

VERY PROSPEROUS COUNTY

Jefferson's Resources as Described by a Resident.

SOURCE OF WEALTH

Placer and Quartz Mining—Stock-Raising and Agriculture—Health-Giving Spas, Etc.

Jefferson County, Montana Territory, was organized in 1863. Many changes have been made in the boundary lines since that date. They are as now constituted as follows: Commencing at the south-east corner of Lewis and Clarke County, on the Missouri river (a point a few miles below the town of Bedford); thence up said Missouri river to the mouth of the Jefferson river; thence up said Jefferson river to the bridge in a few miles below Silver Star; thence westerly along Parson's toll road leading to Butte City, to the point where said road crosses Fish Creek; thence up Fish Creek to the head of Belcher's Little; thence in a direct line to the forks of Little Pipestone Creek, near the site of Parson's toll gate; thence up the North Fork of Little Pipestone creek to its source; and thence in a direct line to the nearest point of the summit of the Rocky Mountains; thence along said Rocky range to the Bald Mountains at the head of Ten Mile Creek; thence easterly along the Missouri river to the place of beginning.

Most of the streams named above flow through rich and fertile valleys of greater or less extent. The most extensive and important are the Boulder, Crow, Beaver, Prickly Pear, Fish Creek and White Tail Deer Creek. Most of these valleys are from one to five or six miles in width, and from two to forty miles in length. There are a great many other smaller valleys that are not named. The meadow or hay lands generally are unusually very productive. The native grasses are very nutritious, and most of the meadow-lands are still in their primitive state, but it has been ascertained by experiments that timothy sown broadcast over the land will take root and eventually kill out the native grass. By this process the hay is greatly improved. As most of our ranchmen are engaged in stock raising, hay is the most important crop raised in the county, and all that is available is carefully harvested to feed the calves and old cows during severe winters.

Above the meadow lands are bench lands of greater or less extent, in all the valleys, rising gradually to where they intersect with the streams, and then descending to the water. The most available of these lands are being taken up from time to time by the ranchmen, under the desert land act, yet there are many thousand acres still open to settlement, that will afford homes for a large population.

Water is an essential element in the cultivation of the soil, and as most of the water that is available by cheaply constructed ditches is already appropriated, larger and longer and more expensive ditches taken from the larger streams, will have to be constructed before the greater portion of these lands can be utilized. This will be too expensive for the individual farmer. Consequently it will either have to be done by a combination of labor or by capital.

The soil of the bench lands is very productive. Most of the grain and vegetables raised in the county are grown upon them. The average yield of wheat is about 5,000 bushels to the acre, and sometimes runs as high as seventy-five bushels. Average yield of oats, forty-five bushels, and in some favored places it runs up to eighty bushels. Both rye and barley are equally as good. The yield of potatoes is absolutely enormous. Two hundred and 300 bushels to the acre are not uncommon. The soil has a rich and sweet flavor cannot be excelled anywhere in the world. Nearly all kinds of vegetables can be cultivated with success.

GRAZING LAND OR RANGES, upon which the herds fatten in summer and fall, and to a great extent subsist on during the winter, consists of the unoccupied bench lands, plateaus and the beautifully rounded-off, smooth hills and mountains that are free from timber, but covered by a luxuriant growth of the nutritious bunch-grass, and the innumerable parks that are interspersed among the timber of the higher ranges and mountains. The extent of these ranges amount to nearly, if not quite, one-half the area of the county, possibly more. These ranges are absolutely free to all settlers. No woman there, with the range of the multitude of those of Jefferson County contiguous to all the ranches, that all who have engaged in the stock business for any length of time have grown into independence.

As has been stated, the summit of the Rocky mountains for about sixty miles in length from north to south forms the entire western boundary line of the county; therefore, the eastern slope of those mountains for the distance of about 100 miles of Boulder. The Diamond R wintered their stock in the valley. The next house was built by a widow by the name of Greene, at the crossing of the Little Boulder, where Mr. George A. Douglas now lives. Captain and Thos. Parkinson and A. G. Clark brought the first batch of cattle into the county in 64. It being the second batch brought to the Territory and wintered them in the valley. They built a small dug-out for their herds. Among others that the stampede brought in was James Riley, afterwards locator and proprietor of the Boulder hot springs, who died three years ago with the smallpox; James Poore, who still resides in the valley; Mr. Barclay, first Territorial Treasurer, and first Postmaster appointed in the county, and many others, who afterwards divided up into prospecting parties and scattered over the county.

