

H. E. BURCH

R. R. HOTCHKISS

# BURCH & HOTCHKISS, Dealers in Heavy, Shelf & Builders Hardware.

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**English and American Cutlery,**  
Iron, Steel, Blacksmith's Goods, Carpenter's Tools.  
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**Farm Implements,**  
**and Machinery**  
Of All Kinds.  
**Sporting Goods, Blasting and Sporting Powder.**  
ALL KINDS OF TIN WORK DONE TO ORDER.  
Stone Block, Great Falls.

## OUR BUSINESS MEN

Also a Comprehensive Table Showing the Improvements Made in Great Falls During the Past 8 Months.

The promising town of Great Falls is situated at the famous series of falls of the Missouri river, one hundred miles north of Helena and forty miles south of Benton. It is beautifully located at a graceful curve of the river, which quietly washes three sides of it. Upon the broad, sloping bench-lands, where now the townsite is laid out, countless herds of buffalo roamed at will less than ten years ago. Here too, the ferocious grizzly, the superb elk and the coy antelope made their rendezvous. These attractions, together with the matchless scenery in this vicinity, could not fail to make it the happiest of hunting-grounds for the wild children of nature. Traces of the departed tribes of Indians still remain in the myriads of circles of stone, once the foundations of their rude, temporary abiding places. Here and there the assiduous relic hunter is rewarded with finds of hammers, arrow-heads, knives, tomahawks and pieces of primitive earthen-ware used and abandoned by the nomadic red-man.

Less than six years ago the exact location of the falls was scarcely known to a score of people in Montana.

Two years ago now, the only evidences of civilization on the townsite were three tents pitched by the side of the river on Broadwater bay, which spreads out its smooth surface at the foot of town; offering an irresistible invitation to all lovers of boating.

One year ago there were half a dozen shanties, the most pretentious edifices which had ever appeared above ground on this side of the river for many miles around.

Let us now stroll about and examine some of the improvements which have been made in Great Falls during the past nine months by our population which has increased to 500 inhabitants in spite of the fact that no effort has been made by the proprietors of the townsite to boom the place. They have never offered any special inducements to any one to come here. People arrive, look the place over and are so impressed with the resources and consequent certain future greatness that they either remain and go into business or invest in property, all of which they know will prove highly remunerative.

The first substantial building erected in Great Falls; was the office of the Company, in which, busily works Mr. Paris Gibson, the founder of the "future great" and the presiding genius of its present future. To his foresight, breadth of mind and sterling character, Northern Montana is more indebted than to that of any other man. Backed by J. J. Hill, the R. R. giant and a syndicate of other progressive, moneyed kings—the possibilities of a town so generously endowed with natural gifts are simply infinite.

### OUR MILLS.

The Cataract mill was erected at the upper rapids in the spring of 1885, by Chown & Jennison and operated by H. O. Chown, resident partner, until the spring of 1886, when it merged into a corporation known as the Cataract Mill Co. It is one of the best equipped mills in the Northwest and is the only flour-mill in Northern Montana. To it, may be justly attributed the credit of demonstrating to the world that the bench-lands are superior to the bottoms for producing wheat and other cereals without irrigation. Previous to its advent, wheat was grown in this vicinity only to feed chickens and swine. The successful production of wheat upon the bench-lands has greatly enhanced their value. The mill furnishes a ready market for the wheat and in

turn, provides a first-class flour for local consumption. Thus the money is kept in the country and the producer gets the full benefit of his toil instead of relinquishing a large share of it to the eastern manufacturer. Specimens of the Cataract flour have been tested by experts in Minneapolis and reported as averaging well with any brands sent them for inspection. The season just past has been one of unprecedented drouth in Montana as well as in Dakota and Minnesota, in consequence of which our wheat supply has been considerably curtailed. We feel safe in saying, however, that in any five consecutive years, the wheat crop of Northern Montana will be as often successful as in any of the great cereal producing states or territories of the union.

### THE FIRST

#### SAW MILL.

was built and operated by Ira Myers & Co., who have done much toward the building up of the town. They began sawing logs before they had a building and have shown commendable enterprise in establishing an extensive lumber business. They now have an excellent plant and employ a large force of men.

The millionaire firm of A. M. Holter & Bro., have a large lumber-yard and planing-mill, which adds to the material interests of the town by turning out first-class work and employing a goodly number of men. Their business here is under the management of the capable and accommodating Chas. Wegner.

#### HOTELS.

The Park hotel is good enough for any city. To its excellent accommodations we are pleased to direct the stranger within our gates, whether he be a crown-prince or any other man with refined gastronomical tastes. With commendable foresight, Messrs. Gibson & Chown began the erection of the building early last spring and in spite of the difficulties of transporting materials have a hotel complete in all its appointments. The building is two and one-half stories in height and has a frontage of one hundred feet on Central Ave. and fifty feet on Park Drive. It is encircled by inviting piazzas, upon which the weary traveller may quietly enjoy his post prandial Havana and awake from his siesta to a full view of the winding Missouri, its placid bay and boisterous rapids; with the main range of the Rockies, the Big and Little Belt and the Highwood mountains in the back-ground. The Park has thirty rooms, with as many more unfinished ones in reserve. Early next spring and addition will be built which will nearly double its present capacity. This hotel is provided with a full retinue of efficient servants. The furniture is neat and well chosen. There is not a shabby thing about the entire premises. D. C. Elhart, the proprietor, well-known in the West from his more than acceptable services as Ass't. Supt. of the N. P. dining car services and proprietor of the Metropolitan hotel, at Jamestown, D. T., has no superior anywhere, as a hotelman. He possesses that rare gift of causing all the intricate machinery of a first class hotel to move like clock-work; and of making himself agreeable to all his guests without being obsequious.

