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NOT ALL THE BLAME IS PLACED ON N.-C.-O.

Alturas New Era Sees Hand of Providence in Recent Blockade, Or at Least Does Not Place All the Blame on The Narrow Gauge

Alturas New Era: The delay in the mails during the past week has been unprecedented. Nothing has approximated this shut off from communication, according to the old settlers, since the year 1889 and 1890, when there was a similar veil dropped between us and the outside world. The strenuous men of our town have had enforced relaxation, and the average dun from below has had a rest from the worries of payment.

The array of gen'd citizens from other parts whom we have housed during this period of stress, has been legion. We regret that their plans have been slightly thwarted, but have nevertheless enjoyed their company.

A train leaving Reno, Saturday, Jan. 14th, in the morning, arrived in Alturas, Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The Monday train was nullified, and the train started Tuesday morning, arrived safely and nearly on time at Madeline, but was caught in the Madeline pass, four miles this side. Up to Saturday five engines have been unable to extricate it, the snow has been so deep and complicated with a furiously driving wind. Wednesday's train was recalled at Doyle and returned to Reno, Thursday's and Friday's trains were all nullified from the Reno end and there were no trains at this end to depart. Saturday morning a train started and at last accounts was making furious and regular time up to Saturday afternoon when last heard from. Where the full trouble lies is not as yet ascertained. Unskilled comment both pro and con is not reliable and it is probably due to the insuperable elements. Meanwhile the news of the week is obvious and has been discussed from all stand points. It is not safe to inquire of everybody: "When is the mail coming?"—state—Say it again.

Our Postmaster and Express man are learning to keep decent hours for a short time and look as though they appreciate the rest. From half past three or four in the morning until ten or more at night is pretty long hours.

M. D. Rice, master mechanic of the road, came from Reno as quickly as possible, coming the entire 150 miles with two large engines to the rescue of the snowbound train, but without avail because of almost a blizzard in the pass, more than closing up the track as fast as it could be cleared. The engine of the train was "dead" in railroad expression, by being driven into deep snow and the fire completely put out, and with oil burners the fire is difficult to replace. A later report is that two more engines with a snow plow are in the field and working away with all the skill possible.

At present "Pet" Conroy, the conductor, and our townsman, L. C. Ballard are living in the car of their train, very comfortable with plenty of food and fuel. The aforesaid train arrived at Madeline about on time and was progressing nicely, until caught in this wind blown pass. The passengers remained in the car until Wednesday evening before

sufficient food arrived for them, but nevertheless the crew and passengers remained jolly, and full of plans and inquiries. It is said that the Conductor was compelled to have a printed report each five minutes, that he could pin on his lapel, in order that he might answer all the questions.

The first relay of passengers were brought to Likely Thursday evening, when the wind had subsided enough to allow travel. Even then the wind was so stiff that they could only see a little way ahead at a time.

After walking back about one mile on the track, they intersected the road, where they were met by sleighs and the 13 passengers were brought to Likely. This number included three women, and adding the four gentlemen who had walked down before, placed seventeen passengers in the hands of our host Geo. Haggood, who splendidly cared for and entertained them.

Friday the first sled load arrived in Alturas about 4 p. m. with ten men, followed by a large wagon in about one hour with the other seven.

B. F. Lysip gave his itinerary as leaving Sacramento Monday, in time to catch a delay on the S. P., and with the delay on our road after having walked from Sage Hen to Likely in a storm some 12 miles, he was home about five o'clock Friday, with lots of fun in his calendar. He had good company in his walking trip, as C. M. Duncan, of Stone Coal and Sol Chandler and S. C. Burris of Lakeview, were all with him.

Dr. Lyons, the dentist of Lakeview and his brother were on the romantic trip. There were only three ladies involved in the delay. Mrs. Calderwood and Miss Gail Doraughy of Cedarville and Mrs. Pierce of Lakeview.

Saturday morning a flyer left Reno and swung along serenely until it reached Secret Valley, where the ice and snow derailed the engine, and finally after getting back upon the track slid back to Amadee, stuck again.

Mr. Dunaway was on this train, and fully realized the difficulties to be overcome. Sunday morning news is that nearly all the engines are off the track and several miles of ice coated track lies before them. This ice coat picks off about as easy as cement, which makes the situation quite serious. A good thaw will be our greatest blessing as far as the mail and the railroad is concerned, but disastrous otherwise.

Sunday there were no developments. Monday brought the cheer that although news was quiet, work was active and one and a half miles of ice-bound rails had been cleared. The engines have again been placed on the track, and work is progressing as fast as possible.

Wade Williams has offered to bring the mail through, if proper arrangements could be made. This storm will be a severe loss to our railroad, amounting to thousands of dollars.

Mr. Roy Williams is waiting for the mail with several extra stages to transport it.

TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY IN STATE

Question Will Probably Be Voted Upon In 1912

SALEM, Jan. 25.—The question of whether the death penalty shall be abolished will probably be decided by the people at the next general election in November, 1912.

Many members of the legislature, perhaps a majority, are in favor of making the death penalty a matter of the past, if the possibilities of obtaining a pardon are made fewer, and they have decided that the only safe way of disposing of this phase of the question is by taking the pardoning power from the governor and placing it with the supreme court. Lawyers have discovered that this involves an amendment to the constitution which must be submitted to the people before the above bill can be passed.

In the bill, introduced in the senate, the privilege of granting pardons is taken from the governor, instead the supreme court is the only resort of pardon for the person given a life sentence for murder who has exhausted all other methods of escape. The supreme court, under the bill's provisions, may then grant a pardon only upon the introduction of evidence unearthed since the conviction of the prisoner, showing that she or he is innocent of the crime charged.

HORACE GREELEY CENTENARY FEB. 3

Entire Nation Will Observe Anniversary Of His Birth

The Horace Greeley memorial fund committee has sent out the following announcement:

The entire nation will celebrate the Horace Greeley centenary February 3, 1911, is the present outlook. Schools in every part of the United States have been asked to take part, and favorable responses have been received from many states.

President Taft has been invited to speak at Chappaqua. It is expected that the city of New York will have an impressive gathering. The City club has set aside the luncheon of February 4th for a press luncheon in commemoration of the life and services of Horace Greeley. President James Tols of Typographical union No. 6 informs the Greeley memorial committee that the union is working upon the matter of properly celebrating the centenary of its first president, Horace Greeley.

The movement of the Greeley centenary originated at Chappaqua. It was decided by the men who are actuated by the highest patriotic motives that right there (Chappaqua) would be the proper place to erect a statue in memory of Horace Greeley. It is the spot that Mr. Greeley loved so dearly, and his daughter, Mrs. Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin, still live on the old place.

Mary Again

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was as white as snow;
It strayed away one summer day
Where lambs should never go.

And Mary sat her quickly down
And tears streamed from her eyes;
She never found the lamb because
She did not advertise.

And Mary had a brother
Who kept a village store;
He sat him down and smoked a pipe;
And watched the open door.

And as the people passed along
But did not stop to buy,
John still sat and smoked his pipe,
And blinked his sleepy eye.

And so the sheriff closed him out,
But still he lingered near,
And Mary came along to drop
A sympathetic tear.

"How is it, sister, can you tell,
Why other merchants here,
Sell all their goods so readily
And thrive from year to year?"

Remembering her own bad luck,
The maiden then replies:
"These other fellows got there, John,
Because they advertise."

The Examiner Press