John Quinn was the first settler in Lower Boulder in 1864, and brought with him about fifty head of cattle. Others soon followed, among them Ed. Ryan, William Mulvey, John Brady, A. C. Quintance, William Rogers, B. F. Hoopes, Phil Smith, Con. Clark, Richard Dunn, Patrick Wickham and Ed. Cartwell, all of whom were skillful in the art of ranching and have grown rich from the product of their dairies and farms and the increase of their stock.

King & Gillett were the first to locate a ranch in Crow Creek valley, in 1864. They built the first house near the crossing of Crow creek and opened a trading post, Enoch Wilson, Doc. Bunker and the Noy family, still living there, were among the first settlers.

Harrison Jordan was one of the earliest settlers in the southern portion of the county. He located a ranch on Fish creek in 1865, and is still living there in excellent health, honored and respected by all who know him. John Paul was among the first settlers of Pipestone creek. He owns large property interests there. Lou Randall, Poney Faulkner and Major Brooker were among the first settlers of White Tail Deer creek.

As has been stated, the Prickly Pear Valley, in Jefferson County, was first settled by the prospectors who discovered the precious metal in Montana City. Among the oldest settlers still residing there are H. M. Hill, merchant of Clancy, Nat. Merriman, James Stites, Francis Harvey, John Radcliff, Al. Aze and Dominick Freyer.

The first settlement in the northeastern part of the county was on Beaver Creek. Among the earliest there, and in fact in the county, were Mr. Brady, John Fisher, and old man Edmondson, the father of the notorious Edmondson brothers. They settled there in '64.

river forms its entire eastern, and the Jefferson river its entire southern boundary, and the Rocky Mountains its entire western boundary, where many streams rise and flow through the country and empty into the Missouri and Jefferson. Principally among them are the Big and Little Boulder, with their many tributaries, Prickly Pear, Clark's creek and Indian creek, to the north of the Boulder, and White Tail Deer Creek, Pipestone and Fish creek to the south. Another source of supply is from the Crow Mountains, one of the highest points in the Territory, situated in the north-eastern part of the county, where the main fork of the Prickly Pear rises, as does also Beaver, Eastern Indian, Crow, Elk Horn and Muskrat creeks, flowing to all points of the compass, and emptying into the Missouri and Jefferson rivers. There are many gulches and smaller streams that head in these and the Rocky Mountains that are not enumerated.

RAILROAD PASS. Probably one of the best railroad passes through and across the Rocky Mountains in Montana (except the Big Hole or Deer Lodge pass) is in this county, via Boulder valley, and across the mountains by the Crow Mountains, one of the highest points in the Territory, situated in the north-eastern part of the county, where the main fork of the Prickly Pear rises, as does also Beaver, Eastern Indian, Crow, Elk Horn and Muskrat creeks, flowing to all points of the compass, and emptying into the Missouri and Jefferson rivers. There are many gulches and smaller streams that head in these and the Rocky Mountains that are not enumerated.

PLACER MINES. As has been stated, the county was first settled by prospectors in search of placer mines. Gold was found in most all of the streams and their tributaries, and in paying quantities in many of them, principally in the gulches and ravines rising in the Rocky and Crow mountains, and the tributaries and bars of the larger streams. Although it is often said that the placer mines of the Territory have been exhausted (and they are, to a certain extent), still there is a good deal of gold extracted from this source every year throughout the county.

