure. She and her husband celebrated their golden wedding last June.

Mrs. Anna L. Dowdell is now the editor of the North Bend Republican, having changed the name of the paper from the Star and switched its politics.

The newspapers of Gage county all belong to a county press association and they will have headquarters at Lincoln during the session of the legislature.

A thief entered the residence of Mr. A. G. Fischer near Crete, and carried off considerable property, but he was captured the next day and is now in jail.

Pros Arnell, a well known Winnebago Indian, accompanied by his squaw, pappoose and ten other redmen, left the reservation last week for North Carolina, where they will travel with a show.

Al Hoeg, living near Table Rock, got his arm caught in a corn sheller and the flesh was torn from his arm, which was terribly mangled. The machine became clogged and he tried to clean it out, with the results given.

Marshall Job of Tokamah, while on a hunting trip, was surprised with a load of bird shot by a companion. His face was considerably disfigured, several teeth were knocked out, and a number of shot lodged in his breast.

The 4-year-old son of Lorin Crawford, a farmer living two miles south of Loup City, was killed in the house by fracturing the skull. Two physicians

were called and all that could be was done to relieve the little sufferer, but he died the next morning.

While some boys were skating on the creek at Sterling, Thanksgiving afternoon Robert Howell, the 13-year-old son of Mrs. Howell, a widow, attempted to cross the Nemaha river at the mouth of the creek. When at about the middle of the stream the ice gave way. The other little boys with him were powerless to render assistance and he soon sank. The body was recovered.

During the heat of the campaign some individual at Crawford, who was authorized to do so, telegraphed THE BEE an item reflecting on S. L. Meseraul, editor of the Crawford Boomerang, and referring to him as a "very unsavory reptile." By an oversight the telegram appeared in THE BEE, giving Mr. Meseraul's enemies an opportunity to chuckle. Outside of his politics, Mr. Meseraul is all right, and the enemy who sent the telegram alluded to ought to have been in better business.

Says the Gothenburg Star: There is a steady increase in the production of broom corn in the territory tributary to Gothenburg. This is due largely to the fact that broom corn has proven to be a profitable crop. The price during the present season has been about \$30 per ton. A number who have not tried to raise broom corn in years past have spoken for seed for next year. There is reason to believe that flax, grown for seed only, would be a paying crop in this part of the state, and a few farmers will still further diversify farming and make a good profit by trying their luck at raising flax seed.

M. M. Parkhurst of Broken Bow made a curious find in a quarter of beef which he purchased. Embedded in the ham was a large pocket knife with a small portion of the big blade being closed and all right. The knife was surrounded with fat, the brass and blades of the knife being as bright as if it had been in constant use. A singular feature in connection with it is the fact that the flesh surrounding it was in a perfect state of health, and no indications of soreness or disease being manifest.

Last week Squire Briggs performed a little ceremony in a romantic way that can hardly be passed unnoticed, says the West Point Republican. One evening last week he was approached by a man who informed him of his desire to be married immediately. The squire, through long experience, has acquired a habit of doing such business with neatness and dispatch and informed the gentleman he would delay him but a moment. Later on the couple drove up to the squire's residence in a wagon, and without dismounting, and in less time than it takes to write this, the couple were made man and wife and on their way rejoicing. They hailed from near Baneroff.

Miss Mary Bushoe of Guide Rock suffered a most terrible death one day last week. As her brother was going upstairs to bed he fell from the stairway, breaking the lamp he carried and setting fire to the carpeting. One of the parents were in the house at the time and Miss May went bravely to her brother's rescue and attempted to extinguish the flames. In doing this her clothing caught fire, and becoming pantheistick she ran screaming into the street. Her screams brought a number of people to their doors near Mr. W. A. Seelye, who stopped her at his house and who with the greatest difficulty succeeded in putting out the flames, burning his own hands so severely as to be unable to do any work since that time a number of others had arrived and she was carried to her home, but so severely injured was she that recovery was impossible. She was about 15 years of age and one of the brightest and best of girls.

Wyoming. Nebraska poultry dealers supplied Cheyenne with Thanksgiving turkeys.

Seventy residences and business blocks have been built at Sheridan so far this year.

An effort is being made to work the coal measures near Laramie and supply the town with fuel.

The semi-annual meeting of the Wyoming Teachers association will be held in Cheyenne December 28-30.

Pennsylvania oil men have unloaded fifty tons of machinery at Casper. Fresh developments in the oil fields are looked for.

The Deer Creek Coal company, whose mines are at Glenrock, are working a large force of men and shipping trains of coal to Omaha and other eastern points.

Wyoming's greatest want is a prison warranted to hold a law breaker over night. The convict who hasn't zumpion enough to jump for freedom is classed a three-day vandant.

