The Mineral Argus.

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The Mineral Argus.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Blatz Beer, Cards and Sar Glassware.

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MAIDEN

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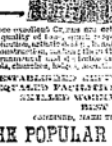

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COUNTY ROADS.

One of the many disadvantages of a county embracing 12,000 square miles as does Meagher, is the impracticability of the commissioners giving proper attention to the improvement of public highways.

Though the annual levy of road tax has been exacted from all alike, the benefit derived to eastern Meagher county is as naught compared to the annual outlay on county roads west of White Sulphur Springs. One instance, the new road to Townsend cost $6,000, for the payment of which a special road tax was levied. The advantages gained are well worth the cost to the western portion of the county, though of little, if any value, to taxpayers of this portion, while, in direct ratio to assessed valuation, they had to pay their proportion. No one questions the justice of general taxation for county improvements though no benefit be derived by a goodly proportion of the population, but when nine-tenths of the general and all of the special road tax fund is expended in one section of the county to the flagrant neglect of the other, the injustice is pre-eminent.

All moneys expended from the county road fund, in improving the public highways east of the Belt range, within our knowledge, will not exceed $400, $250 of which was consumed in making the road through Maiden gulch and over Gold hill, in the Judith mountains, passable. But for township road supervisors having citizens work out their special road tax on the public highways, few, if any of the established county roads of eastern Meagher county would be traversable at any other than during the dry season. County roads, particularly between Maiden, Maginnis and Lewistown, have received but little attention. The expenditure of a few dollars would fill up the chuck holes, cut down the steep grades and put them in good condition.

The county road running through Maiden, over Gold hill, through Maiden gulch and on to Maginnis and the Musselshell, at present is almost impassable for loaded teams on account of the steep grades and roughness thereof. All freighting outfits from Junction City have to pass over this road or go twenty miles around the mountains to avoid the grade. By following a gulch a few rods west of the present road, an almost level road can be made at a trifling cost.

These improvements are of vital importance to a large proportion of taxpayers of eastern Meagher county, in whose behalf we speak that the county commissioners will take some action at their March session. The expenditure of a portion of the general road tax, paid by taxpayers of this part of the county, on our roads, in justice is not only expected but demanded.

LOCAL NEWS.

Robert Pfaendtner expects to build early in the spring.

Drop into the "Tepee of Art" and get your "kisser" taken.

White Sulphur Springs has an Independent Order of Ancient Dodos.

William Miller and W. W. Watson, of Lewistown, visited Maiden, Monday.

Groesbeck & Poland are putting up a warehouse in the rear of their hardware store.

Edward Lathrop, formerly foreman of the Parrot concentrator, at Butte, is now in charge of the Maginnis mill.

Johnny Kemper says he is not coming down from his mine before June. The boom will be on by that time, Jack.

Wool-growers in this section declare this the best winter they have ever seen for sheep. Some of them have not fed a pottide of hay up to the present time.

The Daily Montanian, published at Helena, after being summoned into existence to "fill a long felt want" has turned its toes to the bunch-grass.

St. Valentine's day was observed by some of our people. Of course the "pale-faced printer with his luckless art" did not escape receiving a chromo.

> She smote him with the shingle
> Till she made him thrill and tingle
> Because he did not mind his baby brother.
> But he soon forgot his pain
> And went singing down the lane,
> "A boy's best friend is his mother."
> —Boston Courier.

The woodman's axe is fast leveling the trees in the vicinity of Maiden. Wood will be worth $5.00 a cord in another year. Idle men should bear this in mind and get in their leisure time on the nearest timber.

Utah parties have bonded the Chamberlain and Bell mine, Neihart district, and have made an offer to bond the Queen of the Hills, Homestake and O'Brien mines until September 1st, for $60,000. Neihart is coming to the front.

Sunday was Washington's birthday. It reminded us as being a fit day to swear off lying for one year. This is a terrible obligation for newspaper men to assume. We physically resemble George now very closely—in the possession of large feet and a great expanse of appetite.

The bay steer of the Husbandman has got his tail in the air again. He says Fergus county wants to rob them right on the jump-off. Perhaps the "steal" occurred when the present county buildings were erected. The people of this end of the county are not anxious to pay for a "steal" twice.

> Little drops of water,
> Little grains of corn,
> Makes the festive whiskey
> And the morning horn.
>
> And the little cocktails,
> Humble though they be,
> Make swelled heads and filled the
> Pen—i—ten—tia—ry.

Rev. J. D. Phinney, of Cottonwood, according to appointment, preached to a Maiden audience, on Saturday evening last. He is a promising young divine and has undertaken a task of no small sacrifice in his efforts to establish the faith and build up a church in this primative and sparcely settled region. May success attend him in his efforts.

