

**MONTANA'S ARABLE LANDS.**

An Agricultural as Well as a Stock Producing Country.

The Bench Lands the Coming Wheat Fields of the West.

So much has been written of the live stock interests of Montana, and so little has hitherto been known of its best agricultural lands, that it is generally understood in the East to possess no resources worth mentioning as a farming country. The valleys of the upper Missouri, the Gallatin, the Madison, the Jefferson, and also the Deer Lodge, have been known for a number of years as fertile agricultural sections, but it is only within a short time that the immense agricultural capacity of Northern Montana has begun to be appreciated. In fact it has just ceased to be an Indian and buffalo country. Four years ago, five or six different tribes of Indians were chasing buffalo in the Judith Basin where to-day are the homes of hundreds of prosperous farmers and stockmen.

That part of Montana bounded on the west by the Rocky and Belt mountains, and extending as far east as the 109° of longitude, and lying between the Missouri and Marias rivers on the north, and the Musselshell river on the south, possesses more and better agricultural lands than can be found elsewhere in Montana. This area embraces about 30,000 square miles of territory, and is but little traversed or broken by mountain ranges. It is divided into valleys and bench lands. The valleys though rich and fertile, like the other valleys of Montana, cannot generally be successfully cultivated without irrigation. This territory, however, more than any other, is favored with large streams and an abundant supply of water.

The important feature of this part of Montana, is its extensive table lands, which have been found within the past two or three years to be excellent wheat land without the aid of irrigating canals and ditches, and when cultivated the same as the wheat lands of Dakota and Minnesota. The old timers of this section, like the old settlers of California and Washington territory, have been slow to believe that any land in Montana can be cultivated successfully without irrigation. It is now, however, a settled fact that vast stretches of bench or table land in this part of Montana, will, one year with another, produce wheat averaging from twenty-five to fifty bushels to the acre.

The Highwood farmers on the benches twenty miles from this place, have grown large crops of wheat during the past two or three years. Last year, which was not particularly favorable, gave them a yield of about forty bushels to the acre. A farmer of large experience from that section told me last fall that he considered the benches of this part of Montana the best wheat lands he had ever seen in any country, and that his experience had demonstrated that they would produce large yields of wheat and oats with only the natural supply of moisture. Let any man driving from Great Falls to Fort Benton, on either side of the Missouri river, note everywhere the rich soil and abundant grasses. He will see no sage brush and no alkali land. If he examines the soil he will find it mellow and well mixed with silica, the "grist of the mountains,"—so essential to the rapid growth of grain and to the retention of moisture. These are some of the fine wheat lands of Northern Montana. Because you see no cultivated farms or fields of grain, do not condemn these lands the same as we condemned the rich prairies of Northern Minnesota and Dakota, a few years ago. Remember that the wave of immigration is still moving westward, and will soon cover this country, and that these unoccupied lands will become the homes of thousands of industrious people. I am aware that my statements are contrary to the traditions of this country at the base of the Rockies, and at variance with the numerous accounts given by correspondents, but those who have written of Montana's resources know little or nothing of that part of Montana whose boundaries I have given.

The bench lands that stretch from Sand Coulee to Belt creek and to Highwood creek, and also from the Highwood to Fort Benton, cannot fail to become great grain-producing sections. For immediate settlement, those lands lying within a convenient distance of the Sand Coulee and Belt creek and districts are especially desirable, cheap and abundant fuel being always an important factor in successful agriculture. Farmers who take up and occupy these lands can not only raise large crops of grain and vegetables, but they can, from the unlimited summer and winter pasturage, make stock growing an important branch of their business. These valuable lands can now be taken under the Pre-emption and Homestead acts, some of the choicest tracts being within five to ten miles of Great Falls, the coming milling center of Montana.

Colonies of settlers looking for homes in the New Northwest would do well to send agents to carefully

examine these unoccupied lands. It will be but a short time before roads will enter this country, attracted by the great coal fields and the rich mining districts of the Belt mountains. There will never again be as favorable a time as the present for securing these choice lands of northern Montana. P. A. GINSO. SPRAY OF THE FALLS.

The machinery for the roller flouring mill, now being built for Chown & Jenson, at this place, will be shipped at Minneapolis within thirty days.

The church fair at Sun River, on the 2d and 3d inst., was a financial success, the total receipts being over \$500. Miss Ella Brownson was voted the most popular lady and was awarded the crazy quilt, a handsome piece of needlework. Honor came where honor was due in this instance.

