

CUSTER COUNTY, M. T.

Custer County is one of the finest cattle countrys in Northern Montana, on every side, scattered over its fertile plains, can be seen thousands of herds of cattle. The following is the assessment for the past year.

	No.	Value.
Acres of land and improvements	790,788	\$360,219
Lots and improvements	1,658	648,836
Merchandise		166,361
Sheep	44,609	89,218
Horses	15,124	596,774
Cattle	90,871	1,815,440
Hogs	137	650
Wagons and carriages	771	22,622
Money and credits		132,716
Watches and clocks	373	4,748
Musical instruments	62	4,813
Household furniture		15,304
All other property		43,270

Total assessment.....\$3,931,071

The above, as compared with 1896, shows a decrease of \$573,133, which, to a great measure, was owing to the severe losses to the heavy cattle companies whose vast herds can be seen on every hill and dale. Custer County, at the last general election, cast a total of 1,624 votes, giving Toole for Delegate to Congress a majority of 478, being the Democratic banner county, according to the number of votes cast.

CHOTEAU COUNTY.

Settled among the first of the counties of Montana, Choteau has gradually grown and increased in assessed valuation. Fort Benton, the principal city, is known as the head of navigation, and to that point all river freight for Montana must be shipped. The railroads have made a vast change in the matter of river transportation, and now the "head of navigation town," like nearly every other populous place in Montana, has railroad freights. At the last session of the legislature a portion of the County of Choteau was detached and the County of Cascade formed. But the former is yet grand in her wealth of mineral, agricultural and stock raising industries. She has 94,790 acres of land and improvements assessed, some 230,000 head of stock are assessed in the county, the total assessment of which this year is \$4,371,555, being an increase of \$790,873 over that of 1896. Choteau County has a brilliant future ahead.

DAWSON COUNTY, M. T.

Dawson County produces coal and raises cattle, sheep, and cereals. The County is well supplied with quite a number of fine schools and churches. The assessment for the present year is \$1,080,881, and in the last election for delegate to Congress it cast a total vote of 419. The County, however, sustained severe cattle losses during the past winter, which had the effect to decrease the assessment roll \$541,853. Its citizens, however, have faith in the County and will provide hereafter against severe winters by laying in a full supply of hay for their thousands of cattle. This winter, being a mild one, the cattle and sheep which are now grazing on the mountain sides will, in the spring, be rolling fat. The inhabitants can well look forward to a prosperous year the coming year of 1898.

PARNELL RIFLES, BUTTE, M. T.

The only independent military organization in Montana, is the Parnell Rifles, of Butte. It was organized in the spring of 1897, and has a membership of 90. Having refused to be mustered into the Territorial Militia, the names of the officers do not appear in the official roster, and are given here: Captain, John L. Sullivan; First Lieutenant, Daniel Kester; Second Lieutenant, Peter Burns; Orderly Sergeant, John Burns. The company uniform is of grey, modelled after that of the Seventh New York, with the exception that the facings are of green instead of black.

HAUPT, THE PHOTOGRAPHER.

One of the rising young men of Butte is Haupt, the proprietor of the New York photograph gallery, which is located on West Broadway. All his implements and materials are the most modern obtainable, and his operators genuine artists. The photographs for the cuts in THE HOLIDAY MINER were obtained from Haupt.



CATHOLIC CHURCH, ANACONDA.

BABCOCK, THE HATTER.

Nerve tells in any community and especially in the West, and if we were called upon to cite an instance of genuine business nerve, we would quote the name of Ed. Babcock, the Hatter, who has establishments both in Butte and Helena. The gentleman has lived west of the River for a long while, and for many years conducted a lucrative business in Leadville, Colorado, but the growing fame of Butte caused him to move his household gods and his material property hither. Immediately upon his arrival in the city Mr. Babcock secured a store in what may be called an out of the way location, and embarked in the exclusive business of selling hats. His stock included all manner of hats from all the leading manufacturers, and his advent marks the introduction of the high silk hat into Butte, which has since become popular among the young men. An opportunity offering, Mr. Babcock removed his establishment to one of the most centrally located and commodious buildings in the city, and doubled his stock. He still keeps an immense variety of hats and caps and in addition the finest line in gents furnishings in the West. He has also a full supply of ladies' seal and fur wraps. There were, however, other worlds to conquer, and Babcock boldly invaded the city of Helena and securing eligible quarters in the very business heart opened an establishment that equals the one in Butte to which reference has been made above. The Helena store is in charge of Babcock, the Hatter, and the Butte store is under the direction of his brother, Howard Babcock. Both are pleasant gentlemen to do business with and have made hosts of friends since their arrival in Montana, all of whom heartily congratulate them upon the deserved success that has crowned their enterprise.

