

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Career and Collapse of a Napoleonic Plunger in Cheyenne.

USING INDIANS AS DITCH DIGGERS

Glimpse of California Ozone Agitated—Death Valley Barren of Mineral Development in Wyoming—Summary of Northwest News.

It is evident from Cheyenne reports that Ben Blanchard has completely flunked. The smelter refused to rear its massive walls and the broad acres whereon airy industrial castles were built are strewn with the debris of shattered hopes.

To the innocents of Wyoming Blanchard appeared to be a man of enterprise and means, but they were cautious enough to look up the bonus of \$200,000 in cash and lands until developments would warrant its transfer.

As a promoter, plunger and general confidence man Ben Blanchard has a record that stretches over half a century. The Chicago Tribune asserts that he has worked numerous skin games and gathered in large profits.

A real estate boom in Terre Haute, Ind., netted him \$200,000. Blanchard then united his fortune with S. A. Kean & Co. of Chicago and warmed himself into the confidence of prominent Methodists.

In return he unloaded on them large tracts of wild and worthless land in Kansas and Nebraska. He ordered the building of a Pullman palace car for his own use, the first and only payment on which was made by a check for \$1,200 endorsed by a Methodist clergyman who subsequently had to pay it.

Blanchard took out a party of misters, editors and financial men to look at their possessions in Kansas and Montana. As a result his lites there went off quickly and money rained in freely, but did not come in fast enough to enable him to meet his obligations.

The consequence was that after about eight months' sojourn in Chicago, during which he caused to different parties a collective loss of fully \$100,000, he found himself at the end of his rope.

Then the rogues had to clear out in order to avoid arrest and it is said he followed the example of Jeff Davis by dressing up as an old woman to his flight southward. He went to Mexico, remained there till the storm blew over and then by making the great discovery of salt in America.

The most astonishing thing about this swindling career, says the Tribune, is that it should have continued so long when the operations were not confined to widows and orphans, or even to preachers of the gospel, but took in an eminent Wall street banker and the president of a leading watch manufacturing company in the west.

The Indians at work. The Crows of Montana are not imbued with Sitting Bull's idea that the red man is too strong to work. On the contrary they realize that idleness begets mischief and a hungry feeling, and are turning their brains to practical uses.

The Helena Independent notes considerable progress in the right direction in the tribe. They have, under the direction of Walter H. Graves, government engineer, constructed an irrigation ditch through the reservation at a cost of \$5,000.

The losses of those interested in the broken Farmers and Merchants bank of Holstein will be very light. It is said, Mr. Graves says that many of them have saved almost all their earnings and now have comfortable sums of money in their possessions.

At first they insisted on having their pay in silver, which was procured for them at considerable trouble. Before long they began to understand the value of paper money and preferred to have their wages paid in it.

Among those who watched the Indians at work was Mr. Gillette, the chief

surveyor for the Burlington company, who ran several preliminary surveys for that company across the reservation. Mr. Gillette was very strongly of the opinion that Indian labor can be employed to great advantage in the construction of the road, and he anticipated no trouble in getting the right of way across the reservation if the Indians be given the promise of work.

Surveying in the Sierras. Surveying in the Sierra Nevada of California is no mere pleasure task. Some of the perils and hardships that he encountered are related by Mr. H. E. C. Fessler, topographer of the United States geological survey, who has just returned from that country.

He started from Steepleton early in August, with assistants and a pack train, and has since then been making observations from various peaks, only suspending the work when they became inaccessible because of deep snows.

On Mount Lyell he experienced great difficulty in transporting the instruments of the expedition over the glacier, the surface of which was frozen in sharp ridges two feet high and as far apart. A theodolite and some smaller instruments were lost in the descent.

It is worth recording that at an altitude of 12,000 feet the party found some grass seeds that had evidently been blown through the air a great many miles from the foothills and plains at the mountain's base.

On Mount Conness sharp electric shocks were experienced during the storm, which happened to come in contact during the uproar and confusion with the wire of the building erected on the summit by the coast survey.

It was a common occurrence for a member of the party to be blown from his feet during the terrific gales that prevailed at that height. Everybody suffered indescribably from cold, exhaustion and hunger.

Developing Wyoming. The company recently organized in Chicago with ex-Governor Campbell of Ohio at the head, promises to do much in developing various valuable properties in Wyoming.

