THE EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, ... Sept. 16, 1873.

MONTANA CAPITAL LAW ELECTION FRAUD.

AN indignation meeting was held at the Court House, Helena, Montana, Sept. 5, to give vent to the intense feeling of the community in regard to the alleged tampering with the election returns from Meagher County, whereby the total vote of the Territory was changed from for to against the Capital Removal Law. Judge Robert Lawrence in the chair.

The meeting was addressed by Judge Lawrence, W. F. Chadwick, Cols. W. F. Sanders and A. M. Woodfolk, U. S. District Attorney Page, and Surveyor General Smith.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted—

"WHEREAS, it appears from affidavits and other evidence before us, that on the 3rd day of August, A. D. 1871, the electors of Meagher County cast 561 votes for the approval of the Capital Law, and twenty-nine votes for the disapproval of said law, and that upon the 10th day of said month, the County Commissioners of the county of Meagher, together with the Probate Judge thereof, met and canvassed said vote, and it was found to stand for the approval and disapproval of the said law as above stated; that the abstracts of the said vote were made out in duplicate and both signed by the County Commissioners and Probate Judge; that on the 12th day of said month one of the abstracts so attested by said Commissioners and Probate Judge, with the certificate of the County Clerk and Recorder of Meagher county attached, was delivered in an envelope, unsealed, by the County Clerk to William Davenport, a trustworthy citizen of Lewis and Clarke County, to be taken to Helena and from there transmitted by express to the Hon. J. E. Callaway, Secretary of this Territory, at Virginia City. That the said Davenport brought the abstract of votes on the Capital Law to Helena aforesaid, and in the presence of H. A. D'Achuel and Henry M. Parchen, delivered the same to D. C. Corbin; that the said Corbin, Davenport, D. Acheul and Parchen then and there examined the abstract of votes cast on the Capital Law in Meagher county and found therefrom that 561 votes were for its approval and 29 were for its disapproval. That after the abstract had been so examined the said Corbin retained the same in his possession for about one day, and after sealing the same then delivered it to the agent of Wells, Fargo & Co. at Helena, to be transmitted by their express to the Secretary at Virginia City. That the agent of the express company immediately transmitted the said abstract to the office of the company at Virginia City. That the abstract setting forth the said vote on the Capital Law was never in any manner altered or changed before the same went into the office of the express company.

"And whereas, It appears that the package containing the aforesaid abstract was allowed by the Secretary to remain in the express office at Virginia City for the period of about 18 days, and that when the same was taken from the office and the vote of Meagher County was examined by the Board of Commissioners, it was found that the vote had been transposed so as to read 561 votes for the disapproval and 29 for approval of the said Capital Law. Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the citizens of Lewis and Clarke county, that it is with feelings of indignation, mingled with regret, that we review the gross fraud that has been perpetrated by designing villains, in the interest of Virginia City, upon the electors of the entire Territory, and more especially upon those of Meagher county; with indignation that an election fraud so monstrous and subversive of our most vital interests should be perpetrated in our Territory, and even to meet with the sanction of those high in official station; with regret that any community within our borders should shelter and countenance the persons who would be guilty of such a crime.

"*Resolved*, That we will devote our time, our energies and our means to the detection and punishment of the miscreants who planned and executed this fraud upon the decision of the electors and violated the election laws of the Territory.

"*Resolved*, That we call upon Wells, Fargo & Co. for a prompt investigation of this outrage upon the people, by tampering with the election returns of Meagher county, which was evidently committed in their office at Virginia City; and if it shall be proven that this fraud was perpetrated while the said returns of the Capital vote were in their office at said place, then we demand the dismissal of H. S. Howell from their employ as Agent.

"*Resolved*, That we call upon the Hon. Jas. E. Callaway, as Secretary of the Territory, to give us such information as he may possess relative to the care and custody of said election returns from Meagher county, after their arrival in Virginia City, and if the same were allowed to remain in the express office for the period of 18 days, or thereabouts, instead of being deposited in the Secretary's safe, in his office.

"*Resolved*, That this high-handed outrage upon the laws of the Territory and the dearest rights of an American citizen demand the condemnation of every honest man in the Territory. And we cordially invite all who are not in favor of fraud and forgery, in every county in the Territory, to co-operate with us in detecting, exposing and punishing the offenders and their advisers and abettors.

"*Resolved*, That this meeting appoint a committee of thirty-one, with power to appoint sub-committees, for the purpose of raising means and directing measures to arrest and convict the perpetrators of this crime against our laws.

"The Committee of Thirty-one, contemplated by the sixth resolution, were named by the meeting, and is composed of the following gentlemen:

"S T Hauser	A M Woolfolk
"W F Sanders	Moses Moore
"L H Hershfield	H M Parchen
"W F Chadwick	James Fergus
"C J Lyster	John E Blaine
"C A Broadwater	Abraham Sandt
"A J Smith	A G Yawter
"W E Cullen	J C Kerley
"A M Helter	Henry Klein
"R E Fisk	H H Tatem
"John H Ming	C W Cannon
"John Kinna	Cornelius Hedges
"D C Corbin	S M Hall
"Rob't Lawrence	D A G Flowers
"Con McHugh	Mat Davenport
"John Jones"	

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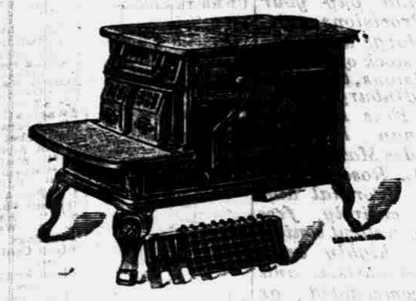

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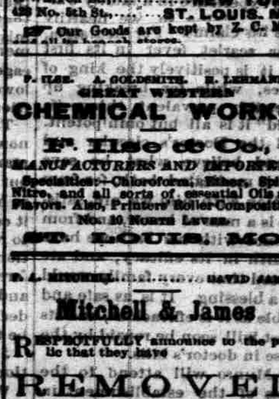
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