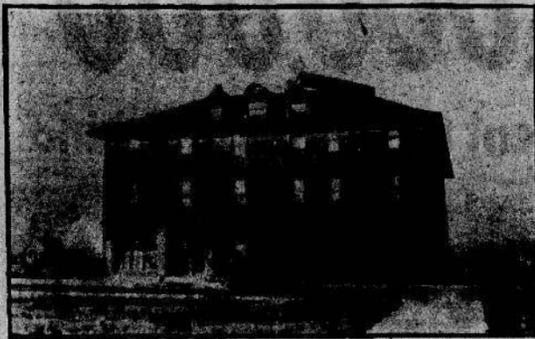


# Lincoln County Shows Well



THE LIBBY HOTEL.

Libby, Dec. 16. — (Special.)—Lincoln county's prosperity is founded upon three great natural resources, timber, farm land and minerals, each of about equal importance, and the past year has witnessed great progress in the development of each. The county is the youngest of Missoula's granddaughters, being only two and a half years old, and the country included within her boundary lines was until very recent years almost entirely undeveloped; indeed, real development seems to have only started since the new county was organized, and now almost every locality is going ahead rapidly.

While the county has gone through a bitter county seat fight, which has left a sting in some localities, this very thing has tended to bring about more economical and efficient county government than might otherwise have been the case. It has shown up the weak spots, has caused the searchlight to be thrown upon all proceedings until every resident of the county is familiar with every phase of the political situation, and as a result the offices are filled by conscientious, hard-working men, who are doing their best to make a good showing.

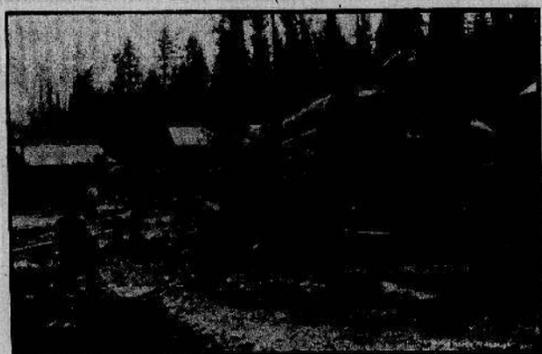
The residents are proud of their young county and have unlimited faith in the future, for they appreciate the great resources which have been lying dormant for so many years and realize that the day of development is at hand.

A notable event of the year has been the holding of an election to bond the county for \$125,000 for the building of three bridges across the Kootenai river, and for roads. The bridges are to be built at Rexford, Troy and Libby, where they are badly needed. The building of these bridges will open up a vast amount of fine farming land by making it more accessible to the towns.

**Lumbering.**  
Lumbering is Lincoln county's largest industry and probably will be for several years to come, there being

at the present time nine sawmills operating in the county, with others soon to be constructed. The mills and the lumber camps, with the teams and men employed, are an important factor in providing a home market for much that the farmer raises, and insure a steady demand for farm products.

The mill operators in the county are the Libby Lumber company, the



LOGGING IN LIBBY COUNTY.

Rureka Lumber company, the Lincoln Logging and Lumber company, the Warland Lumber company, the Lincoln Gold Mining company, the Bonners Ferry Lumber company, Murphy & Green, M. Brandenburg and Charles Palmer. The Bonners Ferry Lumber company's mill is located at Bonners Ferry, but most of the logs are obtained in this county. New mills are to be established at Libby and Troy soon.

Pine, fir and larch are the chief products, for which the main market is found in eastern Montana and the Dakotas, although for larch a demand

is being created in many other places. It is only within recent years that there has been any sawmills of consequence in Lincoln county and the industry is still in its infancy. Several of the largest timber holders have not yet established mills, and there are many milling chances on the forest reserve, where mature timber may be purchased from the government.

The standing timber within the county has been estimated at 20,000,000,000 feet, which, at the present rate of cutting, would last for all time to come, for the cut each year hardly equals the growth.

Several of the sawmills now operating have been established during the past year, including those owned by the Lincoln Logging and Lumber company, M. Brandenburg, the Lincoln Gold Mining company and Murphy & Green. Others are to be established soon, including a large plant at Libby, to be put in by the Burlington Lumber company, and one at Troy, by William Hogan. Several other companies from the outside are now negotiating for mill sites on the forest reserve.