SILVER BOW BREWERY—CHRIS NISLER, PROPRIETOR.

Chris Nisler is one of the old settlers of Montana, having been a continuous resident for upwards of 21 years, and is also the pioneer brewer of the West Side of the Rocky Mountains. He started in the brewing business at German Gulch in 1864, in an exceedingly modest way, with primitive and limited facilities, and as he states, "Have seen the time when I could not sell two kegs of beer per week in the whole of Butte City and adjoining country." But with characteristic pluck and perseverance for which he is noted, he continued when less courageous men would have despaired, and by enterprise, thorough knowledge of the business, and a liberal policy in conducting the same, has built up a business of enviable proportions, being to-day the most extensive brewer in the Territory.

The brewery stood on the present site of his establishment, in the then flourishing village of Silver Bow, was burned in September, 1871, and rebuilt the same year, and has since done a constantly increasing and profitable business. During the past year a new building of brick and stone has been erected. Mr. Nisler has branch houses in Butte City and Anaconda, both located on the main streets of the respective cities.

E. C. FREYSCHLAG & CO.

In August, 1895, E. C. Freyschlag & Company, with Charles Aspling as resident partner and manager, opened the only exclusive boot and shoe house in Anaconda. While others had the vantage ground, so far as relates to acquaintance, etc., the firm has constantly gained in popularity and the number of sales since the day of opening. Everything in the way of foot-wear for ladies and misses, men and boys is carried, and anyone who cannot be suited in the immense stock must be hard to please. Smelter and mining men, wood-choppers and teamsters, and all those accustomed to hard work, outdoors or indoors, will find a complete stock from which to select. A specialty is also made of childrens' school shoes, medium and fine goods, rubber goods, leather findings, and in fact everything to be found in an exclusive establishment. A specialty is made of filling orders at wholesale or retail. Another specialty is fine custom work and repairing.

JACOB OSENBRUG—EAGLE BAKERY.

The Eagle Bakery, of which a cut appears in this issue, is on the north side of Granite street, a few doors east of Main, Butte, and is as neat, complete and well stocked as one could possibly wish. The store is well filled with the choice productions of the oven, a large and well assorted stock of candies and confections of every description. The bakery is in the basement beneath the store, was constructed upon the latest and best plans, is fitted with all improved appliances and apparatus. Mr. Osenbrug is a first-class baker, and attends personally to all baking done in the establishment. He makes a specialty of wedding cakes and milk bread, of which latter he is the only producer in the camp. Keep a good look-out for the Eagle Bakery delivery wagons.

FRANK HOLLYWOOD, GRANITE.

No special commendation is needed for a special mention of Mr. Hollywood. In Granite his name is a synonym for not only a dealer in the choicest brands of wet groceries, cigars, ect., but for being the landlord of one of the best abiding places on the hill. Frank has forty nicely furnished rooms, and, while he rarely lacks an occupant for a bed, never yet found a friend but what, like the stage driver, he had "room for one more."

C. B. HOUSER & CO.

Messrs. Houser & Co., wholesale dealers in liquors, wines and cigars, have their principal places of business on East Park street, Butte, and Main street, Phillipsburg. The quality of goods in which they deal is the best inducement they can offer customers, and their large and increasing sales and patronage the most abundant evidence of what they intend to do, and will do in the future.

TOM DALY, ANACONDA, M. T.

The finest club rooms in Anaconda are those of which Tom Daly is the popular proprietor. In addition to the fine saloon, there is a restaurant that is second to none in Montana. The building is entirely new, built of brick and handsomely furnished throughout, and Mr. Daly is always on hand to greet his friends.