PLACER MINES. The principal mines now being worked are deep bars on the Missouri River, near Bedford, by many thought to be the old channel of Indian Creek. They are from ten to sixty feet deep, and are worked by the hydraulic process. They are said to be paying well. The diggings are extensive, but the water supply is limited, and in the control of a few companies, which gives them a monopoly of the mines. Mines of a similar character, but not so extensive, are still worked on the Little Boulder, near the town, and at Radersburg. There is also some gulch and ravine mining going on on the tributaries of the Big and Little Boulder, Clancy, Pipestone and St. Louis Creeks, and in some of the gulches to the south of Helena, and in some of the gulches and streams heading in the Crow Mountains.

As there is a large tract of country on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains still unprospected, this character of mines will be discovered from time to time for many years to come.

QUARTZ MINES. As placer mining diminished, the little army of miners and prospectors that had flocked to the county began to turn their attention to prospecting for quartz mines, bearing gold, silver and other valuable minerals, and to-day it may be said to be the leading industry of the county. The eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, as far as explored, is literally riddled with quartz veins or lodes carrying gold, silver, copper, lead, etc., found in syenite and porphyry-granite formations generally.

There are no organized districts in the county, yet there are so-called districts known to mining men, such for instance as the Boulder, near the town of that name, and perhaps the greater number of them, argentiferous galena and carbonated ores predominate, the metals of which can only be extracted by the smelting process. Sulphuretted ores are very frequently met with in all the districts, and occasionally chlorides and bromides of silver. Native silver is also sometimes found in the quartz veins, and in order to extract it smelting must be resorted to. Very often the ore is found to be much richer in gold when combined with the base metals, than it is in its free state. In others free milling gold and silver ores are found which are easily saved by amalgamation, and concentrating works of seventy tons capacity per day. The concentrates carry about 35 per cent. lead, \$12 in gold and from 40 to 150 ounces in silver. Before being smelted they are roasted in reverberatory furnaces and are then reduced to bullion, assaying about \$850 per ton. The smelter has produced as high as 200 tons of bullion per month. The company is situated at \$3,000,000. Their mine is the deepest in the county, being 700 feet deep.

The Amazon works consist of a smelter of forty tons capacity, a ten-stamp mill and a concentrator (just erected) of forty tons capacity. The works have been developed while constructing the concentrator. They will work ores from their own mine (the Amazon) and will purchase ores from mines in the Boulder district. The districts mentioned, it will be remembered, lie on the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains and are in a granitic formation. We will now briefly refer to a few districts situated on the Rocky mountains and its ranges.

The granite formation of the Rockies extends east to Elk Horn Creek, which is about eight miles below the town of Boulder. At this point the line overlaps the granite and lime and slate continue to be the formation to the Missouri river. The leaning (so called) districts are the Elk Horn, about eight miles east of the town of Boulder, Radersburg, on Crow Creek; St. Louis, on the headwaters of Indian Creek and Beaver Creek only partly developed.

Free milling silver ore is found in several of the leading mines of the Elk Horn district, carrying more or less copper, in other galena and carbonate ores predominate. As far as developed, the leads are well defined. There is one fifteen-stamp mill in the district, and one in the Elk Horn mine. The ores are chloridized before amalgamation. The mine is worked from an incline shaft, which is down between 400 and 500 feet. This is the only developed mine in the district, but in this, as in all the other districts of the county, there are very many splendid prospects only partly developed.

In the Radersburg district a large number of small veins or lodes, carrying free milling gold ores, have been worked in arastras and small mills since 1868. The ore may be called free milling at the surface, but at a certain depth it becomes too base to be saved on the surface, and is then treated by the cyanide process. In many of the lodes, there is one fifteen-stamp mill in the district, which worked for a number of years, and made fortunes for its owners. It has been idle for some time in consequence of the baseness of the ores. Recently the mine has again been worked, and the ore taken to the smelter at Toston's Ferry, on the Missouri, for treatment. There are several very promising lodes in process of development in the district.

The ores of St. Louis district are very much like those of the Radersburg district, which it joins on the north, except that they are not so rich in silver. In the latter district, the leading mine is the Little Giant, carrying free gold ores. The company have a mill on Crow Creek. A great deal of wealth has been taken out of the mine.