**Farming.**

Lincoln county is rapidly coming to the front as a farming country. In addition to numerous fine valleys, there is the great Tobacco Plains section, in the northern part of the county, which is now well settled with

a prosperous people. Probably the most notable development during the year in connection with the land has been the taking of steps to open the agricultural lands in the forest reserve to settlement. By this move over 300 people will secure homesteads in the Kootenai, Yakt and Fisher river valleys. Some of this land has already been formally restored to entry and it is expected that it will all be turned over to the prospective settlers within a few months. Most of the land has already been applied for. The tendency in this county, especially in the valleys where the land is mostly covered with timber or stumps, seems to be toward the development of small farms, and many sales of such tracts have been made. The county made quite a remarkable showing of farm and orchard products at the county fair, and later at the state fair and other places.

Fruit-raising is undoubtedly destined to be an important industry here within a few years. The county now has a few commercial orchards, the pioneers, and they have demonstrated the possibilities that are open in this line, so that during the past year more fruit trees have been planted by far than ever before.

**Mining.**

It is doubtful if there is a locality in the United States today that can make a showing in minerals equal to Lincoln county and yet show so little development. There are literally hundreds of fine prospects upon which only enough work has been done to hold them, but in which the ore showings are really good. In mining, however, the past year has witnessed unusual development.

The chief incident of the year has been the sale of the Snowshoe mine to the Pacific Coast Smelting-Refining company and the resumption of work on as large a scale as possible at the property. Ever since the sale was made last spring the mine has been operated steadily. The property has been developed at the same time that the work of taking out the silver-lead ore has been going on, and the shaft is now down 500 feet, with drifts on every level. A tunnel is also being run through the mountain to tap the ore vein at a depth of over 1,000 feet.

Other properties upon which active development work has been prosecuted throughout most of the year, but which are not yet producers, are the Victor-Empire, a silver-lead mine; the Kallispell-Lincoln Gold Mining company's claim on Fisher creek; the Shaughnessy Hill properties, owned by John H. Town; the St. Paul, a silver-lead mine on Libby creek, and the B. & B. and Big Eight properties near Troy.

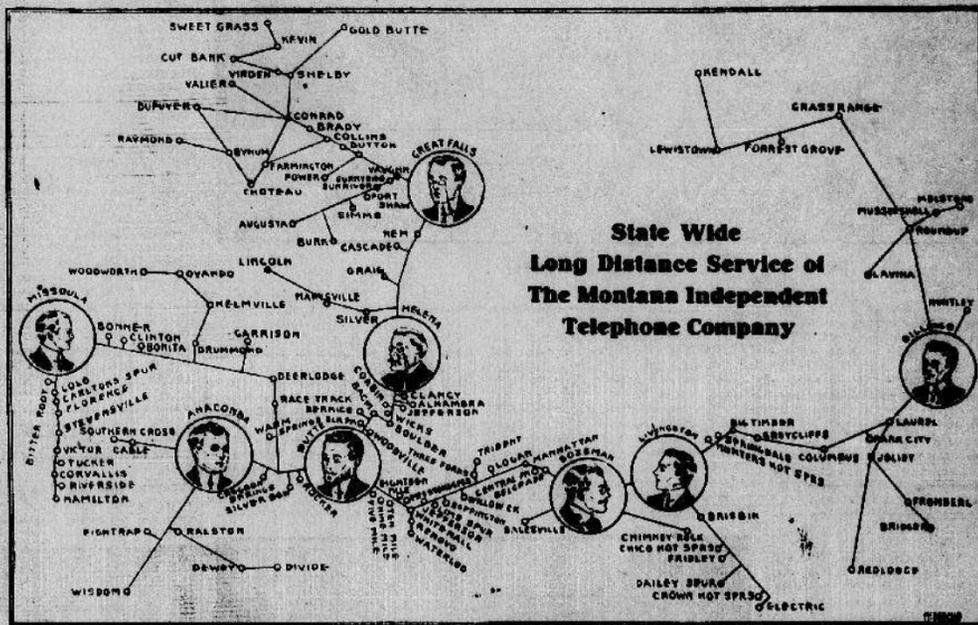
Steps have also been taken to rebuild the stamp mill at Sylvanite, which was burned by a forest fire in 1910, and to again operate the gold mines there. In this connection a large power plant is being constructed at Yakt falls by the Milwaukee Power & Mining company, which will furnish power for the mines.

**Placer Mining.**

The past year has witnessed the passing in Lincoln county of the shovel and sluice box method of placer mining and the substitution thereof of large hydraulic plants. The Comet Placer Mining company in 1910 completed a fine hydraulic plant and during the past summer it was operated steadily with satisfactory results. The

(Continued on Page Ten).

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