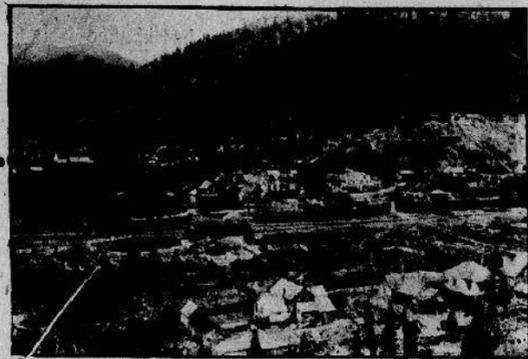


MISSOULA, MONTANA, SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 5, 1914.

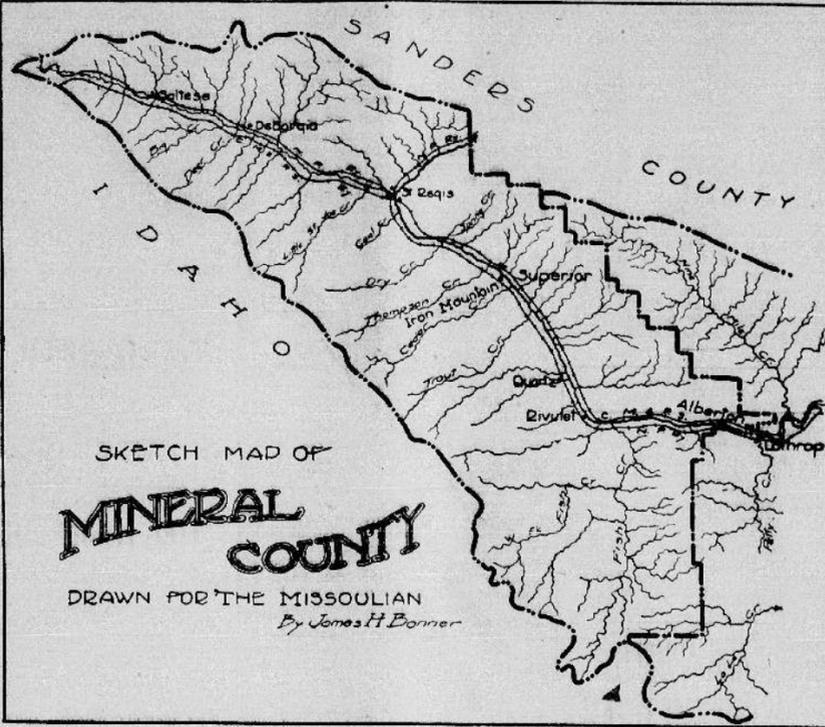
MINERAL COUNTY WILL POSSESS VARIED RESOURCES



SALTESE, SHOWING MILWAUKEE TRESTLE OVER TOWN.



IRON MOUNTAIN.



SKETCH MAP OF MINERAL COUNTY DRAWN FOR THE MISSOULIAN By James H. Bonner



ALBERTON.



IN DE BORGIA.



ST. REGIS (NORTHERN PACIFIC STATION.)

Mineral county! To those residing within the proposed borders of this unborn child, the fourth offspring of Missoula county, there is magic in these words.

At an election to be held August 1, next, those residing within the boundaries of the proposed new county are to decide for themselves the question of leaving home and mother and of establishing a new government, of and for and by the people.

Preliminaries leading to the calling of the special election, August 1, have been under way several months. They were carried on with an enthusiasm against the warm tide of which opinion and criticism and adverse advice melted like the hailstone that broke through the smokehouse roof one Monday morning long ago and landed in grandmother's tub of hot suds.

In which there has been a hint of unfavorable comment or that contained even a sentence that could be interpreted as a criticism, has been immediately "taken up" and fully answered, denied or explained, as the occasion might demand.

In all this the new county folks have stood shoulder to shoulder in support of their various champions and have shown a spirit of loyalty to the cause of division that spelled success from the beginning. To say "the proposed new county of Mineral" seems altogether too ambiguous. At this stage of the game it is just as safe to say "Mineral county" to this territory and these people as it is to wait until after the election, August 1.

The only opposition that the new county folks encountered was in establishing the dividing line between Missoula and Mineral. At first this line was located to come far enough west to take in Lothrop and the whole of the Nine Mile creek district north of the river. But objection was made to this by some of the Nine Mile residents and a compromise was reached which leaves this rich little valley to Missoula.

