

WYOMING AND WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED

During 1907 the industries of Wyoming have produced \$58,878,598, an increase of \$6,075,000 over 1906. This production and increase is divided follows:

Industry	Production	Increase
Livestock	\$23,884,538	\$3,000,000
Mining	21,000,000	1,350,000
Agriculture	17,495,000	1,495,000
Manufactures	1,500,000	200,000
Totals	\$58,878,598	\$6,075,000

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 28—The State of Wyoming may well boast with pride to the progress which it has made during the year 1907. It has advanced along every line of industry, and in some lines steps have been taken which will have an influence in the future which is incalculable.

The year has been characterized by prosperity and plenty—the per capita bank deposits of \$132 indicate that—and the financial flurry which swept the nation near the close of the year had only a passing effect on the stockmen and farmers, miners and business men of this commonwealth. Nineteen hundred and seven has been a year of development on large lines in Wyoming, and 1908 opens with fair promise of much greater things to come.

Wool-Producing State.
Treating the industries of the State in the order of their importance, first comes stock raising, the oldest and the foremost business of the commonwealth. The year saw Wyoming advance to the very top of the column of the American wool-producing States, where it superseded Montana, for years the holder of that honor. During 1907 Wyoming stockmasters sheared from the backs of their 4,422,378 sheep more than 16,000 tons of wool, while Montana stockmasters from their 4,600,000 head of sheep sheared only 15,000 tons. Wyoming's wool clip sold for \$7,811,772, while Montana's brought only \$7,640,378. Wyoming's wool production during 1907 of 33,637,000 pounds exceeded that of 1906 by only 780,250 pounds, but prices so much more advantageous were obtained this year than last that the value of the 1907 clip exceeded that of 1906 \$558,548. During 1907 Wyoming exported 1,366,700 sheep and lambs, 77,699 head less than during the preceding year, but the income from the 1907 exports exceeded that from the 1906 by \$353,130. At the end of the year there remain in the State 4,522,378 head of sheep, of the value of \$20,250,301, an increase at the end of 1906 of 4,024,560 head, of the value of \$16,104,380.

Cattle Raising Profitable.
Like the sheep-raising industry, cattle raising was highly profitable during

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1907; but statistics regarding the industry during the year are meager. During the year 248,000 head, of the value of \$8,000,000, were exported, and at the end of the year there remain in the State 800,000 head, of the value of \$20,000,000.

During 1907 15,000 head of horses, valued at \$1,500,000, and 5000 swine, valued at \$500,000, were exported from Wyoming. A recapitulation of livestock exports during the year follows:

Class	Number	Value
Sheep	1,366,700	\$6,491,825
Swine	5,000	500,000
Horses	15,000	1,500,000
Other	3,000	50,000
Total	15,015,825	\$16,041,825
Wool, 23,637,000 lbs.		7,811,772
Grand total		\$23,853,598

As to Mining.
Second in importance of the state's industries is mining, and the most important subdivision of this industry is coal mining, which, during 1907, produced \$19,500,000 of the total \$21,000,000 revenue from the industry. Wyoming produced 1907 coal and produced approximately 6,500,000 tons, or an increase over the production of 1906 of 460,000 tons. The 1908 production will exceed that of 1907 by probably 1,000,000 or 2,000,000 tons, as many new mines are being opened as the year ends and the production of oil collieries is steadily increasing. The new year also will produce a new era in the coal industry of Wyoming, as practical monopoly heretofore exercised by such corporations as the Union Pacific Coal company will be eliminated and smaller corporations and individuals will have an opportunity to successfully enter into the colliery business. This will result from the rate law, which will go into effect May 1, being which prevents railroads from engaging in the commercial coal business. In anticipation of the new order of things, many small corporations are now developing valuable coal banks in Sweetwater county and others are preparing to begin work. Chief of the new mines are the Rock Springs-Gibralter, at Black Hatter, and the Bugas mine at Point of Rocks.

New Camps Opened.
During 1907 a number of new coal mining camps were opened in various sections of the state, chief of them being the following: Hudson-Indian mine, Fremont county, to produce 700 tons daily; Gebu mines, Big Horn county, producing 500 tons daily; Kooi mine, Sheridan county, to produce 1000 tons daily; Carbon mine, Carbon county, producing 200 tons daily; Willow mines, Uinta county, to produce 600 tons daily. In addition to these, the long idle mines at Almy, in Uinta county, and at Santa Fe, in Carbon county, are being reopened. No. 3 mine at Hanna, Carbon county, was reopened and is producing.

The construction by the Union Pacific of a line from Rock Springs through Six-Mile canyon and beyond, which was begun in November, will result in six or eight independent camps being established when the road is completed. Work on this branch is at present suspended, owing to the financial flurry.

State Coal Product.
The state board of equalization has made public the following statistics covering the tonnage and taxable valuation of coal produced in the state during the year.

