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WHAT IS THERE TO MAKE A CITY HERE AT LIBBY?

We Talk Glibly of Mining and Lumbering, and Incidentally of Farming. This Last the Perpetual Wealth Producer.

What is there here to make a city? is a question often asked by the visitor, and we talk glibly of our mining and our lumbering and incidentally of our farming.

To get down to hard facts, we all know that the potential wealth of the community must be in agriculture, as it is everywhere. When favored by nature in addition with great stores of mineral and great bodies of merchantable timber, it is indeed a fortunate combination for any section and will build a city, wherever the hand of man turns these gifts of nature to use and to profit.

The one resource least talked of and the least exploited here, though the greatest of the trinity of wealth producers, is agriculture, and we propose to give in this article the hard facts and will use by way of illustration the land directly across from Libby, comprising an area the farthest point of which is not more than a 30-minute drive from town.

The territory embraced within Pipe and Bobtail creeks, from their headwaters to the Kootenai bank, comprises a compact body of 12,000 acres of as fine farming land as can be found outdoors. The wealth of this section, stated in cold figures, is startling, and would be scarcely

believed unless the facts were reduced to details.

The timber alone in this area, from careful cruising, reaches a total of 150 million feet board measure of mature yellow pine, larch and fir. At the present stumpage price the timber represents a value of more than one-half million dollars.

When manufactured it will represent a value of more than two million dollars.

As the lumbermen's profit in good times is estimated at less than 20 per cent, the remainder, or more than one and a-half million dollars, goes directly to our own people.

These are conservative figures, and represent simply the initial wealth of the land in the area given which will be distributed at home in paving the way for the more enduring wealth to come from the soil.

A detailed description of the agricultural features will be interesting.

The low bench along the river comprises about 2,000 acres. The soil is enriched by the deposits from the river and is a rich, sandy loam, suitable for all kinds of crops grown in a temperate zone, and no irrigation is required.

The second bench, about 200 feet above the river, comprises 3,000 acres and has exceptional agricultural value. The soil is a rich, black, sandy loam with a clay subsoil. All kinds of crops

A Detailed Description of One Small Section Lying at Libby's Front Door. Twelve Thousand Acres of Rich Soil Under Ideal Conditions. Will Afford 600 Families a Profitable Business. Farthest Point Only 30-Minute Drive from Trading and Shipping Point.

can be grown without irrigation.

The highest bench, a gently sloping area of 2,000 acres, is 300 feet above the river. The soil is a sandy loam with fine gravel and clay subsoil. All crops may be grown and it is especially suitable for fruit. Irrigation would be beneficial, though not necessary save in exceptional years.

The balance of the area comprises about 5,000 acres of bottom land along the valleys of Bobtail and Pipe creeks. The soil is made up of creek deposits and is a black, sandy loam, suitable for all kinds of crops.

The level character of the land and condition of the soil make road building easy. In fact, the principal expense would consist of cutting out the roadway, and the farthest point of the tract would be but a 30-minute drive from Libby.

Should irrigation be desired, this also may be secured for the entire area under the most favorable circumstances and at small cost. At the north edge of the land the waters of Pipe and Bobtail creeks are on a level with the high bench land noted above. By the construction of a short flume water

may be diverted from Pipe creek and carried to the large area lying east of Pipe creek at a cost of less than \$10 per acre. The land lying west from Pipe creek may be irrigated from either Pipe or Bobtail for a much less cost per acre.

It has been demonstrated that 10 acres of land in this valley will produce crops which will net a profit of over \$100 per acre. Under intensive modern methods of farming the land may be made to produce more than the above figure. It is a known fact that fruit lands in the state of Washington, where the conditions are less favorable, are netting profits double the above figure.

But assuming a profit of \$100 per acre, to be well within the limit of conservatism, it means that this 12,000 acres would produce annually, if cultivated properly, over one million dollars. It would mean that 600 families, each occupying 20 acres, could conduct a profitable business, surround themselves with the comforts of suburban life and the farthest residents distant but a 30-minute drive from their trading and shipping point.

Think of it! A million dollars dumped into Libby every year—six hundred prosperous families at our front door!

About 3,000 acres of this land has been listed to settlers by the forest service and it is likely the timber will be removed therefrom in the very near future. The remaining 9,000 acres is owned by lumber companies. Of these owners, the one belonging at home, the Libby Lumber company, is putting all of its land upon the market as fast as cut, and at a very reasonable price, and intend taking off the Pipe creek timber in the very near future. The other companies, non-resident owners, have not yet agreed to part with their land, but the Libby Commercial club is negotiating with them and hopes soon to have satisfactory assurances that the land will become marketable within a short time.