The lodes of Beaver Creek district carry principally free milling gold ores. Some of the ore is going on in some of them, but the greater number are lying idle. Estimated value of all minerals produced during the year, \$1,500,000.

of over one hundred miles. Considerable work has been done on the line in this county, and the contract has been let for the completion of the road had along the Jefferson river.

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Montana City voted it away from there, and carried it to Montana City. It did not remain there very long, for soon after the removal the Radersburg placers were discovered, and prospectors and miners from all parts of the Territory flocked there in such numbers that they voted it away from Montana City, and "winched" the archives on the back of a wagon, and the packers then ranged out from there, and remained for fourteen years. In 1883, the central part of the county outvoted the eastern, and the county seat was removed to the town of Boulder, where it will probably remain permanently.

The town of Boulder is situated in a beautiful basin at the head of the lovely Boulder valley. It contains a population of about 400, fully one-half of whom have settled there within a year. It is the center of one of the largest mining belts in the Territory, all within a convenient distance of the grade-Elk Horn on the east, Little Boulder on the south, Cataract on the west, and the Boulder district on the north. The town never had a "boom." Its growth has been slow, but sure. It is a town that a railroad would benefit very much, as it would be a depot for a large extent of farming country, and all of the surrounding mining camps. It has a bright future.

NEWSPAPERS. The first newspaper printed in the county was established May 30, 1885, under the management of the notorious Platt Burr, and was called the Jefferson County Enterprise. It was printed in Helena, and after the issuance of three numbers it was discontinued.

The Jefferson County Sentinel was established by Sam. A. Robertson, in August, 1885, in the town of Boulder. A complete outfit was purchased in the East, and on its arrival in Boulder was placed in a building erected for the purpose. The first number was issued August 14, 1885, and has been published weekly since that date. It is a twenty-eight-column paper, printed in a neat and handsome appearance. It is conducted with marked ability. It is devoted principally to the material interests of the county, and will compare favorably with any local newspaper in the Territory.

E. L. BONNER & CO.

Our Annual Clearing Sale.

Why These Sales, as Conducted by Some, Have Lost Their Grip.

The Use to Which Poster Literature is Subjected.

The Success of Exact Fulfillment.

Thursday next, the 7th inst., we will begin our annual clearing sale, and we intend that it shall be phenomenal in every respect, calculated to revive a universal interest in such sales in this community.

"Half price" and such sales have lost their grip in this city because certain houses have sought to use them as a ruse to get rid of undesirable goods at higher prices than they could possibly obtain without the hurrah incident to such sales, and hence you have noticed their frequency.

Our annual sales (the great success of which has brought about the countless imitations you have all noticed) have always been, and will continue to be, conducted as to be advantageous to both buyer and seller, and the spasmodic effects of others with the results you have noticed, is a convincing proof that it requires more than simply darkening the pages of a newspaper with ingeniously worded advertisements, and puping front windows with poster literature, to draw the crowds that yearly avail themselves of an annual sale.

We know that success entirely depends on the fulfillment of every advertising promise which we may make. Our opportunities are better than ever before. The sale will be broad-based in its character, embracing new lines and attractive goods in every department.

E. L. BONNER & CO.

The Butte, Fish Creek, Silver Star and Pipestone Stages leave the St. Nicholas Hotel at 9 o'clock a. m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

CHAS. B. BURKE, Prop.

Goldsmith & Co. Can't you get out with a fine Salt or Overcoat cheaper than any house in town. Call and see them. 12-5.

A New Stock of Chinilla Coats and Vests, "Something Nice" just received at Goldsmith & Co.'s. 12-5.

REMEMBER Nothing but genuine cow butter used at the Model Restaurant, corner Madison and Park Streets, down stairs. 12-22-1m.

Walkerville Miners' Hospital is now open for the reception of patients. 12-29-11

Dr. Canney, Surgeon. 12-29-11

Four good tinny tinners for a regular dollar or eight for \$1.50. HOWEN & HAWES.

Dr. Averil extracts teeth without pain by a new process. Does not use chloroform, ether or gas, only by special request.

Milk Depot. Fresh milk for sale at J. D. Fox's, corner Park and Wyoming streets. 12-29-11.