District	Tons	Gross Value
Southern district, including mines at Rock Springs, Hanna, Cumberland, Kemmerer, and Diamondville	4,627,714.58	\$6,948,241.79
Northern district, including mines at Glenrock, Monarch, Cambridge, Muddy, Carnegieville, Dietz and Sheridan	1,111,892.63	1,536,954.89
Total	5,739,607.21	\$8,485,196.68

Metal Mining.
In metal mining, an industry as yet little developed in this State, there was an increase in activity during 1907. It led in value of product, the output of the mines of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company at Sunrise, in northern Laramie county, totaling 700,000 tons, valued at \$1,000,000. The production would have been greater at this camp had not a tremendous influx of water flooded the great four-compartment shaft of the Chicago mine and prevented production there during the major portion of the year.
Several important iron discoveries were made in the State during the year, the most important being in the Seminoe mountains of northern Carbon county. It also became evident during the year that the Union Pacific contemplates the construction of a branch line to the Iron Mountain district, forty miles north of Cheyenne, where, perhaps the greatest deposit of titanite iron in the world exists. The percentage of titanite in the ore of this mountain has hitherto prevented profitable reduction, but German chemists have evolved a cheap method of reducing the titanite iron, and it is merely a question of time until an industry of great magnitude is located at Iron Mountain.

Despite the fact that the smelter of the Penn-Wyoming Copper company at Encampment was destroyed by fire early in the spring and its reconstruction was not completed until near the end of the year, about \$100,000 worth of copper was smelted at the plant, which until early in December was the only copper reduction works in Wyoming. A second smelter has been completed at the Independence mine, in the same district, and the copper production of the Grand Encampment country during 1908 is expected to run into the millions of dollars.

Gold Fields of State.
In several gold fields there was unusual activity throughout the year, notably South Pass, Copper Mountain, Willow Creek, Camp Kirwin, Douglas Creek, Sunshine and Lewiston, but the greater part of the work was done in view of future production, lack of transportation facilities now making profitable working of low-grade ores impossible. At Santa Fe, the famous old Miner's Delight and Burr mines, both at times heavy producers, were reopened during the year, and will increase the State's gold output many fold in 1908. An estimate of the State's gold production and the gold values are counted in the production of such States and not credited to Wyoming. The gold output for which Wyoming received credit during the year probably does not exceed \$100,000.

In the Oil Field.
In several oil fields, principally the Salt Creek, Bonanza, Pope Agie and Branning, much development work was carried on during the year, but the poor transportation facilities and the

lack of a near market made the actual production of oil comparatively small.

A recapitulation of the mineral products of the State during the year follows:

Product	Value
Coal	\$19,500,000
Iron	700,000
Copper	400,000
Oil	100,000
Gold	100,000
Stone, etc.	75,000
Silver	25,000
Total	\$21,000,000

In Agricultural Advancing.
Agriculture is steadily advancing in importance as a Wyoming industry and bids fair before a decade has passed to far surpass all others as a wealth producer. Many thousands of acres of land are being brought under irrigation each year and during the past year the success of dry farming has demonstrated that hundreds of thousands of acres of land heretofore considered valuable only for stock pasturing purposes can be made to yield crops as bountiful as those grown on the richest of the old farming lands of the Middle West.

Statistics covering agricultural production in the state during 1907 do not exist, but the estimates contained in the following table may be considered fairly valuable information:

Product	Production	Value
Wheat, bushels	1,130,000	\$1,255,000
Barley, bushels	118,000	100,000
Rye, bushels	100,000	70,000
Oats, bushels	3,500,000	1,800,000
Timothy, tons	70,000	350,000
Alfalfa, tons	650,000	3,200,000
Native hay, tons	330,000	2,200,000
Other agricultural products		5,000,000
Total		\$17,985,000

As to Irrigation.
The watershed of the continent, from whence flow streams to the Pacific ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California, yet with an arid climate, it is fitting that Wyoming should be the scene of tremendous activity along the lines of irrigation. In every section of the State, along every creek and river, irrigation projects have been completed, are in progress of completion or are contemplated. To date 2,100,000 acres of land has been brought under irrigation ditches and at the present rate of progress a few years will see water on every one of the 10,000,000 irrigable acres of the state. The extent of activity in irrigation improvement may be realized from the following information, which is supplied by the state engineer and which covers the period of 1906-7: Permits for new ditches granted, 1,723; land to be irrigated under these permits, 1,770,218 acres; eventual cost of irrigation projects now under way, \$25,000,000; total length of canals authorized, 3,570 miles; approximate cost of canals alone, \$9,450,824; approximate cost of reservoirs under permits, \$4,000,000.

The three greatest projects for the reclamation of land by the ditch system in progress in Wyoming during 1907 are the two government projects, the Pathfinder, which will reclaim 200,000 acres in Wyoming and Nebraska, and the Shoshone, which will reclaim 160,000 acres in Big Horn county, and a third private enterprise, the Oregon basin, which will reclaim 250,000 acres in Big Horn county. About 15,000 acres has already been watered by the Pathfinder project, 30,000 acres will be

watered by the Shoshone project during the coming year and a large acreage will also be watered by the Oregon Basin project during 1908.