The land is becoming so valuable that these foreign companies cannot afford to pay their just taxes upon it and continue much longer to leave it lie idle. Hon. Jas. Wilson, secretary of the interior, during a visit here last year, said the raw land alone in this valley was worth \$100 per acre for fruit and truck farming.

We have cited the Pipe creek area simply as one illustration of what the future has in store for Libby upon which to base her hopes for city growth. It is but a fractional part, and a small one at that, of the agricultural wealth

This Will Be the Home of the Acreage Farmer, Where Intensive Cultivation Will Make the Highest-Priced Lands.

surrounding the town. For miles upon miles the country back of town stretches up Libby and Fisher valleys and over into the Pleasant Fisher section—sixty miles of wonderfully rich soil. The natural crop of timber is worth millions; the natural crop of metals is worth other millions; the perpetual crop of agriculture can scarcely be estimated in figures.

When the Libby district is mentioned we think of mining and lumber, but the forest service has a map of the agricultural lands tributary to Libby, made up from the field work of its cruisers, and the total is amazing.

Libby's future is assured. The natural resources are here. The climatic conditions are good. Fuel and water are abundant. Land will never again be as cheap as it is today.

Some of the highest-priced acreage in the northwest will be found here.

It is only when we go into detail that we can grasp an idea of the dormant wealth just coming into life in the beautiful valley of the Kootenai.

If anyone asks you what there is here to make Libby a city, tell them.

Tell them the facts.

Interesting Batch of Troy Notes

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Mrs. H. W. Rouse returned from Bonners Ferry Thursday, where she has been visiting the past week.

Jesse Cripe and sister, Mary, were Bonners Ferry visitors last week.

F. M. Gosswiler and son made a business trip to Spokane Thursday of last week, returning Friday.

Miss Verris McKnight, who has been visiting with her friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Doonan, left for Everett, Wash., Saturday, where she will visit her sister, Mrs. J. H. O'Neil.

Leo Greenough, who has been here the past two weeks looking after mining interests, left for Spokane Saturday.

Percy Kidder, who was accidentally shot in the shoulder a short time ago, went to Bonners Ferry Monday for further medical aid, returning the next day much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Walker of Sylvanite are Troy visitors this week. Mr. Walker has a contract to saw the lumber for the Lincoln Gold Mining company, which is to be used for the construction of a new stamp mill later.

Ernest Redeye and Stirl Thornton made a trip to the county seat Tuesday, returning the next day. Rumor is out that Ernest got a marriage license. How about that?

Born to Mr. and Mrs. George Gladwyn, Monday, a nine-pound milkmaid. George is happy over the new arrival.

Misses June and Hazel Roberts

entertained the young ladies of the Auxiliary club Wednesday. A pleasant time is reported.

Assistant Forest Supervisor W. A. Raymond of Libby was a Troy visitor Tuesday looking after the interests of the forestry department.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Martin left for Spokane and Wallace, Idaho, Tuesday, to visit old friends.

F. B. Callow went to Spokane Monday on important business.

The Iola club gave another private dance last Friday. A very enjoyable time is reported. Supper was served at the Windsor hotel for the guests.

Miss Estella Milnor of Eureka was called home Friday on account of the serious illness of her father, who was reported very low. She returned to Eureka Sunday, on which date her father was much improved.

Claude Houghton was a Troy visitor this week. Many friends were pleased to see him.

The Great Northern Railway company has been testing the mineral resources in the vicinity of Kootenai Falls the past week by placer mining. Arthur B. Corey of Butte had charge of the work, assisted by Wm. Hogan and Chas. Drake. Mr. Corey left for Great Falls Friday.

V. A. Sather made a trip to Bonners Ferry this week.

The secretary of the interior has decided, in a case arising from a contest, that residence and cultivation of a homestead must be made by the heirs of a claim holder who dies before his time of residence is up.

W. H. Graham has started his drill on his placer ground, recently purchased of Mr. Criderman, and will operate until spring.

PETITIONS OUT FOR PROGRESSIVE LAWS.

Timothy Miller has four petitions covering important progressive legislation, which you are invited to sign, the intention being to call out a vote upon them at the next general election under the initiative and referendum law of the state. One petition provides for a direct primary law similar to the Oregon law; a second calls for instructions to legislators by the people which shall be binding; a third provides for a popular expression as to presidential preference, and the other is a corrupt practices measure.

All four have the backing of the People's Power league of Montana, an organization which is moving to secure the enactment of important reform measures that the legislature, through indifference or design, fails to pass. All progressive citizens should sign these petitions so that we may have the opportunity to vote them in. Take a few minutes off and call on the judge at his office and put down your signature if you are in favor of these reform laws.

