

Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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WE GIVE below a letter from Texas, published in the *Country Gentleman*, in order to draw a slight picture of the relative merits of this country as compared with that.

We would not detract anything from the lustre of the great Lone Star State, but by slight comparison will aim to show some of the superior advantages that Montana offers to persons seeking homes. The letter was written perhaps, by some one whose prejudices were wrought upon by stubborn facts. We are opposed to the policy of some western journals, which offer every benefit imaginable to tempt and lure people away from their comfortable homes in the east, with the vain hope of amassing a fortune in a few years, in the untamed west. So far as we are concerned, we will say, in starting out upon this subject, that we do not wish to profit at another's expense, and in representing the facilities of this country, we expect to represent the facts as the immigrant will find them when he comes among us.

Those who have good farms, well improved, with dwelling, fences, barns, orchards and gardens, and surrounded by a populous community, would hardly exchange them for the privilege of building a new home in the wilds of these mountains; but those who are poor—who have had their faces to the grindstone since life began—who are hopelessly encumbered by debt, and preyed upon by merciless money loaners, would find relief among us. In every country perhaps, new or old, the more money a person has command of the better he can prosper; but we believe there is no better place on earth for a man with limited capital, or without a dollar, than Montana.

"Land is cheap," says our Texas letter, because letter writers have abundance to sell. Here it is different; the land has not been bought up by speculators, but choice locations can be had at government price, or under the Homestead Act. A great abundance of building timber can be had along any of our mountain ranges, and will cost nothing but the labor of cutting and hauling. The distance varies according to the location, from one to twenty-five miles, and over a road, too, that is generally all down hill. Water rights are not as numerous as farm sights, but there are numbers of them yet that can be utilized at a trifling expense. As to our market, it has thus far been sufficient to consume the produce of the country, and that, too, at remunerative prices. The prospect for the future is that the mines will continue to improve, furnishing market for all our farm product. The quantity of grain is not liable to increase much, since our farmers, as soon as they become able to farm on a large scale, will turn their attention to growing beef or wool, which is by far a more lucrative and profitable business.

As to horticulture, which this Texas correspondent says is overdone in his part of the country; it offers a wide field for extensive operations here, only enough of it being known yet to guarantee the fact that small fruit will produce abundantly, and other fruit compare favorably with many other localities of the same latitude. Our mining towns always afford a splendid market for fruit of all kinds.

We have traveled the country from the great lakes on the north, to Texas, and from the crest of the Alleghanies east to the Great Salt Lake Basin, but know of no better place in all this area than Montana. For the man of wealth, who desires to invest his means, our mines offer an unlimited field, and we are safe in saying that no country has yielded more handsomely in proportion to the amount invested. Even for those who have no money, our mines offer advantages equal to those of any other section. Upon a thousand hills, rich veins of gold, silver, copper and lead crop out of the ground, and all the capital required to develop them is muscle. Owing to the law of Congress abolishing all title to leads except those represented by a certain amount of labor, a great number of these leads are left without a claimant, and may be possessed by any one who will go to work to develop them.

But to some this looks too much like a lottery. Such we would invite to our stock fields—to our millions of acres of as fine

pasture as ever hoof of bovine trod—affording pasture free to all. Stock are remarkably healthy, and live, thrive, yes, and fatten the year round without food or shelter other than what nature has furnished. Sheep are remarkably healthy, and require less care than any other kind of stock. Flocks generally average four and a half pounds of wool to the head.

This is a great inducement to the man of means; but they can do well anywhere. It is generally the poor or middle class of society that need a home. We know of no country we have seen that offers inducements equal to ours. Land can be had, as we stated above, at government price, or by homesteading, and if a person is too poor for either, a squatter's right is good enough until enough can be made out of the land to pay for it. A yoke of cattle or a pair of horses and a plow, all together worth less than \$100, is all the capital that many of our thriftiest farmers had when they began, a few years ago.

Men, broken down in health and energy, after a few years residence here, not infrequently find their health restored, and with it renewed energy comes again.

Should a person prefer to labor for wages, he can find plenty to do. Wages in placer mines are from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per day; but there is little demand for laborers in this branch of mining. Quartz mines furnish plenty of employment at from \$50 to \$75 per month for laborers, and teamsters never need be idle as long as they are willing to work at from \$40 to \$60 per month.

