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GIVES HISTORY OF MONTANA

FINE ARTICLE BY C. P. CONNOLLY IN AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

If we except the missionaries and the explorers, it was gold that lured the first white men into Montana; the value of the minerals that have since been taken out of Montana's hills mounts to the enormous total of \$1,717,585,246. That sum would have probably carried on the wars of Napoleon and have left something over besides.

Today, though the great Anaconda hill at Butte is still producing its annual sixty millions of dollars in copper, it is agriculture which is luring home-seekers to the state. The latest government statistics show that one third of all the homesteads taken up in the United States in 1914 were taken up in Montana. During the last two years it has led all other states in the number of new post-offices established.

It is a land of wheat, and oats, of barley and rye, of potatoes and flax and sugar beet. Its apples are shipped direct to New York and London. The value of its agricultural products in 1915 was \$68,000,000. That isn't bad for a state where they shot buffalo in the '80's.

The railroads were put to it to carry the settlers and their household effects into Montana last year; and yet it is not improbable that in 1860 a man, or a party of men, traveling thru Montana from east to west, six hundred miles, would have failed to see another solitary white being.

There were two ruman factors in the development of Montana: one was the gold-seeker, the get-rich-quick type, who, with the spirit of the ancient adventurous Spafiards, looked for treasure in the ground; the other

was the Puritan, or Yankee, type which followed after and, ignoring the treasure in its virgin state, commercialized its products and settled in Montana.

It may with some truth be said that it was New England which pioneered the commercial development of Montana. Its early merchants were men of foresight and courage. They went into the cattle business in Montana, the idea of which was suggested to the first settlers by the numerous bands of buffaloes which roamed its valleys and fattened on its succulent grasses. They brought the hides of these cattle to Boston and manufactured them into soles. They took the wool from the backs of their sheep and brought it, also, to Boston, and made that city a great wool center. They helped develop Montana copper mines when the copper business was in its infancy. The returns from these investments built many of Boston's handsomest residences.

In the history of the human race, so far as we have any record of it, there has been no parallel to the he-gira which made the Oregon Trail vociferous with the hoarse gee-haw of the teamsters who piloted the pioneers across the plains of the "Great American Desert." In one day's ride 888 west-bound wagons, drawn by 10,650 oxen, horses and mules, were counted between Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Julesburg. In six weeks, six thousand wagons, carrying from one to four tons of freight alone, passed Fort Kearney on their way to the western horizon over plains, that, aside from the main traveled road, were as trackless as the seas—and as wide and as dangerous to the unchartered caravaneers. Children were born and died on the trail. Between the Indians and the cholera, the human toll was large. Every half mile on the long journey, which took from three to five months was dotted with a grave.

(Continued on page 16.)

BIG PREMIUMS FOR BEST COLTS

VALUABLE PRIZES OFFERED FOR FOALS AT STATE FAIR.

Believing that the colt show is one of the best schools the horse breeder can attend, the Stallion Registration Board offers special premiums in the amount of \$195.00 to encourage the colt show at the State Fair in addition to those offered by the Montana State Fair for 1916 foals. This is the first year that a special effort has been made at the fair in behalf of a colt show.

In order to compete for these premiums, the colts must be sired by stallions that are properly enrolled with the Stallion Registration Board at Bozeman, Montana.

Nominations must be made with the Stallion Registration Board at least ten days prior to the date of showing, in order that the breeding of colts may be established.

The benefits accruing from the colt shows are manifold. In the first place, the colts are given better attention from the time they are foaled. The breeders realize that not only must they use pure bred sires, but that the colts must be given the best of care. Breeders who make entries of scrubby colts are taught a lesson of good value when they place their animals in the ring with high grade stock—they return home without the blue ribbon, but with a determination to come back in the future with one that will win.

The success of any colt show does not depend alone on the cash prizes offered in premiums. It is not so much the value of the premiums secured, as the competition under which it is won. The farmers must become interested so that a large number of

entries may be secured, in order to make the colt show a success.

INSURANCE BUSINESS IS PROFITABLE

The business transacted in Montana last year by various kinds of insurance companies is the subject of some interesting data contained in the annual report of State Auditor William Keating, the figures in several cases showing a large margin of profit.

Fire insurance companies wrote \$122,627,677.48 worth of risks, received \$2,561,942 in premiums and paid in losses \$1,303,850.62.

Life insurance companies carried risks aggregating \$101,694,433, receiving premiums aggregating \$3,228,211, and incurred losses of \$909,961.