Reference to the accompanying sketch map gives a better idea of its geographical features and the aimless wanderings of its border lines than any written description can convey. It is 80 miles long. The longest line that could be drawn through from north to south would pass through the gap in the partly-finished steel trestle the Northern Pacific is building at the mouth of Fish creek. It

would be about 35 miles in length.

If Mineral was a flat county its approximate area would be 1,998 square miles or 792,720 acres. But when nature fashioned Mineral, she had not counted, evidently, the art of moulding plains and valleys in the graceful combination that appeals to the man who makes mother earth yield him a living and assist in feeding his city cousins.

This description by comparison would seem to indicate that Mineral has no farms. This is not the case. Recently a Farmers' Society of Equity was organized at Superior with more than 30 members, each man being the owner and operator of a tract of land, ranging from 80 to several hundred acres, which is being intensively cultivated. And there are other farmers scattered throughout the length of the county.

Nature Bestowed Riches.

Although nature failed to endow Mineral with its just share of agricultural land, she more than made up for this neglect in other ways. Of natural resources the new county is abundantly blessed. Some of the finest timber in all the west is growing upon its mountains and the lumber industry there will ever be a source of much wealth.

length of time. This is long enough for a new growth of timber. The whole county is included in the Lolo national forest and within Mineral. This forest contains 1,400,000,000 feet of timber, according to the estimate made by the forest service.

True to Name.

Geologists say that nature knew her business perfectly when she fashioned Mineral's mountains and that each one is a veritable storehouse of rich mineral deposits. Man has already proven this word to be true. Millions of dollars have been taken ready from these mountains and from the creek beds between. Above every-thing else the new county is expected to demonstrate its riches in minerals, in gold and in copper and lead.

Streams.

Between every mountain range is a crystal mountain stream. There are hundreds of them from one end of the county to the other. All flow into the Missoula, which is practically a center east-and-west line through the county from Alberton to St. Regis, this line projected on west being the St. Regis river. The major rivers have a power site in every mile of their courses; each creek which empties into them means power and water for mining operations and a beautiful supply for irrigation and domestic purposes.

Scenic Beauty.

A county of so many natural resources crowded into such a small area naturally makes up a district of wonderful scenic beauty. Mountains and streams, forests and mines, farms and thriving towns. These are all closely associated in making up some of the pictures that are presented as one travels through the new county.

Northern Pacific and Milwaukee are both scenic railways through this section of the west, as both wind their way through the county from end to end for a distance of 80 miles.

Railroads.

From the standpoint of permanency two such lines of road as extend across Mineral county may be almost considered a natural resource. To Mineral these roads, the main line of the Milwaukee and the Wallace branch and Paradise branch of the Northern Pacific, mean much. The assessed valuation of the new county, estimated when the petition for division was filed, is \$3,510,000.

There is only one way to learn all about Mineral county. Make a trip through the west end. Spend several days there. Stop at each of the principal towns and talk with the people. Look up some of the gulches, which you passed on the road without giving them a thought, and you will find, just around the next bend in the creek, are a million dollars worth of mining machinery getting down to bed rock after the yellow. Whatever you do, plan to stop in Superior over night. Ask to be shown the place where they have that good bed. I don't know the name of the place but I will never forget that bed. Anybody about town can direct you to it.

After you get this far never mind about passenger trains to take you on west. Walk for a while. Wear your old clothes and when you get tired walking, jump a freight train. You won't be lonesome those days and you won't be asked to dig up a cent. From a sidelong observation car you can have a fine view. The first time this

train stops, "beat it" for the county road and take another hike. An automobile will come along soon. You will be invited to ride. Then you will see some good road and some bad road. But the driver will tell you all about Mineral's good road plans. Keep on going until you hear the buzz of a motor car. Get acquainted with the man driving the swiftest car. Usually he is a pioneer. He will give you more real information in 15 minutes than you could get from any other source in a week. Keep on traveling in this fashion all the way to Taft. In this way you can get the "dope" on the new county. It will be an interesting journey and will add a lot to your knowledge of western Montana. If you have been over the ground in this way you will find little new of interest in this story for the facts which it contains were gathered when I made just such a trip recently. They are not complete as the trip was made in two days and a half from Missoula. They are not in logical order but are arranged to give a few details about the general resources and condition in that section which is about to cut loose from the mother county and start its career along lines to correspond with the ideals of its own people. The story will begin at Alberton, just inside the eastern boundary, and end at Taft in the extreme west end. The districts described center at face of the principal towns, four of which, Alberton, Superior, St. Regis and De Borgia, will be in the race for county seat honors at the election, August 1. These towns serve but as mileposts in this presentation of facts. No sharp lines are drawn between these districts. They blend into one another; they all belong to Mineral county.