The field of this company is one of the richest and most inviting in the world. They have been operating quietly for more than a year. It is estimated that they have expended \$150,000 on the soda lakes near Johnstown. Their city has been described.

It consists of a school, a church and neat cottages for the workmen. According to the company's prospectus, it will give marked attention to the coal and iron measures in the vicinity, assist in reclaiming the land by means of irrigation, and necessarily stimulate activity in all lines of industrial development.

Windside is to have a new bank, with a capital stock of \$20,000. The plant of the Lexington Clipper is to be removed to Grand Island. A farmers' institute will be held at West Point, December 14 and 15.

The new \$10,000 Presbyterian church at Tecumseh was dedicated Sunday. The Nebraska State Bankers association will meet at Lincoln December 20. Ed Lane of Norfolk has suddenly disappeared, leaving a number of creditors in mourning.

H. P. Marble, editor of the Elk Creek Sentinel, has been married to Miss Myrtle Wooley. Andrew Ordren, for thirty-five years a resident of Nebraska, died at his home in Elm Creek of paralysis.

A farmers institute will be held at Norfolk December 13 and 14 under the auspices of the State university. The new Catholic church at Ridgeley, Dodge county, will be dedicated Thursday next with impressive ceremonies.

The annual meeting of the grand chapter, Royal Arch Masons, will be held at Geneva beginning December 14. Frank P. Dickerson of Ogallala is a candidate for appointment to the registership of the North Platte land office.

"Babe" Lidell, an Albion druggist, had his store robbed by robbers and a quantity of liquors were found and confiscated. The store of Dr. J. L. Gandy at Aspwall, Nemaha county, was entirely destroyed by an incendiary fire, causing a loss of \$5,000.

J. W. Hunsberger has purchased the Banner. Independent and ex-Editor Brayman has departed for California in search of health. The damage suit of H. C. Wolf of Ord against the B. & M. for \$10,000 has been decided in favor of the plaintiff, who secures a \$100 verdict.

The postoffice receipts at Wakefield for the last fiscal year entitle the office to be raised to the presidential class with a salary of \$1,100. John F. Murray, who was elected superintendent of public instruction of Colorado, was formerly a resident of Seaward, and was a printer employed on the Reporter.

A farmer living in Phelps county has husked, shelled, sold and delivered in Holdrege 1,000 bushels of corn this fall. He says that his average per acre will be over forty-five bushels, and part of his crop was not an average one.

and will fall entirely on the stockholders. The deposits are being paid off and the officers of the bank have given bond to pay them active. They attribute the failure to an outside deal of W. M. Hope, the cashier, and his endorsement of notes outside of the business, using the bank's name without their consent, coupled with general incompetency in management.

The divorce case of Howard vs. Howard, which was to come up in the Pawnee county district court this week, has come to an abrupt termination. The body of Hiram Howard, the aged defendant, was taken to Pawnee City last week from Missouri, where he had died suddenly, and laid to rest in the cemetery. He was an early settler in Pawnee county, having taken his homestead four or five miles south of Table Rock in 1855.

The pair have a family of growing children, and have been separated only a little over a year. South Dakota. The Deadwood smelter is shipping matte to Aurora, Ill.

The Duluth group of mines at Bald mountains have changed owners. Gray wolves are rioting among the stock in the Elk mountain country and along the Cheyenne river.

A pair of sneak thieves broke into a house in Aberdeen and finding that the occupants away, loaded themselves with food, silverware and family linen, and were calmly snoozing in the spare bed when the police gathered them in.

The Harney peak in mill is running on ore from the Gertie mine. The various ores have been tested separately and all have proven valuable. It is reported that ore from the Gertie runs about 4 to 5 per cent metallic tin and about \$8 in gold.

Specimens of Hay Creek coal examined and tested in Deadwood show that it is a superior article of fuel. It is clear, free from shale or slata and produces strong heat. The owners of the mines own of 1,200 acres of land and propose to push the product into market.

Evidence of new life is shown by the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern railroad. The company has opened an office in New York and has forwarded to various points along the projected route intimations of early activity. The road is designed to connect Rapid City with the Northern Pacific at Aberdeen, and will be 204 miles long.

Wyoming. The last words of the good Indian Pohwah, who gashed his throat in the Lander jail, were "Whisky good." A cursory glimpse of Wyoming newspapers is sufficient to show that political parties there are not burdened with peace and harmony.