Liability companies carrying risks of employers under plan two of the compensation act, received \$145,549 in premiums and paid out \$9,573.

Considering the volume of business written by miscellaneous companies, the hail insurance concerns probably fared poorer than others. These concerns received \$155,481.65 in premiums, but paid out for losses sustained \$95,012.34.

LARGE ACREAGE UNDER WATER

Montana is not arid as it is sometimes described. If all its water-covered area were concentrated in Hill county, for instance, that division of the state would be blotted out, and the fringes of Toole, Chouteau, and Blaine as well.

The area in water would cover a tract of 120 miles long and more than 65 miles wide, according to the statisticians.

Montana is approximately 550 miles long and 275 miles wide, covering 146,080 square miles, containing 93,491,200 acres, of which 492,800 acres are under water.

MANY AUTOS IN MONTANA

MORE MACHINES TO POPULATION THAN ANY STATE EXCEPT CALIFORNIA.

Figures compiled recently concerning the number automobiles and auto trucks in use in the United States, show that more than 600,000 more machines were purchased in 1915 than in the previous year.

According to this data, Montana has 14,520 motor machines, or one for every 31 people. Pro rata she has more than any western state except California and outranks Illinois in the same regard. Montana has 3,440 machines more than the three states, having the least number. Pro rata, this state ranks eighth.

The six states having the most machines are New York, 212,844; Ohio, 179,767; Illinois, 182,290; California, 163,801; Pennsylvania, 150,729; and Iowa, 139,808.

The following states have the fewest: Nevada, 2,177; Wyoming, 3,976; Delaware, 4,927; New Mexico, 4,927; Idaho, 7,093; and Utah, 7,994.

The highest pro rata states are: Iowa, 16; California, 18; Nebraska, 21; South Dakota, 23; Kansas, 24; Minnesota, 25; and Michigan, the cradle and the home of the industry, ranks seventh with 26 persons for every car.

The states having the fewest machines per person are all southern states, nine of which have more than 100 people for each auto. The leading half dozen follow: Arkansas, 215; Alabama, 168; Mississippi, 168; Louisiana, 167; Kentucky, 121; Georgia, 117.

ORIGIN OF TERM "TWO-BITS" Explanation of the origin of the

term "bit" comes from reference to the monetary system in 1792, when the Spanish milled dollar became the unit of money. At that time there happened to be coined under Spanish authority a piece of silver for Mexico representing the eighth part of a dollar called a "real," after the name of a coin in Spain and with the same value as the early American shilling. Yankees used the shilling as a common expression and some can remember when farmers in the central and eastern states employed their extra help at so many shillings a day. Six, eight, ten and twelve shillings was heard in all lines of trade.

When adventurers went to California and the southwestern part of the United States they found that dos reales of the Mexican was the equivalent of two shillings in the United States. Later dos reales became common as a quarter. Americans have absorbed very few Mexican words. While the language is filled with German and French words, few Spanish words are found. The American never learned to say dos reales and he might have Americanized that amount by saying "two-bits". Hence it may be that "two-bits" is of the southwestern and not of eastern origin.

Not for a Nickel

It was in a country store in Arkansas.

A one-gallus customer drifted in. "Gimme a nickel's worth of asafetida."

The clerk poured some asafetida in a paper bag and pushed it across the counter.

"Charge it," drawled the customer. "What's your name?" asked the clerk.

"Honeyfunkel."

"Take it," said the clerk, "wouldn't write asafetida and Honeyfunkel for 5 cents."—Everybody's Magazine.

The Smashing Big Hit of the Year

JUNE
1 & 2

Orpheum Theatre

"FIRST WITH THE BIGGEST AND BEST—ALWAYS"

One Show
Each Night

Selig's mammoth 9-reel production of Rex Beach's famous story of Love, Romance and Adventure in Old Panama.

Produced by the same cast that made "The Spoilers" world famous.



No play of the year has met with such phenomenal success

Highest box office records have been smashed to smithereens by this great picture.

"THE NE'ER DO WELL"

Thrilling — Sensational — Spectacular

Get Your Friends Together and Come --- It's the Theatrical Event of the Year

Featuring
KATHLYN WILLIAMS
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Remember the Dates---Thursday and Friday, June 1 and 2

NO FREE LIST
ADMISSION
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One Show Each Night
Doors Open at 7:45 Pictures at 8:15