

OUR MINING RESOURCES.

A Few Pertinent Remarks on the Subject by Mr. Choate.

FORT BENTON, December 10, 1884.
Editor of the River Press:

The want of fully understanding and appreciating the great resources of this country is the cause of the lack of confidence on the part of some people in the future of Fort Benton and northern Montana. What should be done to bring to, or make tributary to, Fort Benton a large population of consumers?

I assume and from my personal observation and experience feel confident in asserting that nowhere in the United States is there a finer surface showing of mineral than at Neihart and Snow creek. In nearly every instance where work has been done to any extent improvement has been manifest with every foot sunk on the vein or lode—a most favorable and encouraging indication.

The mining interests that lie tributary to Fort Benton, and of which I shall speak, are simply inexhaustible. Shall anything be done to help develop these mines and bring to the surface the shining and valuable ores? Of my own knowledge I know of at least seventeen mines that have fine walls and well developed veins, in any of which I can, by roasting the ore in a fire, bring silver out so it will be as large as pin heads and visible all over the specimen. It is not to be understood that the whole vein is as rich as described, but usually this streak of rich ore is from four to ten inches in width in a vein that will average from four to eight feet. Usually the rest of the lead will run from 60 to 300 ounces to the ton. I say usually because I speak of those leads that I have a knowledge of. These mines, however, are owned by poor men who are unable to develop them and ship the ores.

An experiment of shipping ores has been tried at Neihart, and the least possible expense of transportation is \$100 a ton. But even with this enormous expense returns to the amount of \$250 to \$300 a ton have been received.

If the foregoing are facts, and I stand ready to verify every one of them, why should there be a feeling of discouragement? Our mining interests are the future great source of wealth and population. The stock industry is practically nothing in comparison. If we open, or assist in opening, by building roads and otherwise aiding in the development of these mines, we bring to our doors a population of hardy and industrious miners who will require all the produce our farmers can raise, giving them a good home market.

I venture the prediction that with proper encouragement a population of 5,000 could be brought to Neihart and Snow creek in the next two years. The mines are there and only need development to bring about this result, and such a population would be all consumers and of some benefit to the community.

While I have nothing to say against any interest, it is clear to my mind that the mines adjacent to Benton are the future source of wealth and prosperity to this town, and our people are not looking to their best interests when they utterly neglect and ignore the importance of the mining district referred to, or any other that is tributary and promises like good results. G. R. CHOATE.

More Little Rocky Gold.

T. C. Power & Bro. received to-day from Thos. O'Hanlon, the merchant prince of the Little Rockies, nineteen ounces of gold, being the second lot received by the firm in the last week. As only a small portion of the gold from this camp finds its way to market through Benton it is evident that it is being taken out of the ground in no inconsiderable quantities. The cranks and croakers who have been so busy in denouncing this mining district as a bilk will be compelled to revise their accounts before many months.

Returned From the North.

Thomas Healy and Edward Flint arrived in the city yesterday from Silver City, N. W. T., where they have been the past year and are the owners of some valuable mining property. In a talk with Mr. Flint we learned that the prospect for those interested in that section is excellent, his confidence in the future of the mines being unbounded.

The Alberta company, with J. J. Healy, superintendent, have been compelled to suspend work on the tunnel on account of foul air, and are now constructing a road to the railway in order to get in machinery to prosecute the work early in the spring. The money is in the treasury to carry on this work of development, and it will be concluded as soon as possible. The tunnel is now in 250 feet, and it will have to be driven as far again to strike the lead, tapping it at a depth of 800 feet. If the lead shows well at this depth, and those interested have no doubt of it, the value of the mine is assured.

Messrs. Healy and Flint made a dis-

covery of what they think is a valuable prospect this year and have developed it by sinking a shaft some thirty feet in depth, and exposing a fine body of ore to view. They had intended to work on it this winter but snow fell before they expected it and prevented their making the necessary preparations. They will return in the spring to resume work.

J. J. Healy will probably return to spend the holidays in Benton, if he can arrange it so as to take a vacation of a few weeks.

A Correction.

Editors of the River Press: I have just been informed of a report that the Collar mine had been jumped on account of a mistake in my survey. The absurdity of the story is apparent. I have never completed the survey owing to the failure of the company to perform their part and am certainly not responsible for any mistake in the notice of location. The survey of the Oro Cache (situated within two miles of the Collar) I have completed, and will give \$50 to the party who finds my survey has located it in the wrong township. I did find a mistake in the plat which the Collar company had when I went there, and so informed the agent of the Collar company, who is now reported to have jumped the mine. I know the township as written by me in my notes to be absolutely correct. I will guarantee any survey which I make to be correct, but am certainly not responsible for the mistakes of others. This is not the first time such falsehoods have been circulated, but the malice is so evident it reacts upon the perpetrators.

H. P. ROLFE.

Official Vote for Delegate.

The canvassing board, composed of Auditor Woolman, Acting Governor Tooker and Marshal Botkin, concluded the count Tuesday for delegate, which resulted as follows:

Toole	13,584
Knowles	13,355
Toole's majority	199

A Story About Gov. Crosby.