Alberton District.

Alberton, only a couple of miles inside the eastern border line, is the

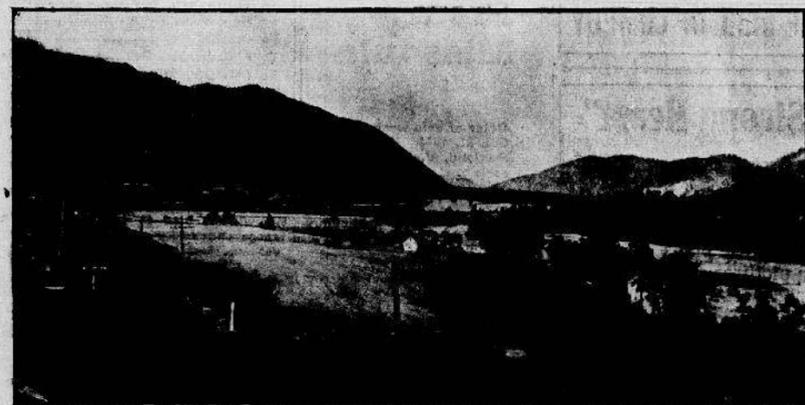
youngest town in the county. But it is the largest town and has many distinctive features. Its site was selected a little over five years ago. Ten thousand dollars for 266 acres of rich land was the transaction that resulted, in the fall of 1908, in this section of Henry Brown's ranch coming into possession of the Milwaukee railroad company. Now upon that tract, then but a fertile spot on the north bank of the Missoula river, some 22 miles below the city of the same name, lies Alberton and severing it from end to end, the parallel, glistening steel of a great transcontinental railway.

It was truly a glorious morning, that of June 29, 1909, when Alberton's first day began. Happy was the throng that stepped from that first passenger train to invest in homes or to speculate in Alberton's future. Today has fulfilled the promise of that balmy June morning to the fondest expectations of all for the homes are here and the investments have proven profitable.

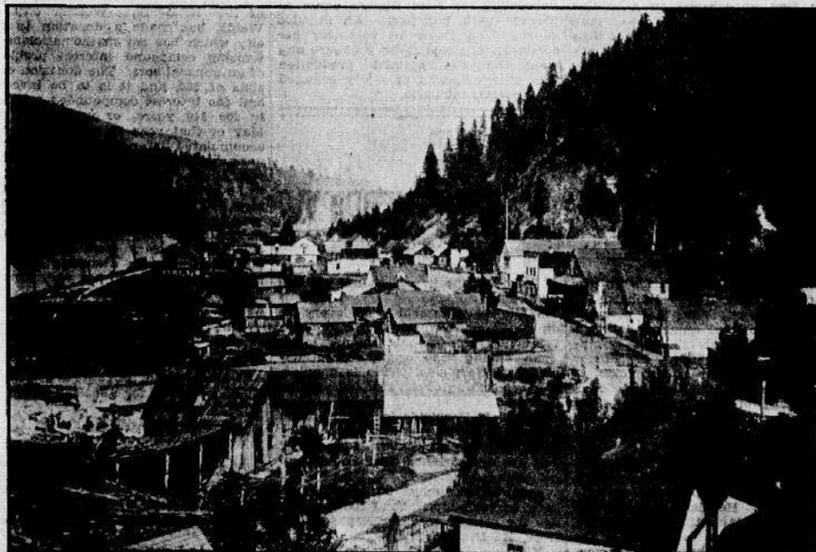
The homes are not of the rich man and not of the pauper; but 200 of them house the busy, contented, well-fed railroad men, happily surrounded by his dear ones and secure in the knowledge of an assured income as long as his earning capacity proves lasting. He earns a little and spends a little less and in this manner is providing for the future years. There are less than 15 homes belonging to other than the railroad man and these are occupied by those engaged in mercantile pursuits or by the hard-working but amply-prosperous tiller of the soil.

Of the more than 500 constituting her population, Alberton has more than 100 children, about 100 of whom are of school age. And for the training and development of their intellects

(Continued on Page Three.)



TYPICAL SCENE IN MISSOULA RIVER VALLEY THROUGH MINERAL COUNTY. THIS VIEW IS FROM A POINT NEAR CYR STATION.



TOWN OF SUPERIOR.