Skeptics and those with ponderous intellects who have any doubts as to the future of Great Falls, might probably be benefited by a visit to the place and an examination of the many advantages nature has bestowed upon it, and also the varied resources which surround it, and of which it is the natural and practical center.

J. J. Hill is expected here soon, accompanied by an eminent hydraulic engineer who will make a careful survey of the rapids and falls in order to determine the best plan for the improvement of the water power. Mr. Hill being the owner of a large part of the water power at Minneapolis, and having had much experience in constructing canals and dams at that place, will be apt to commence the work here on a most permanent and substantial basis.

Helena, always alive to any interest which will in any way benefit her, is clamoring for a shorter route to Great Falls than that offered by the present road. It is claimed a wagon road can be made over the Bird Tail divide leading into Sullivan's valley, thence down the Missouri river to a point just above the mouth of Sun river where a ferry could be operated. Parties claim it will shorten the distance from fifteen to twenty miles between the two points, and that the road will in every respect be better than the present one. It is probable a practical engineer will shortly go over the route to determine its feasibility and the probable cost of putting it in good condition.

In the vicinity of Great Falls are found almost unlimited quantities of varied building stone of the finest quality. One variety, in particular, of a brownish color, is of a remarkably fine grain, susceptible of a polish nearly equal to that of marble. Several parties from the east, after a careful examination, state that as regards beauty of finish and durability it surpasses the famous so-called brown stone so extensively used by those whose wealth will admit, in building in the east. This stone is easily quarried and is found in sufficiently large quantities as to make it probable that with the advent of a railroad it will find a market in all the eastern cities, where its great beauty will give it a value which will place it alongside the many other resources of northern Montana.

**PERSONALS.**

George Westerfelt has returned from a short visit in Helena.

H. O. Chown left last week for Minneapolis, where he will remain about one week.

J. H. McKnight, of the firm of J. H. McKnight & Co., of Fort Shaw, has returned from an extended trip east and south.

Mrs. S. A. Ink, of Green Spring, Ohio, is here visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Will Hanks, and will remain during the summer.

A. B. Keeler, a representative of that sprightly paper, the River Press, accompanied by Mrs. Keeler, was in this section a few days the past week, and favored us with a call.

James Gibson, well known throughout this section of Montana, was married to Miss Jennie Fleetwood, on the 3d instant. We join his many friends in wishing him a pleasant journey through life in double harness.

**THREE BOOKS GIVEN AWAY.**

We will send the following three books free: LADIES PRIVATE COMPANION, a complete medical advisor, for women, illustrated and bound in cloth, (former price \$1); FEN AND CANDY, a 48 page book telling how to make over 100 kinds of candies and other sweet things, handsomely bound (former price 50 cts); and LADIES GUIDE TO FANCY WORK, a Practical Instructor in all kinds of Art Matters, containing 64 large 4-column pages, over 200 handsome illustrative engravings, and well bound, to any lady who sends 50 cts for six months trial subscription to THE HOUSEWIFE, a large 16 page journal devoted to Fashions, Fancy Work, Art, Recreation, How to Cook, and Household Matters. If you will receive all the above, and we will send you an elegant Hand Mirror. For club of 50 we give a Ladies' Gold Watch. Address THE HOUSEWIFE PUBLISHING CO., Nunda, N. Y.

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**Horses Taken Up.**

Trace horses 14 bands high, branded O K on left hind leg, and K on left hip, with saddle marks. Sorel mare, white hind foot brand D on left shoulder. For particulars, apply to DAVIS & GIBSON, the old

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**Notice of Final Entry.**

LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, M. T., April 6, 1885.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before John P. Dyer, Notary Public, at Ullida, Montana, on May 10th, 1885, viz: Charles H. Sullivan, who made pre-emption D No. 6221, for lot 21, NE 1/4, SW 1/4, sec 2, tp 18, - of R 1 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Charles I. Johnson, Augustus Wadsworth, George Finckelson and Eusebius P. Butler, all of Ullida, Montana. E. ADKINSON, Register.

**Notice of Final Entry.**

LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, MONT., April 6, 1885.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before John P. Dyer, Notary Public in and for Chouteau county, M. T., on May 22, 1885, viz: Nelson Finckelson, who made pre-emption D. S. No. 504 for the N 1/2 NW 1/4 NE 1/4, section 15, township 28, North 1/2 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Edw. J. Osgood, Matthew Moore, William Morrow, Myron B. Burd, all of Chouteau, M. T. E. ADKINSON, Register.

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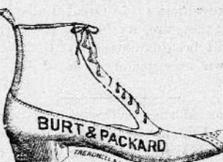
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