

Taking Her Place as a Broad-Gauge Montana City



MAIN STREET, PLAINS.



A SOLID INSTITUTION.



A DISTANT VIEW.



POWER PLANT.

circuit to the rural district and later to Thompson.

The city is clear from debt and has a cash balance in the strong box. City Clerk H. J. Burlingame is authority for the statement that during the five years' existence of the incorporation there has been paid less than \$25,000 interest on outstanding warrants. This is considered a remarkable showing. The policy of the town is and always has been to be conservative in its expenditures. When any improvement is proposed the matter is given careful consideration by the members of the council and every point discussed before consent is obtained. It is one of the two cities of the state that are free from debt. The meetings are held in the second story of the McGowan block, where a large airy room has been furnished suitable for such deliberative bodies. The present councilmen are: Anton Zebish, C. W. Powell, Harry M. Coulter, George Cooper, E. W. Simpson and Thomas McWhinny. George Wells is city marshal and George Toulmin police magistrate.

Progressive Dixon.

The traveler who lands in Dixon, 33 miles east of Plains, is not there very long before he becomes impressed with the idea that the town is on the progressive order. Industrial activity seems to permeate the air and every one has caught the fever. A hopeful spirit is manifest and if Dixon fails to have a good place in the procession it will not be for the lack of wide-awake business men or the natural surroundings. It requires only the first glance to see why the site was chosen. The location is superb and the site is a natural one for the town. The majestic mountains with their snow-capped peaks and green clad slopes stand back

entitled to better railroad accommodations and will probably get them.

B. F. BOWMAN.

A Fine Valley

The valley of the Little Bitter Root, in the Flathead reservation, is one of the finest in the state. It has broad acres of rich farming land, rolling plains and towering peaks which will some day yield up rich treasures of precious metals. The valleys of the reservation were former ranges of thousands of head of cattle and horses, but are now occupied by the tiller of the soil. A settler is found on nearly every quarter section and all appear optimistic, happy and courageous and especially industrious. Evidence of culture and good breeding are evident in every home. Those who have not recently visited the new settlements can hardly realize the wealth of population and property that has been added to Sanders county within the past year. The whole landscape is dotted with new buildings and miles of fences. New wagons, farm machinery, furniture and household conveniences indicate thrift and intelligence.

The soil is fertile and when the irrigation projects are completed banner crops will be forthcoming. Even without irrigation some wonderful results were obtained, especially around Camas Prairie and Greenspring. Thousands of fruit trees were planted last spring and it will only be a few years until that section will be noted as a fruit-growing district. On the west the mountains are cloaked with millions of feet of fine saw timber. In a mineral way the reservation has been supposedly rich, but until it was thrown open for settlement prospectors were considered trespassers. Several very promising copper and gold propositions have been uncovered and the owners are confident that the future will see rich mines opened up.

The chief town of the section is Camas, 25 miles from Plains, and situated near the famous Camas Hot Springs, which are considered the finest of the kind in the west. Camas is a thriving, progressive little town, boasting of two general stores, the

largest of which is Peeso & Zeh, and would be a credit to any town. Hammons & Sons own the other general store and both transact a good business. G. N. Mansfield conducts a grocery and Auchair & Courville have a very neat and well-stocked meat market. There are two large hotels, the De Mers and the Headquarters. Besides there are a restaurant, jewelry store, two blacksmith shops, a bakery, pool hall, barbershop and printing office, the latter owned by A. R. Rhone, who issues a weekly paper.

The hot springs are unequalled in any locality, the largest spring having a mean temperature of 118 degrees Fahrenheit. Wonderful cures occur every year, people coming from every direction to take the baths. This year new bathhouses were erected and in course of time a large sanitarium will be built.

The Camas Commercial club is a live organization which handles the public affairs and is continually bettering the conditions.

There are seven schools in the district near Camas, and church is held every Sunday in the town school. Rev. Elder is the resident minister. The Catholics also hold services.

Within the past year great improvements have been made in the roads and a number of bridges have been built.

Greenspring, Camas Prairie and Perma are new towns and each one is bidding for the public patronage. Around the two former are circled farmers who are turning the soil and getting the results. The grain yield far surpassed the expectations of the new settlers and as time rolls on the "land of promise" appears more alluring. Greenspring has a commercial club and a splendid literary society. The people are progressive and up-to-date and take pride in making their homes as pretty as can be made. A stage line connects with Perma, crossing the Flathead river on a ferry. Perma is now a postoffice and a shipping point.

GREAT BIG SPUDS.

(Dixon Herald.)

Not a week passes but one or more carloads of the famous Flathead valley potatoes are shipped out of Dixon. This week so far, G. E. Whitman has shipped a car of them to Butte, and F. Bernat, a car of them which he bought of Messrs. Rathbun and Reinhart of Moiese valley, to Missoula. Nowhere in the world are finer potatoes grown than in the Flathead valley. They are used exclusively on Northern Pacific diners and for size and excellent quality they are leaders, some of them weighing as high as four pounds.

BIG SPUDS.

One of the talking points used by the Missoula Chamber of Commerce at the New York Land show was a letter from Noah S. Wood of Buffalo Park ranch, two miles northeast of Ravalli. He sent the following communication to those in charge of the Missoula exhibit:

"I have dug the balance of my acre of spuds that you have samples of in New York and find many of extra size and weight which leads me to write to you as I do. I have one spud that measures 23 inches in circumference (in length), and around the center one foot six inches, and which weighs four and one-quarter pounds. It is a perfect and smooth spud. I can furnish you with 10 that weigh 22 pounds, or 22 that weigh 20 pounds. Can also send splendid specimens of corn and sugar beets. My potatoes were grown on virgin soil, this year being the first breaking, and without irrigation. They were planted on June 1, 1911, in sec-

tion 21, township 18 north of range 20 west.

"I made settlement on 80 acres when the Flathead opened at \$1.50 per acre. On one acre planted in spuds I dug 19,500 pounds, or 325 bushels. I sold 3,000 pounds at \$1.15 per hundred and the balance at \$1.00 per hundred. The fencing for my part of the 80 acres cost \$45.00; plowing and planting one acre, \$9.00, and cost of spuds for seed \$4.90. Counting in the original cost of the land, \$120, makes a total of \$178.90. Revenue from potatoes, \$203.50; leaving a balance of \$24.60. The cost of marketing my crop was nominal."

THE PRIZE CABBAGE.

(Ronan Pioneer.)

St. Ignace carries off the prize for the largest cabbage and is entitled to the blue ribbon. Last Saturday Andrew Beckwith called the writer into the Beckwith Mercantile Company store and picking up a sample of the kind of cabbage raised there said: "Here, take this home with you and make a barrel of sauerkraut out of part of it and distribute the balance among our friends up there." It could be done, almost, and to tell the truth, it is the largest cabbage we ever saw. It weighs twenty-seven pounds ready for cooking, and was raised by the Jesuit fathers on their farm at the Mission. There was one a little larger on exhibition, but we had no room for it in the auto.

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