The trial of Ben Blanchard, the smelter plunger, for issuing bogus drafts in Cheyenne, has not yet begun. The promoter is out on bail. During November shipments from Rawlins coal mines aggregated 9,000 carloads, a large increase over the corresponding month last year.

These miles north of Aurora in Albany county, a stone bluff rises abruptly from the plains to a height of 600 feet. Thirty feet from the ground the rock has a torn and jagged appearance, as if it had been struck by lightning. From the cliffs thus formed there gushes forth a spring, or springs, of magnificent water, the volume being quite large.

Wanton slaughter of game continues in various parts of the state. Whole herds of elk and other game are being slaughtered, and the number of the few remaining buffalo, supposed to be under the protection of the government, have been shot by the so-called sportsmen. The state authorities should put a stop to such wholesale slaughter.

Utah. The Southern Pacific has signed a contract for the removal of the Carlin and Terrace shales to Ordren. The shipment of ore from the Utah mine at Fish Springs assayed 39 1/2 per cent lead and 157.9 ounces silver.

The Salt Lake council passed an ordinance requiring coal dealers to deliver 2,000 pounds of coal to the purchaser of a ton. Edward W. Rhoadesback has applied to a Salt Lake court for assistance to compel his mother-in-law to give him \$10,000, that being the value set upon his wife's affections, which the mother-in-law is charged with alienating.

The Salt Lake Times has turned its journalistic eyes to Ordren. The road Colorado city which kept its wheels greased gave out and the result was internal paralysis and death. Affecting services were held at the "wake" by the staff and tributes were paid to Sorenson, Jackson and others, who in time past flitted with sensations through the corridors of the shop, and tearful farewells were bidden to "Subscriber," "Veritas," "Vox Populi," "Taxpayer" and other veteran contributors.

Montana. Helena revealed in eighteen inches of snow on Thanksgiving day. The Boston and Montana upper works at Butte have been closed preparatory to removal to Great Falls, where the main plant is located.

It is suggested in newspaper circles that the proper thing is for Miss Elia Knowles, the defeated populist candidate for attorney general, to fuse with the elect. Both are heart whole and fancy free. The total vote cast on the capital question was 54,241, the largest vote ever polled in the state. Helena, Butte and Anaconda were the leaders in the color named, but neither secured the necessary majority.

Mining companies of the state have paid dividends from January 1 to October 31 as follows: Bald Butte, \$200,000; Bannister (Butte), \$6,500; Elkhorn, \$275,000; Granite Mountain, \$500,000; Hecla, \$100,000; Iron Mountain, \$135,000; \$20,000; Iron Mountain, \$135,000; Pandora (Soap gulch), \$3,000; Parrot (Butte), \$150,000. Total, \$1,280,000.

Ithaho. Harry McKay, who pleaded guilty in

the United States district court to repeating at the late election, was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. Near the Mountain Queen is the Muddy group, on one of the veins of which a shaft is down 228 feet. At the bottom of this shaft the vein is ten or twelve feet wide and an actual test proved the ore to be worth \$15 a ton in free gold.

In Grubbinus district the Boulder mill, which was completed a year ago, has been running right along, day and night, with profit. The mine has been thoroughly prospected at a distance of 3,000 feet on the surface and to the depth of between 300 and 400 feet and proven good at every point.

Stephen D. Paxton, aged 53 years, one of the oldest employes on the Union Pacific system, having been an engineer on the Wyoming division for a number of years, was run over in the yards at Pocatello by an engine which was backing up, cutting his right leg below the knee so badly that amputation was necessary.

The Mountain Queen mill at Grimes' Pass, above Pioneer, has kept a portion of the stamps running since stopping. The ore supply was sufficient to keep all of the stamps running constantly, but there was an insufficient supply of water, the mill being run by water power. Steam power will be put in as early as possible next spring, so that all of the stamps can be kept stopping.

Considerable work has been done in the mines of Summit Flat during the year, and for the first time in many years it is again on the list of the producers, two or three good cleanups having been made during the year. The ore was from the King mine, owned by the Smith Bros. Development work has been done on several other mines in the neighborhood of the King, and they all look well.

Along the Coast. A block of marble 15 feet long, 5 feet 4 inches wide and 1 1/2 thick has just been quarried in California. Two million pounds of English walnuts have been shipped from Whittier, Cal., during the past three months.

California fruit growers, who have so successfully competed with the prunes of Bordeaux and the raisins of Valencia, have now attacked the fig trade of Smyrna. A. L. Moorehouse, an old and well known citizen of Kittitas county, Oregon, has fallen heir to \$23,000, the death of a relative in California.

