

WHAT BEAVERHEAD WAS WHEN CHIEF JOSEPH CAME

From Unpopulated Wild, Though the Nez Perces Surged Almost Unopposed, the County Had Grown to Be One of the Most Densely Inhabited in the Treasure State—Cattle Industry of the County and How It Was Built Up by a Pioneer—More About Dillon as a City and Some of the Men Who Have Helped to Make It What It Is Today.

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN.
DILLON, Dec. 31.—When A. J. Noyes, one of the owners of the Ajax mine, in the Big Hole basin, and proprietor of the Ajax Livestock company in the same vicinity, came to Montana, there was little to attract one save the golden promises of the placer mines. It was soon after the civil war had closed and there was a great influx of people from the East into the West.
 Mr. and Mrs. Noyes were the first settlers in the Big Hole country, and at that

time few white persons had seen the beautiful valley, and none had thought of living there. It was in 1877, after the fight with the Nez Perce Indians, that Mr. Noyes first saw the valley. A party was there for the purpose of assisting the men who had been wounded in the battle. The rich wild grass and the broad level acres seemed to be an ideal place for stock-raising, so Mr. and Mrs. Noyes made a home there.

The first caller at the Noyes home was a Flathead Indian squaw and not a white person lived for many miles around. The venture proved to be a profitable one, and things prospered for the ensuing years.

Mr. Noyes, in conjunction with J. E. Morse of Dillon, owns and operates the Ajax mine, one of the most promising gold producers in that part of the state. A

stamp mill and concentrator has been erected on the property, and fine gold and lead ore is being taken from the mine all the time.

Mr. Noyes has always continued his livestock business and now controls 14,000 acres of grazing land as fine as one could wish to see. His handsome band of Hereford cattle is famous throughout the state. He has recently sold the greater portion of his herd of white-faces and will give his attention to the buying and selling of young steers.

Mr. Noyes has many interesting reminiscences of the early days in Montana, which he tells in an entertaining manner. His first days in the territory were spent in Butte, and it was here that he earned the distinction of having started the first Sunday school.

It was at a ball in a building where the California beer hall now stands that the matter was first talked over. Mr. Noyes suggested the idea to several present, and it was met with instant favor.

The next Sunday saw a goodly class at the old Good Templars' hall, where meetings were held until Butte could boast of

coming to the territory in 1884 as surgeon of the Seventh infantry, stationed at Fort Shaw. He severed his connection with the army a few years later and came to Beaverhead county, where he took up general practice.

He became interested in several valuable mines in the Elkhorn and Argenta mining districts and made money out of them. He still retains his interest in these claims.

Dr. Miller is a graduate of the Jefferson college of medicine in Philadelphia

and is a post-graduate of Bellevue, New York City. Although his extensive property interests are such as to keep him busy he still practices medicine.

METLEN HOTEL ONE OF THE BEST IN THE STATE

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 Dillon, Dec. 31.—Few men in western Montana are better or more favorably known than J. C. Metlen, proprietor of the Metlen hotel at Dillon. One of the early pioneers of the state, he has watched its progress until it is one of the greatest in the union. He came to the territory in 1867 and began raising stock. This he continued for several years with success.

He is better known, however, as the genial landlord of the Metlen, and in this capacity has made a wide acquaintance.

He built the handsome brick and stone structure which bears his name, in 1897 and equipped it with every convenience known to modern hotels. The rooms are spacious, airy and well lighted. The house throughout is furnished with electric call bells, electric lights and steam heat. The cuisine is always in charge of an accomplished chef and, taken altogether, is an establishment of which Dillon may well feel proud. To the traveler, the Metlen is an oasis in an otherwise cheerless track. The handsomely appointed dining room, the prompt and efficient service of employees of the hotel and the genial air of hospitality pervading the place makes it a popular place with the travelers.

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In 1882, when Dillon was only a canvas town, Mr. White was elected to the territorial council, where he served with honor and dignity. He has several times been mayor of his town and is its present chief executive. In 1889 he was appointed governor of the territory of Montana by President Benjamin F. Harrison, in which

honorable office he served until the state was admitted to the union.