To go into irrigation development in Wyoming, during the past year and for the coming year, even in general way, is out of the question in an article of this length. The work is so tremendous that it can not be summarized. Merely to mention a few of the larger projects, there are the Eden in Sweetwater county, which will reclaim 120,000 acres; the Hanover, in Big Horn county, which has reclaimed 20,000 and will reclaim 25,000 more; the Big Horn, in Big Horn county, which will eventually reclaim 20,000 and is already watering much of that area; the Paint Rock, in Big Horn county, which will reclaim 20,000; the LaPrelle, which will reclaim 30,000; the Sahara, in Johnson county, which will reclaim 25,000; the Fetterman, in Converse county, which will reclaim 12,000; the Indian, in the Wind River reservation, which will reclaim 15,000; the Saratoga Valley, in Carbon county, which will reclaim 83,000; and the Lovell, in Big Horn county, which reclaims 15,000.

Dry Farming.
In 1906 a group of Iowa capitalists discovered that in southeastern Wyoming a little community of farmers were growing crops without irrigation and that surrounding their farms was hundreds of thousands of acres of range land either open to entry under the homestead law or to be purchased at from \$1.50 to \$2.25 an acre. These

shrewd Iowans formed a corporation, quietly bought up the cheap land surrounding the first successful dry farms, spent \$150,000 in advertising, and in 1907 the dry farming boom, one of the most remarkable incidents of Wyoming's history, was born. Farmers from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and States farther East jumped at an opportunity to secure cheap land and before long the Iowa speculators were selling the land they had bought for an average of \$2 an acre at \$15, \$17.50 and \$20 an acre. During 1907 half a million acres of dry land in the country between Cheyenne and the Nebraska line was acquired, either by purchase or by location, and on this land, virgin prairie a few months before, farmers harvested 25 bushels of wheat and 42 bushels of oats to the acre. The settlement of the dry places is continuing at an astonishing rate, and dry farms are now scattered over an area of 800 square miles. In other sections of the State the dry farming idea is being tried and what heretofore has been land considered capable of cultivation only through irrigation bids fair to become as prolific of crops as is the Mississippi valley. A list recently compiled contained the names of 556 farmers from other States who had settled on dry land east of Cheyenne within a period of a few months, and one man counted 102 new farm-houses during a single day's drive through the Lander district.

Railroad Construction.
Aside from the double-tracking of about 100 miles of the main line of the

Union Pacific, there was no extensive railroad construction in Wyoming during 1907. The building of short lines and progress made on longer lines in construction, however, gave the State more than 100 miles of new trackage during the year. Thirty miles of the Laramie, Hanna Peak & Pacific, which will ultimately connect Laramie with the North Park country of Colorado, was completed; the Saratoga & Encampment, from the Union Pacific at Walscott to Saratoga, a distance of about thirty-five miles, was built, and the road is now being extended to Encampment, twenty miles further; the Big Horn branch of the Burlington was extended from Worland to Kirby, a distance of fifteen miles; a branch line of the Oregon Short Line was built from Kemmerer to the Willow coal field, a distance of fifteen miles; a two-mile spur from the Northwestern to the Indian mine near Hudson was laid; a two-mile branch from the Burlington's Guernsey new coal camp of Coali was completed; the Union Pacific began the construction of the Athol-Borie cutoff, which will be twelve miles in length, and of the Rock Springs-Six Mile branch, which will be twenty miles long, with several laterals from one to three miles in length, and the Burlington began grading for an extension of its line from Kirby to Thermopolis and into the central part of the State. During 1908 important railroad work is expected to occur, including, possibly, an extension westward of the Burlington's Guernsey line; the double-tracking of another 100 miles of the Union Pacific;

the completion of the Laramie, Hanna Peak & Pacific and of the Saratoga & Encampment, and the construction of a fifty-mile electric line known as the Wyoming & Northwestern, from Greybull, in Big Horn county, to the eastern boundary of the Yellowstone National park.

Miscellaneous Statistics.

In closing, a few miscellaneous statistics relative to Wyoming will be of interest: The State's population is 125,000; there is \$15,200,000, or \$123 per capita, on deposit in Wyoming banks; the bank deposits increased \$750,000 during 1907; the area of the State is 97,890 square miles, it being the sixth in size of the Union; a rental of \$149,919.34 was derived from State lands during the past year; there are 45,600,000 acres of Wyoming subject to entry under the Federal land laws; the assessed valuation of property in the State is \$94,419,177.98, an increase of \$2,195,975.11 over 1906; the bonded debt of the State is \$180,000, which is being paid at the rate of \$20,000 a year, and the State's income is approximately \$700,000 per annum.

Regardless of so-called panics or presidential and other politics, or of any other national factor, Wyoming proposes to go ahead growing in 1908 its own acres. Its 1908 record will be better than that of 1907. That will be going some.

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