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# Holiday Miner.

BUTTE CITY, M. T., JANUARY 1, 1880.

## SILVER BOW COUNTY.



WHAT now constitutes the county of Silver Bow was, until 1881, a portion of Deer Lodge county. In the county are situated Butte, the county seat, South Butte, Meaderville, Centerville, Burlington, Rucker and Walkerville; the first-mentioned the center of the richest and best known of any mining district in the world. The others form suburbs of the city, and are all prosperous, flourishing places, giving employment constantly to thousands of miners, teamsters, mechanics, laborers and others engaged in the various avocations pursued in any large and thrifty community.

In area the county covers an extent of about 800 square miles, and mining, of course, is the principal industry and the source of its marvelous richness. A considerable portion of the land is devoted to agriculture, but this forms only an adjunct or accessory to the main body. So rapid has been the development of the county, and so marvelously rich the output of its mines, that although comparatively unknown six or seven years ago, and the habitation of but a few persons, today it stands without a peer, and nothing like its wonderful growth is known, even in the annals of the history of mining countries, those phenomena of enterprise, push and vigor.

But a few years have elapsed since the assessment rolls of the county showed but a few thousand dollars, while that of the year just ended shows an aggregate assessed value of nearly ten millions, as will be seen by the returns of the county assessor, which are appended.

In 1871 the placer mines—the source of the first prominence attained by the Territory now comprising the county—gave out, and its population rapidly decreased, the miners seeking other fields, and ruin and desertion began their unmistakable work. In 1874 W. L. Forlin re-located a number of claims, and began developing the black ledges near the immense Butte from which the city receives its name. Soon their true value became known, and those who had so hurriedly left the place were so eager to return, and with the miners' instinct, began to delve into the earth for the riches which laid buried there, and the existence of which was previously not known. The influx of population continued

and from a mere struggling hamlet of a few prospectors' cabins, Butte and its suburbs arose and to-day are veritable hives, teeming with a happy, prosperous and contented people.

Herewith are given the names of the present county officials who were elected at the last general election, held November 6, 1888. The republicans elected the greater portion of the ticket, the county clerk and recorder and probate judge being the only democrats who were successful.

Member of the council—William Thompson. Representatives—Lee Mantle, E. E. Congdon, W. H. Roberts. Sheriff—John E. Lloyd. Treasurer—Harry C. Kessler. Clerk and recorder—C. F. Booth. Attorney—W. H. DeWitt. Assessor—M. L. Holland. Probate judge—Caleb E. Irvine, Public administrator—George Pascoe. Superintendent of schools—Miss Mary R. Layton. Coroner—Dr. J. H. Howard. Surveyor—G. A. Kornberg. Commissioners—W. M. Jack, chairman; W. E. Hall and James Brown.

The financial condition of the county is excellent. It has no outstanding indebtedness excepting \$100,000 of bonds, issued for building a court house and jail, and \$25,000, issued several years ago to meet current expenses. The court house bonds have three years yet to run, while those of the first issue will not be subject to redemption for a much longer period. To offset this the county owns an excellent poor house and farm, a splendid court house, first-class jail, and the ground occupied by the two latter, which, with the buildings, cost \$153,001.75. An effort was made by the county commissioners last year to redeem the court house bonds, but failed, the holders refusing to let them go, even at a premium, until the expiration of the time for which they were issued, preferring to hold them as an investment, such being their faith in the county's securities.

The receipts for the year ending December 1, 1888, as shown by County Treasurer Kessler's books, were: Licenses, \$75,937.45; taxes, about \$160,000. The disbursements of the county for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1888, as shown by the books of County Clerk Booth, were \$245,486.96, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$20,884.93. This balance has been added to until now considerably over \$100,000 remain in the treasury as a surplus.

The administration of the county's affairs is in the hands of honest, competent and careful officials, who guard its interests with jealous care, who have lived in