Helena sportsmen held a meeting recently at which it was decided to petition the legislature to make it legal to kill large game only between September 1 and December 15th, and feathered game between August 15 and December 1, each year. With regard to the protection of fish, the only important change asked is to compel ditch owners to screen the mouths of their ditches.

Henry Courtney arrived from the Little Rockies on Sunday. He brought with him some fine looking quartz said to contain gold and silver. Henry says at Little Alder parties have been working their claims during the recent warm spell, and that in some instance from seven to eight dollars a day to the man were got from the bar diggings. He seems to think that anyone having interests in that section are going to do well.—River Press.

The machinery at Townsend awaiting transportation to Neihart, consists of one water jacket smelter of 30 tons per day capacity, the newest and best manufactured; one large sized Blake ore crusher, three engines and boilers and one portable saw mill. When this consignment reaches its destination and is put in motion the hum of business will awaken the echoes of the camp from center to circumference, and mining take a new lease of life.—Husbandman.

Quite a rate war is in progress between the two express companies doing business on the Northern Pacific lines. It is reported that the Wells, Fargo Express company recently made a rate of 90 cents or $1.00 per 100 pounds on a shipment from St. Paul to Miles City, though that company has to pay largely in excess of that amount for hauling over the Northern Pacific lines. The Northern Pacific people claim to be down to cost. The Wells, Fargo company say they are not down to cost yet, but are prepared to go below, if necessary.—Courier.

The spring back of the ARGUS office has become quite a receptacle for curiosities. In getting water there this winter, parties have been compelled to reverse their usual attitude, and with one foot against a chord reach down for "God's only." Now the bottom of the spring is filled with precious gems, in the shape of plug tobacco, buttons with all the tints of the rainbow—suitable to the wearing apparel of both sexes; nails, suspender buckles, et cet ra, or et stand ra, we scarcely know which. Any person finding a $200 gold piece in the hereinbefore said spring will please leave the same at the ARGUS office.

Cold Blooded Scheme.

The Inter-Mountain's regular correspondent from Helena, writes as follows in relation to the former management of the Drum Lummon, which shows that the knaves are not all dead yet:

No more cold blooded scheme to steal a mine was ever concocted than the one recently exposed by the Inter Mountain concerning the Drum Lummon. It came very near being successful, and was prevented mainly through the tireless activity of Jeff. Lowry. The job was to run the company hopelessly into debt, pay for quicksilver and other supplies which were never delivered, pay fabulous prices for adjoining claims, mismanage the mine, ruin the mill and then have the whole property sold out under a $15,000 attachment. Men who have the reputation of being honorable advised and almost executed this plot, and they were aided and abetted by the very men who of all others should have been anxious to give the stockholders a square deal. The Cruse mortgage of $120,000, for the contraction of which there never was the slightest necessity, will fall due on the 15th inst., and will probably be paid by another. The wild-cat adjusting the Drum Lummon and for which the management paid about $150,000 in order still further to increase the encumbrances, will not probably be worked until the last syllable of recorded time.

The Con. Murphy Reward.

The Governor of the Territory, having no authority to sign a warrant for the payment of the $1,000 reward, from the fact that the sheriff could not certify to his capture, as Murphy was not turned over to him, the matter was thrown into the legislature for adjustment. The governor would have approved favorable action on the part of the legislative assembly, but the council, with marked stupidity, defeated the measure to reward those deserving officers by a vote of 7 to 4. On this question James Fergus, our councilman, delivered the following characteristic speech:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I do not impugn the motives of any gentleman here. I believe they are all actuated by the best of motives; but I also believe, sir, that the refusal of the Governor on a mere technicality, and the discussion in this chamber sustaining him, will give more aid and comfort to horse-thieves than all the cost of this Legislature. It is all well enough for members living in our towns to talk about respect for our laws, and Montanians being law abiding people, but the fact remains the same that a loaded rifle or revolver has more authority and is more respected in some parts of our frontiers than all the statutes you could get into a freight train. Where I live we have seen our property melting away, but we have all met the loss quietly, without a grumble, then taken our lives in our hands, at our own expense, and in violation of our respect for the law, driven to it by sheer necessity, taken the lives of desperadoes, and we know the necessities of the case better than gentlemen who have never been driven to such extremes. And I been a citizen of Helena I would have taken a subscription paper and raised the paltry sum of $1,000 promised, and not allowed it to come here. But as this has not been done, I hope members will not stand on mere technicalities if they others who think it is right. I do not ask this for myself or those who live near me, for we have taken care of ourselves so far, and can do so again, but for the general welfare of the people of this Territory.

Each Chose a Graft.

They sat together on the sands,
In fond embrace. He held her hands,
"Which is your favorite graft?" said he.
"I think I like a saddle," said she.

"And what is yours?" the Maiden said,
With downcast cheeks and drooping head.
He dug deep—yes, 'twas a big graft whereat,
At once, knew a big gold reducer."
—Boston Transcript.