Gentlemen whose beards are not of the tint which they desire, can remedy the defect by using Bocking's Dye for the Whiskers. 12-30-61

Black and colored G. G. Silks and Satins, at a sacrifice, at H. Barnett's selling out sale. 12-30-61

Go and see "A Fortune in Pork" at the Grand Opera House, January 5 and 6. 12-31-11

Get your matches at Alex. Cohen's at fifty cents for two dozen boxes. 11-5-11.

Gas Co.'s office Granite Street, two doors east of Mallett & Co.'s store. 9-12-11

Buy your potatoes for winter use of Alex. Cohen. 12-17

SHERIDAN AND INDIANS.

The General Fully Explains His Recent Report.

DIVIDING THE LAND

He Shows Plainly That the Indians Will Be Better Cared For Under a Change.

WASHINGTON, January 3.—In response to the request for additional information explanatory of the recommendations of his last annual report in regard to the Indian question, Lieutenant-General Sheridan has written the following report:

In my annual report for 1885, I recommended that each Indian family be given and located upon the 320 acres now provided for them by law in case of actual settlement; that the Government then condemn the remainder of such reservation, and buy it at a price not exceeding \$1.25 per acre, and with the proceeds purchase Government bonds to be held in trust by the Interior Department, giving to the Indians the interest on the bonds for their support. I cited in illustration of this suggestion in that case of the Crow Agency, Arapahoes and Utes, but the limits of my report did not permit the elucidation of the advantages that would accrue to the Indians, nor over an allusion to the large amount of land now lying idle that would thereby be opened to settlement.

and increase by so much the material property of the Nation, then it is not difficult to deal with this subject more in detail the difficulty is as once encountered, in that neither the value of the reservation, nor the population of the Indians occupying them, nor the number of the reservation, have been accurately determined nor the population of the Indians occupying them known within more than approximate limits. It is, therefore, not possible to show the exact workings of the method proposed, but only a summary covers each Territory and most populous of the different tribes. Similar statistics for the various reservations, however, included in the accompanying tables. Since the appropriations for the support of the Indians are not in every case made especially for the Indians, but rather collectively for those inhabiting some State and Territory, it is difficult to make a comparison with the sum now required for their support.

THE SUBSISTENCE OF INDIANS and annuities allowed them by treaty, the aggregate for a Territory or for several Territories, but not for a single reservation, is more than for each tribe or reservation. In Dakota the principal reservations are the Fort Berthold and those inhabited by the various bands of the Sioux. The Fort Berthold reservation, with an area of over 2,900,000 acres, has a population of 15,000 people. Lakota reservation, with an area of nearly 22,250,000 acres and a population of about 25,000. Carrying out the former plan, the annual income of nearly \$2,250,000 acres and a population of about 25,000 people, would yield an interest of over one million dollars. On two of the smaller reservations, the Lakota and the Cheyenne, an area of 276,420 acres and a population of over 1,800, nearly one-half of the land would be required by the Indians for their support, leaving the surplus would be small, being little less than \$8,000 per annum.

IN MONTANA the Blackfoot reservation contains over 21,500,000 acres and a population of less than 7,000 Indians. The surplus land, equal to the area of the State of Maine, would then return an income of \$1,000,000. The Crow reservation, mentioned in my report, could in a similar manner be made to produce an annual sum of \$225,000. Colorado has an aggregate area of over 54,500,000 acres and a population of 15,000 people. Her surplus land would yield an interest of over \$2,500,000. The appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, for fulfilling the treaties with these tribes and for their subsistence and civilization, and the payment of employees incident to such undertaking, amounts to about \$100,000 less than this sum.

THE SHOSHONE are located upon the Wind River Reservation. One hundred and seventeen thousand acres of reservation land, in Idaho, the Fort Hall reservation, occupied by Bannocks and Shoshones, would in the same way produce each year \$500,000. In Arizona, the Navajo reservation, with an area of 1,000,000 acres, would yield an interest of over \$1,000,000. The appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, for fulfilling the treaties with these tribes and for their subsistence and civilization, and the payment of employees incident to such undertaking, amounts to about \$100,000 less than this sum.

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