We did not intend, in this article, to give a minute description of the country. We have scarcely room to mention the principal branches of industry.

Dairy husbandry offers, perhaps as good a field for business as any. Few of our people get rich from the fact that it is too much like work. They generally quit as soon as they get money enough to get a few hundred head of sheep or a hundred head of good breeding cows.

We have not overdrawn the picture; on the other hand, have not represented it as favorably as it would bear, for, should we tell the whole truth, our friends in the east would think we were given to misrepresentation; but such is not the case. For the truth of our assertions, we refer to any one acquainted with the facts. We may refer to this subject occasionally in the future, but will not mislead the people, as has evidently been the case with our Texas friend. Here is what he says:

"Land was cheap. Letter-writers having so much to dispose of, I found it apparently very cheap. I could have bought it I wanted for a dollar or two an acre, but, like the man who drew the elephant in the lottery, I might have asked what I would do with it had I bought it; but this is only the beginning of what a man with a family requires. Lumber, and, in fact, everything the beginner requires, except seed, is fearfully high. It takes three or four times the capital that I was led to suppose I would need. Letter-writers would like every one that has money to go there, because the writers know they will get it. But let no one go there with less than three or four thousand dollars, if he expects to live in any kind of comfort, or even have a home he can call his own. True, a man might, with a few hundred dollars, buy a piece of land, and, by putting up with every discomfort, every privation and inconvenience almost imaginable, for an indefinite period, have a home of his own; but the end does not justify the means. Many people there talk as though the honor or the privilege of living there was sufficient to induce one to put up with anything.

"All whom I saw and talked with settled there years ago, and, after years of misery, living in caves, in brush houses, in a manner worse than the beasts of the field, a majority of them have little more than a very uncomfortable house and home to show for it. Without capital to commence with, the long years it would require to establish one there, and the life he would necessarily have to lead in the mean time, would make him forget what comfort meant, and certainly such is the case with most of them there. I can say with certainty that agriculture does not pay there. Not having capital enough to commence with on my own account, I took a small field of wheat on shares, which the owner stated would, if cut green for fodder,

sell readily and at a good price at the stables, &c., in the town. I took a load to market, but found it impossible to dispose of but a very small portion of it. After a hard day's work I found myself twenty-five cents in debt on my first Texas marketing operation. Such was my experience with that one article, and such would have been the case with any other article of farm produce.

"As to horticulture, that business is ten times overdone. For all the products of the farm or garden, the market is completely glutted—there being no railroad or other outlet by which the surplus might be sent to a market. Stock-raising on a large scale, with knowledge and experience, doubtless pays; but the beginner on a small scale, stands about as much chance among the old breeders as a new-born chick in the presence of a hawk. Again, it is no place for a man to go with the intention, simply, of hiring to others. There being so many Mexicans and negroes that they can get for a trifle, (the supply, except for a month or two in the year, being greatly in excess of the demand,) work of any kind is very difficult to get, and if it is got, the pay amounts to almost nothing. I found from 50 to 75 cents per day, and from \$10 to \$13 per month the maximum wages paid."

WE NOTICE in the Helena papers that Gen. Terry recommends the abandonment of Camp Baker. Did we not know the utter uselessness of remonstrance against the acts or recommendations of Government officials, we would, in behalf of the people of Meagher County, raise our voice to protest against such a movement. Camp Baker was established at the request of the citizens of upper Smith's river and Missouri river valleys, which were suffering from raids from the Sioux Indians on the south, *via* Shields river, and the Piegiens from the north, *via* of lower Smith's river valley, or Belt river. Its presence has made a marked difference in the security of life and property, and Smith's river valley has been settled up rapidly. The abandonment of this post will leave open these two great passes to the north and south, and expose the settlements again to Indian raids. The large bands of horses now running upon Smith's river will be an easy prey to any band of Indians, as the proposed location of the new post at the forks of the Mussleshell will afford no protection to these localities, a fact any one acquainted with the geography of the country is bound to admit. Instead of abandoning Baker, its commanding location and central position—being as it is, half way between Forts Ellis and Shaw—suggests that it should be made the supply post of the Territory.

