

( C O P Y )

Cheyenne, Wyoming,

May 11, 1892.

Dear Owen:-

I have received your two letters. If I had known that the letters which I wrote to Boies and Bob were to find a place in your scrap-book I would have expurgated them. In writing to some fellows I often use expressions which - though altogether foreign to my own nature - I know will appeal to theirs.

I agree with you that some of the rustlers are good fellows, but nevertheless, Johnson County and parts of Crook, Sheridan and Converse Counties, are very dangerous places to live in. Yesterday Wellman - foreman of Blair's ranch - was shot in the back, and my guardian, Rankin, who went to Buffalo last Saturday to serve an injunction, has a fair prospect of not coming home. Everyone here thinks that there

is a good deal of trouble ahead. One of the most harmful things is the rustler newspaper. Bonton, the editor of the Buffalo Echo, was driven from Buffalo, his paper was stopped, and has now been bought by Jack Flagg, and is run as the "Peoples Voice." You know probably about the Douglas Graphic edited by Kimball, who is known as a son of a bitch more than any other man in the state. Their papers are taken by all the rustlers and small farmers in four counties. The Graphic is sent free to anyone who is unable to pay for it. It is full of false and incendiary articles and keeps the people in a constant state of excitement. Then the Denver News publishes in full every despatch sent by Kimball and thus gives the authority of a larger newspaper to them. It is a remarkable fact that all the rustler newspapers have always been Democrats; and in reading over the history of similar troubles

(May 11, 1892)

- 2 -

in other states - and there have been a good many just like this - I find that in nearly all a sheriff has been in it, and that he was a Democrat. When I was at Brown Springs, about 35 miles north of Douglas, there were two doubtful characters discussing politics. One of them wanted to know the exact principles of the Mugwumps. The other replied that according to his notion a "mugwump" was what you called a man when "son of a bitch" was not bad enough for him. Of course, during the last two months "son of a bitch" has been a favorite expression in this country. Wyoming is in the son of a bitch stage of her civilization and could not get on without it any more than she could without a lariat and a branding iron.

Barber has been having a hell of a time and has lost a good many pounds. He has shown a great deal of backbone and is standing right by his friends. For five days, when no one knew what would become of the cattle-men in the T.A. ranch,

he did not go to bed. They have tried to annoy him in every way and to show that he knew of this expedition beforehand. When I was arrested all the papers said that my case of instruments belonged to Barber. Kimball telegraphed that he recognized it. As a matter of fact, it was an old case which belonged to Henry H. Smith and was given to me by Rundle. It had Smith's and my own name engraved on it.

Have you read about the kidnapping of the two men trappers who were said to have witnessed the burning of Nolan's ranch and the killing of Champion and Ray? They were being held at Douglas by Kimball - as witnesses. God knows where they are now! They worked the habeas corpus on them, and then removed them to Omaha for "stealing N.S. horses, and selling whiskey to Indians." They are no longer in Omaha. It is only an assumption that the stock-men killed Champion and Ray at

(May 11, 1892).

- 3 -

Agrah. Many people here are getting to think that they committed suicide.

I am very glad that you are going with us next summer. I will bring you a map of Wyoming, and will attend to your saddle. I have also asked a man in Douglas to procure for me copies of the Douglas Graphic for the last month, as you may find something in them of interest for your collection.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

C. B. Penrose.