Dr. Hayford, a Laramie editor, undertook to vindict the majority of the law as a justice of the peace by fining a man \$10 for contempt of court. The victim induced the doctor to gaze into the "dark unfathomed depths" of a six-shooter and was so pleased with the exhibition that he canceled the fine.

South Dakota. The Deadwood smelter is again in full blast.

Mitchell has outgrown her school accommodations and is obliged to hire a hall for the overflow.

The owners of the J. R. mine have increased milling facilities and expect to clean up \$7,500 to \$8,000 per month, at an outlay of less than \$1,000.

The Deadwood Times is agitating a Black Hills mining convention, to be held about the middle of December, for

the purpose of considering matters of interest to the mining industry.

Mineral uncovered near Sundance pans out well. The owners have had three assays of the ore made, one at Deadwood, one at Omaha and the other at Denver, which return an average of \$31 in gold and \$6 in silver. It is claimed as free milling ore and that there is a large body of it.

Social life in Deadwood possesses a peculiar charm. At a recent soiree a member of the assistance has indulged in an animated tete-a-tete, whereupon, to quote the choice language of the Deadwood Pioneer, the manager incautiously interfered and was "swatted under the ethereal name of St. Claire."

Montana. Butte's delinquent tax roll amounts to \$400,000.

Butte has taken a second grip on the smoke nuisance.

Anacoda flatters herself with the notion that the capitol is coming her way.

The coal mines in the vicinity of Great Falls supply that city with fuel and will soon begin shipping to other points.

In a private letter to the writer a Montana expressman surprises at the small republic of Montana in the state. He says the democrats had the finest collection of animated "stickles" running for office that was ever yanked out of obscurity by a convention.

The circuit court of Montana decides that the transfer of a gang of men from a division of Canada to a division in Montana is in the nature of a contract and subject to the provisions of the contract labor law. The case in question came up in the suit against the Great Falls & Canada Railroad company for violation of the contract labor law in so transferring a gang of fifteen men. The case will now be tried to ascertain the facts. There are twenty-six cases pending against the company.

Idaho. The Penatello school building, now nearly completed, will cost \$20,000. It is being built of cut stone.

There is no question now about the building of a railroad through the Salmon river country. The work of construction is now going ahead without trouble and 400 men are employed and dirt is flying on the grade from Butte to Anaconda.

Surfleet & Boyakia are at work extracting and sacking for shipment over 100,000 lbs of siliceous earth, which is used in the City and Boise City. Assays of over \$2,400 have been obtained, principally gold.

Willow Creek district, in Ada county, is still attracting a great deal of attention. Locations are made daily. Several large deals have been made in valuable property in the district are on foot and will be consummated soon.

August Exner, George McIntyre and William Rehen have taken a lease and bond on the Lucipara claim in Shaw's Mountain district from W. E. Simmons. The bond is for \$5,000 and runs for a year. It is the intention of the parties to start up work immediately. They have great faith in the district and expect to open up a fine property.

The reports concerning the sale of the Gem mine at Wallace for \$1,000,000, while not correct in every detail, have some foundation. It is probable that negotiations now in progress will result in transferring the property to a syndicate of Irish landowners at a very early date.

Alexander Wombie, the San Francisco mining expert, has returned from Silver Lake, where he was sent by English capitalists to pass final judgment upon the hole in the ground which, several years ago, the notorious Matt Graham salted so artistically that a British company eagerly wasted over \$1,000,000 on it. In his report Wombie decided that the property was absolutely worthless. Not a single pay streak could be found.

Along the Coast. Elmer Dunlop has made a rich strike in the Atherton on Virginia City ground. It is supposed to be a break from the ledge from which Farrington realized \$67,000 some years since. Ten tons of \$100 ore are on the dump and more in sight.

A prominent Omaha firm has sent an inquiry to several Tacoma and Seattle firms whether they could supply 600,000 pounds of shingles for spring delivery. The firm is a new customer for red cedar shingles, heretofore buying nothing but white pine shingles.

There are millions of oysters in Nebraska bay, Washington, and they are almost as good as eastern oysters. They are so thick at present that they are very small. The beds should be broken up and scattered. The oyster trade between the bay and San Francisco was quite important at one time, but on account of one of the vessels being wrecked which was engaged in the business, the industry was allowed to lapse.

One of the peculiarities of California is that tropical fruit may be grown in the warm foothills, but along the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains as far north as the parallel of Springfield, Ill. Some of the finest groves in the state are grown at Oroville, in Butte county, and the orange groves are irrigated by the surrounding ditches. A rancher near Auburn, in Placer county, has fine banana trees in his place, which produce fruit with no other shelter than a stout hedge.

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