LIKES MINING DISTRICT.

Whitefish Pilot: Nick Murphy returned last week from the mines about 45 miles south of Libby. Nick says the prospects are very promising for receiving abundant returns. He, with C. G. Hall and others, has been putting in machinery and getting ready to take out ore as soon as the weather will permit in the spring.

It has been a rather expensive undertaking, as all the machinery had to be packed in from Libby 45 miles, which was a difficult as well as an expensive job. But there is little to fear but what they will get their money back many fold.

GOVERNMENT SLEUTHS WORKING OVERTIME.

Roundup, Mont., Tribune: Handsome rewards will be given by the United States government to any one of its spies who succeed in beating a homesteader out of his place. While not successful in any case in this vicinity, thousands of dollars have been expended by the government detectives in their efforts to catch some homesteader driving a delivery wagon or working in a ditch or something to enable them to oust him from his farm.

When the last heel of bacon is gone, and the last spoonful of beans is eaten, the homesteader has the delicious knowledge that if a special agent catches him working for another grubstake he will be contested forthwith; and also will have to pay one-half of the cost of hearing.

This is not in any sense preaching lawlessness. The homestead laws intend fairly enough to compel the occupation and development of the country by those who are getting the land, but the residence requirements are too strict when they prevent a man from working to get money to improve his place. These miserable agents are sap-headed college graduates, appointed to good salaries through the favoritism of some old judge or other in the east. If they were farmers, or men of some sort of business experience, they would not do any harm. As it is, it seems a shame they should be paid good money that would buy so much bacon and beans.

Kalispell Journal: W. J. Beager, who was formerly manager of the American Kootenai Mining company of Libby, and who has hosts of friends all over Flathead and Lincoln counties, was married the

first of the week in Ohio. He will arrive in this city today for a visit with his niece, Mrs. Rube Sparling, and family. He will also visit with his sister, Mrs. Wm. Mooring, near Columbia Falls, before going to his home in Seattle. Mr. Beager will be welcomed and congratulated by his many friends in this city.

TWO BOUND OVER.

The case of the State vs. Fred Marvel, on complaint of T. J. Handley, the charge being assault in the first degree, came up before Judge Hoffman Saturday. Both live at Rexford and are near neighbors. The trouble arose over a fence being taken down by Marvel, it is alleged, causing stock to trespass on Handley's ground, and in an altercation Marvel drew a gun and threatened to shoot complainant, all of which is denied by defendant. The judge decided to hold defendant in \$300 bonds.

Last Monday morning Judge Hoffman heard the case against Frank Gagnon, charged with stabbing Jack Stewart. Defendant's plea was self defense. He was also held to answer and bonds fixed at \$300.

A. F. Hill, special field agent of the bureau of statistics for the United States department of agriculture, covering the states of Montana and Idaho, has given out some interesting figures which forecasts the agricultural future of Montana.

Taken as an average all over the state, his report shows that the production of winter wheat this year averages 31.7 bushels to the acre, and in the quality scores 95 out of a possible 100 points. The significance of this wonderful yield is shown in the average given for the entire United States, which is only 14.5 bushels per acre.

Other crops for Montana average this year as follows: Spring wheat 25.2 bushels per acre, oats 49.2, barley 36.5, hay two tons per acre. These averages are all for this year.

News 16 Years Ago This Week

(Items culled from old Troy Times.)

The weather for the week ending Nov. 14 showed an average mean temperature of 35 degrees. The coldest point was 23 above and the warmest was 50 above. Snow, a trace.

The Inter Lake absorbed the Graphic at Kalispell.

Bill Gay, known by all oldtime Black Hillers, of whom there are a number in this section, was found guilty of murder in the first degree at Helena. Gay had killed Deputy Sheriff Macke in the spring of '93 while a member of a posse in pursuit of Gay. The outlaw escaped and was captured a year later in California. In the early days of the Black Hills Gay killed a young man, for which he served a short term.

E. L. Preston was running the levels for a flume and pipe line from the Lake creek falls to the town of Troy.

The U. S. States supreme court handed down a decision that a homesteader could not sell timber off his land until he had secured patent, and if he did he was liable to criminal prosecution.

Billy Richards was bound over at Kalispell on the charge of setting fire to the Great Northern bridge near Columbia Falls during the A. R. U. strike flurry.

The civil action of D. T. Wood & Son vs. the Troy Chamber of Commerce, came up before Judge Erickson yesterday, and was dismissed. J. W. Scott appeared for plaintiff and B. F. Maiden for the defendant.