Last week he settled on his business affairs and left for the Golden state to take possession of his newly acquired riches. Dr. C. L. Ellingwood of San Francisco charged the estate of Walter S. Hobart \$30,000 for his medical attendance for two months on Mr. and Mrs. Hobart, and, although the heirs, three minors, petitioned the court to allow the claim, Judge Levy cut it down to \$10,000.

Reports made to the Washington horticultural board show that there are at present a total of 35,000 acres in the state planted with fruit trees, the annual income from which is about \$1,250,000. In five years from now, when all trees now planted are bearing, it is estimated that this amount will be increased to \$3,000,000.

The city of Spokane borrowed \$500,000 to construct waterworks, \$312,000 of which was spent in laying the pipes. Now that the sum total is about exhausted the wise city fathers announce that \$800,000 more will be necessary to secure an adequate plant. Meanwhile the contractors are rolling in municipal clover and the taxpayers are anxiously inquiring "Where are we at?"

A man at North Bend, Wash., abused his family shockingly. The neighbors put a stop to his system in one of the floods now engaged in washing the northwest into the sea. When they pulled him up out of the water he was penitent and his hand trembled with eagerness to sign a pledge. There is no patent on the method.

An attempt has been made in San Francisco within two weeks to excite fears of the wholesale exodus of Chinese from city and state. Long articles have been printed showing the enormous decrease in the amount of Chinese business transacted and the number of empty stores there will be in Chinatown at the beginning of the new year. Lawyers and others who have fattened on this Chinese trade are signing a great depression throughout the state will be the direct result of the departure of the Mongolians. The simple facts are that if working people in the east could be assured that they would not have to compete with Chinese in nearly every department of labor California could fill in six months the place of every Chinese within her borders.

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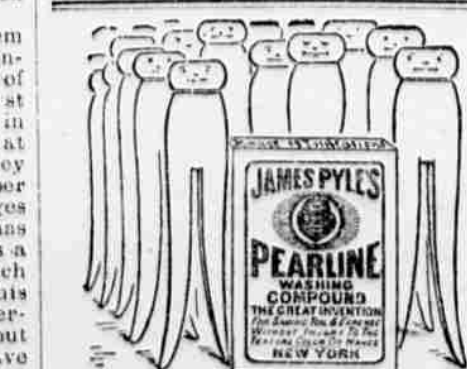
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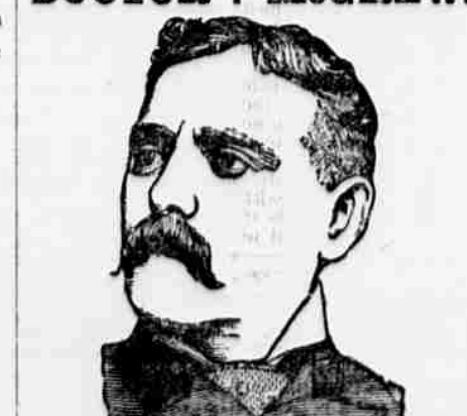
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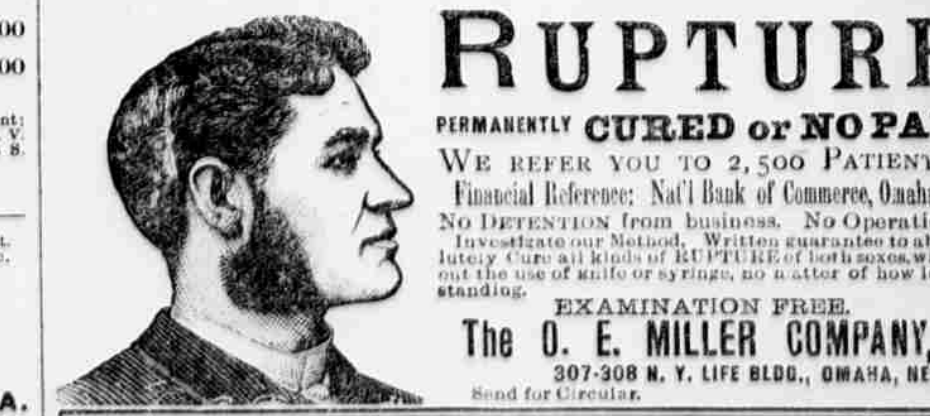
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