A friend of ex-Gov. Crosby, of Montana, relates the following romantic episode in his career. When he was a young man he made a voyage on a clipper ship from San Francisco to China. The captain's wife was on board and during the long voyage a cordial liking grew between the couple and the young traveler. One evening, when the vessel was nearing her destination, the captain told Crosby that his calling was a perilous one and that he feared that if his death should occur his wife might be sadly in need of friends. He asked Crosby to promise in that event to befriend her. The young man freely made the promise, and in order that it not be forgotten the captain tattooed the mark of a heart on his arm and also on that of the lady. Many years elapsed and Crosby heard nothing of his companions of the China voyage. Finally, when in San Francisco again last summer, he inquired among some of the old merchants and learned that the captain was long since dead and that his widow, son and daughter were living in Washington territory. He telegraphed them to meet him in Portland, and had the satisfaction of being able to be of some substantial service to them. The Gov. still carries the mark on his arm, and the narrator of this incident compared it with that on the lady's arm at a dinner table in Portland when the reunion of the old friends was celebrated over a bottle of champagne.

Charges Against Marshal Botkin.

WASHINGTON, December 6.—Senators Sabin and McMillan have united in a request on the president that he remove A. C. Botkin, marshal of Montana, for misdemeanor in office, principally in connection with the Deer Lodge penitentiary. Attorney General Brewster has sent a special agent to Montana to take evidence in the matter of charges filed by ex-Governor Crosby last month.

The Chicago Election Fraud.

CHICAGO, December 8.—Joseph C. Mackin, secretary of the Cook county democratic central committee, was arrested this evening on complaint of A. M. Day, Secretary of the citizens committee, which has undertaken to unearth the frauds in the 6th legislative district of this state—H. W. Lemman and Randolph Brand, being the republican and democratic candidates respectively. The complaint charges Mackin with aiding some unknown person or persons, about November 21, in substituting over 200 fraudulent ballots for a like number of genuine ones cast at the second precinct of the 18th ward at the election of November 4th, last. Mackin was taken before U. S. Commissioner Hoyne and held in \$10,000 bail for a preliminary examination next Saturday. M. C. McDonald and E. J. Lehman became his bondsmen.

THE PROMISED LAND.

A Cowboy's Opinion of the Great Grazing Lands of the Northern Reserve.

A Meadow of 40,000 Acres in One Stretch—The Place to Look for Homes and Stock Ranges When the Reserve is Opened.

The Messrs. Lang Bros., of Miles City, with a number of their cowboys, had occasion recently to take a ride into the upper Milk river region and were simply delighted with the country seen. One of the party gave an account of their travels to the Stock Grower's Journal, from which we make the following extracts:

Several weeks since Messrs. G. W. Lang and John Lang, with several of their cowboys—of whom the writer is one—having occasion to ride over a large scope of country north of the Missouri, some account of that region may interest parties looking for range.

Swimming their saddle ponies and pack animals across the Missouri near the mouth of Hell creek and crossing themselves in a skiff, the party followed up a dry creek for a time, and turning almost northeast entered a bad lands country, rolling but not very rough, scantily grassed, with little pools of very bitter water. Nearing Milk river after two days' ride, this almost desert region changed abruptly to the finest grasses of all Montana kinds, with abundant shelter for cattle. Along Milk river are vast stretches of fertile loam, covered with a growth of sunflowers, always an indication of warm, rich soil. Milk river is well timbered with cotton wood for building and fencing. Its water is abundant and pure, but near its lower end its banks for several days' ride are too steep and miry for cattle to water at all. Several days' ride up-river the banks became sandy and firm. It receives here a number of tributary creeks, whose pure, clear water ripples over pebbly, firm bottoms. The further up-river one rides the better becomes the country for grazing. This season thousands of tons of hay could have been cut there in every direction.

Nearing the Indian reservation of Belknap the party discovered(?) a lake about twelve miles long, and seemingly deep and well stocked with fish. Around this lake was the best summer range the writer ever saw.

At Belknap, in charge of Maj. Lincoln, the Indians this season raised an abundant crop of cereals, hay and roots; corn about 50 bushels per acre; saw there 26 potatoes weighing 60 lbs. The Indians have a surplus of 7,000 bushels more than they will need for winter use. They will have snug shacks built, their ponies are increasing, are hog fat, and they seem to be content under Maj. Lincoln's rule. Further on the Gros Ventres occupy a perfect paradise of a stock region. At the time our party passed (October 14th-18th) the bunch grass was green and luxuriant.

At Fort Assinaboine, reputed to be the finest, best built garrison in the northwest, we learned that cattle and horses always wintered well there and come out fat in the spring. Contractor Broadwater's work steers and mules running near the post were grass fat at the time of our visit. At this time we were only 35 miles from the British line, but although in October, the nights were frosty and the days deliciously pleasant.

Turning southward we passed along the eastern base of Bear's Paw mountains, among creeks and lakes and beautiful meadows without number, the great features being abundant feed, fine shelter and pure, running water.

But in the basin between Bear's Paw and the Little Rockies as far as the eye could reach lay the finest grazing region seen. The weather was getting sharp, but flowers were in bloom by the roadside, and this in the latter part of October. If any reader thinks we exaggerate the worth of the Little Rockies as a grazing region let him see it himself. He'll be converted.

Turning eastward from the Little Rockies we rode extensively over another splendid grazing region, well watered by what we believe to be the Conchetto, the Fourchette and Beaver creeks, though we are not certain of these names, none of us having been in that country before. Further southeast we traveled the greater part of one day over a long meadow which must have contained at least 40,000 acres of good hay land. Then turning into the bad lands and broad bottoms along the Missouri, we sought our original crossing place at Van Buren's near the mouth of Hell creek.

In concluding this article it is necessary to state that all that fine grazing region north of the Missouri to the British line is Indian reservation at present, on which no cattle except contractors' are allowed to graze. But it is believed that the reservation will be thrown open for settlement early this winter. If so, and any reader needs a home or a stock range, take our word for it and see the country north of the Missouri before locating elsewhere.



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