Mr. White has always been connected with a financial institution since his coming to Montana. His first enterprise at Dillon was the partnership of Selzer, Ferris & White, doing a general banking business. In 1884 this firm organized the First National bank, one of the strong institutions of the state, and which has been growing ever since it was started. It has a capitalization of \$50,000 and its conservative policy has given it the reputation of being one of the solid banking institutions

having something handsome in the way of a saddle.

As one enters the store on Montana street one is struck by the handsome display of leather goods, all manufactured in the establishment. A fine line of saddles, beautifully carved and figured, a great number of elegantly finished driving and work harnesses and the various things for a cowboy's equipment, all bespeak the extent of the business done.

If one were looking for a holiday present for a friend, nothing could be handsomer nor more acceptable than a selec-

tion from the leather goods. The burnt leather designs in card cases, purses or glove cases are artistic and durable and are as handsome as could be purchased anywhere in the country.

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glass display is very handsome and complete and commands the attention of every one interested in these beautiful wares.

If there is one branch of trade where confidence in the dealer is of greater importance than another, it is the jewelry business. If you are buying a diamond or a piece of gold jewelry you want to feel that you can put the greatest reliance in what the salesman tells you. You can do that with Mr. Stamm. He has earned an enviable reputation among his town-people for honesty and integrity and his goods are always just as he represents them. Personally Mr. Stamm is a gentleman of pleasant address, progressive and enterprising. He has made his store one of the creditable business houses of the city.

THE SKYSCRAPER.
 First Escapes Dispensed With on the Fifteen Story Building.

[Brooklyn Eagle.]
 One of the curiosities of the skyscraper is the fact that the law which requires fire escapes on a five-story building dispenses with them on a 15-story building. Perhaps it realizes that in case of fire no one would ever be able to climb down 20 or 25 flights of giddy little iron ladders without losing his head. At any rate, it depends entirely for safety in the skyscraper on fireproof construction. There must be nothing about it that can burn. And there is not. Stairways are of marble and iron. There is a little, a very little, wood "trim" about the offices, but even if it caught fire it would not feed the flames for long and would leave the building practically uninjured. Of course, wood does go into the construction of the building, but all such wood must, in buildings over 12 stories high, according to law, be fireproofed; chemically treated so that it will not burn. The skyscraper says to its tenants: "There ain't going to be no fire, and if there is you can get out by the elevator." Elevator shafts are constructed absolutely unburnable, with not a thing about them to feed the flames. The lesson of the New York Life building a few years ago was thoroughly learned, and today the fireproof skyscraper must be fireproof.

When one realizes that New York is at present investing some \$20,000,000 in these castles in the air, that are even now building, they are enlarging the city by an acreage of one-seventh of its original area, and that they are daily shooting farther and farther into the air, one cannot but wonder what the skyscraper of the next quarter of a century will be. There seems to be no chance of a return to first principles. Such buildings as the Herald building, uptown, and the new stock exchange and the new chamber of commerce, downtown, may be very fine architecturally and beautiful in themselves. But, unfortunately, they are not by themselves. To be appreciated they would have to be seen and to be seen they would have to be set out on a plain somewhere—not crowded, as they are, into the shadow of the 25-story air castles which New York's millions are rearing over New York's infinitely precious soil.

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HEREFORD CATTLE.



LAKE LENA, NEAR AJAX MINE.

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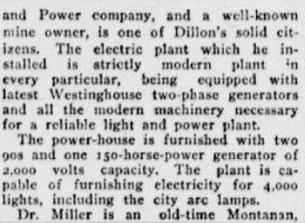
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GROCERY DEPARTMENT OF JOHN W. MORTON'S STORE, DILLON.



DR. M. A. MILLER.

of that time. He is a native of Kentucky and his honesty and fair dealing has won for him a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

He has a large grocery store and a hardware store on Bannack street. Near the railroad track is a great warehouse where the farm implements are stored. Notwithstanding this great amount of floor space, he has found it necessary to build another warehouse for his grocery department.

This has been a generally prosperous year for Dillon merchants and Mr. Morton has done \$110,000 worth of business during the past 12 months. He has invested something over \$50,000 in his business, which is constantly growing.

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is composed of S. J. Haines and Judge A. H. Barrett, the present state treasurer. Since the first the business has been increasing until it is the largest in Southern Montana.

The reputation of the firm for fair dealing and reliable goods has spread until the fame of Haines' saddles is known to every horseman in the state.

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