The establishment of a four-company post upon the Mussleshell is very necessary for the protection of that valley, but any one who knows anything of the country at all, is well aware that if located at the Forks it would be of no material advantage whatever. If we have Government posts we want them for protection, and in commanding positions. A post on the Mussleshell, near the mouth of the American Fork, or even below that, is very much needed. It would afford protection to the settlers of that valley, and also to that portion of the Carroll road this side of the Judith, but at the Forks it would not suffice for either. With a military post at the Forks of the Mussleshell, our enterprising stock men would be left to meet and wrestle with their wily Indian neighbors, while the United States troops rested secure within the walls of their fort, forty or fifty miles away. We believe the abandonment of Baker to be inexpedient, but the establishment of a post upon the Mussleshell, is one of the necessities of the country. The progress of civilization along our eastern border demand it; but it should be located beyond the settlement, where it would afford them protection, and not where the settlement would reach beyond it.

Rapid progress is making, says the *Philadelphia World*, in the adjustment of the N. P. R. R. affairs under the plan recently adopted. Out of the 30 millions of bonds originally issued, 23 millions, have been returned to the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., of New York, to be exchanged for preferred stock, and an additional two millions, making 25 millions in all, were canceled, last week by deed for lands of the company. The purchases they represent have been made during the last two months.

To those desiring to circulate information respecting the resources of our Territory, we would suggest that they carefully examine the HUSBANDMAN. It is soon to be filled with correspondence from all parts of the Territory, giving facts respecting crops, yield per acre, cost of tillage of lands, water privileges, what variety of crops succeed best; also, facts concerning the stock range, together with the progress of the mines in various localities. We know of no better means of inducing immigration than a clear representation of facts as they exist. From the HUSBANDMAN better than any other source, can they obtain a correct knowledge of the lives and habits of our people. An elaborately prepared pamphlet would be regarded only as a trap to ensnare the unsuspecting, which we all know is generally the case. But let them learn our resources from the items in our local columns, or our correspondence, which are an interchange of views and experience of our patrons, and are published for the information they contain to those in our midst, and not for the influence they might exert abroad. It is one of our objects to people this home of our choice with a thrifty, industrious population—such as we can by a faithful and honest representation of its facilities etc.—and every one who places a copy of our paper in an eastern household, will contribute his mite to this end.

DIAMOND SPRAY.

—San-key unlocks the Bible, and the gospel pours forth in melodious hymns.

—One of our citizens abroad being asked where Diamond was, replied it was where Charlie Ross had never been found and Tom Collins had never arrived.

—Let those who color their beards remember—that the brave die but once.

—Nature is like a baby, because there is generally a squall when its face is being washed.

—Shall we not consider the man generous who gives an eye to business.

—Beecher's fame has become a lava bed. It is at least as Mo(u)lten.

—A few evenings since one of our favorite city belles hastened the departure of a tedious caller by remarking, as she looked out the east window, "I think we are going to have a beautiful sunrise."

—That little fruit speculation of our first parents deprived us of a homestead in Eden, and sent us adrift to earn our living in the sweat of our face.

—The Brooklyn scandal has furnished jars enough in the Church of Christ to preserve all the religion in Christendom.

—There is to be a regular "she-devil" in the Women's Publishing House, at St. Louis, Mo.

—The (ap)peal of a belle softens the heart.

—A citizen of Rome who had been blessed with two wives, both of whom have left him, now calls himself the no-best Roman of them all.

—Noses are something which, whether fashionable or not, are always followed.

—The Bible says if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed we can move mountains. A young friend of ours thinks he can move Hill(i)s over the mountains.

—"Will you please insert this obituary notice?" asked an old gentleman of an editor. "I made bold to ask it, because I know the deceased had a great many freinds around here who'd be glad to hear of his death."

—It is said that young gallants who seemed deep in love with brown tresses last year at Cape May, now breathe gentle words to chignons of another color. This doesn't indicate fickleness so much as activity in the hair trade.

A youthful clergyman, who recently went forth to enlighten the ignorant, while dealing with the parable of the Prodigal Son, was anxious to show how dearly the parent loved his child. Drawing himself together and putting on his most sober looks, he dilated on the killing of the fatted calf. The climax was as follows: "I shouldn't wonder if the father had kept that calf for years, awaiting the return of his son."