Spitzley & Ringwald are the popular proprietors of the Cascade Restaurant which is doing a thriving business in feeding the multitudes with the best the market affords.

The Higgins House is still running with good patronage, likewise the Pioneer Hotel of which Paul Grellman is proprietor.

#### STORES.

Murphy, Maclay & Co., one of the heaviest firms in the west, are the pioneer general merchants of Great Falls. Their establishment here is a branch of their mammoth mercantile house at Helena and Benton. They occupy a mammoth stone building well stored with all the choicest lines of goods which are usually

found in a general store. W. P. Wren is their efficient and courteous manager here.

The widely and favorably known firm of J. H. McKnight & Co., have laid the foundation for an immense stone building to be completed and occupied by them early next spring with a stock of general merchandise. Mr. McKnight, whose principal store is at Ft. Shaw, is one of the most able and popular men in the territory.

W. S. Wetzel, formerly of Benton, has magnificent quarters in the new stone building on Central avenue where he carries on an extensive wholesale and retail liquor and cigar business.

C. P. Thomson is the first dry goods merchant at Great Falls. He is in every-way adapted to succeed, having a thorough knowledge of the business, ample capital and a fine line of goods.

Beachley Bros. & Hickory carry a stock of confectionary, cigars, tobacco stationery and notions.

The clothing business is well represented by "Harris of Helena, the clothier," whose Great Falls branch is conducted by his efficient brother M. Harris. The other clothing store is that of A. Nathan, well known in Montana, having extensive establishments at Butte and Benton.

Ben. Lapeyre holds down the drug business in the best of shape.

Burch & Hotchkiss are the hardware merchants of this town and are doing a fine business at their new stand in the stone building.

Gibbons & Stubbs, saddlery and harness are being well rewarded for their energy and enterprise, by a large patronage.

Hamilton & Eaton, proprietors of the Eclipse Livery and T. W. Murphy of the Great Falls Livery cover the field in their line.

C. N. Dickinson does a rushing meat business.

Albrecht & Knight carry a full line of furniture and house decorations.

Dunlap & Mitchell, successors to Dunlap & Arthur deal out groceries and hardware to the people at the south end of town.

There are two tonserial emporiums in town, Messrs. Moore & O'Brien, on First avenue south and T. G. Mayo at the Park hotel.

#### CONTRACTORS.

Hubert Morin, C. P. Downing, Wm. Roberts, Ed. Canary, J. N. Bridges and Chas. Remp.

#### PLASTERERS.

Jelica & Winters and F. Osterhouse.

#### ARCHITECT.

A. J. Huy is the only architect, and he has done entirely acceptable work on the many buildings which has been erected this year.

#### BRICK.

Shaw & Kellogg and McKay Bros. are the two firms who are making excellent brick from the abundance of clay which is fortunately deposited in this vicinity.

#### PAINTERS.

Corson & Hull, Herman, Wildekopf and Mr. Rubottom do the painting for our aesthetic citizens.

#### DRIVE WELLS.

O. E. Spear drives wells for those who would tap the pure subterranean waters.

#### JEWELRY.

John Glass has a jewelry and repair shop.

#### NOTIONS.

Max Kabacker has a notion store on First avenue south.

#### WATER.

Manery & Peepel furnish the town with water by means of tanks on wheels, which perambulate the city daily.

#### SALOONS.

Spurgin & Crowder, Quessnell & Wildekopf, J. K. Clark wholesale and retail, Pontet & Mathews, Sexton & McGetty, Wm. Crooks.

Wetzel wholesale and retail. F. J. Piper courteously presides over the Park hotel bar and Billiard hall.

#### PHYSICIANS.

Drs. J. H. Fairfield and A. G. Ladd are our physicians, both well educated in their professions and highly esteemed.

#### LAWYERS.

H. P. Rolfe is an old-timer in Montana, a civil engineer and attorney-at-law. He owns many valuable acres of suburban property.

Geo. W. Taylor is a promising young lawyer who has recently come here.

Geo. E. Huy deals out even-handed justice from the justice court.

#### REAL ESTATE.

Phil. Gibson is the pioneer real estate, insurance and loan agent. He has a neat and commodious office on First Ave. N., where he transacts a large business and holds down most of the custom in his line. Phil. is ever on the alert to insure your house or your life, and never lets an opportunity slip to buy or sell real estate upon the value and utility of which he is excellent authority. Call upon him and make your fortune either ante mortem or post mortem.

#### ASSAYER.

H. H. Chandler is a first-class assayer and has no competition in Great Falls.

#### BLACKSMITHS.

We have two blacksmiths shops, one conducted by W. J. Pratt, the other by Howard Criss. Both are good workmen.

#### BOOTS AND SHOES.

There is no shoemaker in town. C. P. Thomson, Harris and Nathan all sell boots and shoes, but we need some one to mend our old ones.

#### GYMNASIUM.

About twenty young men have organized a gymnasium which is in charge of Dr. Frank Pottle, a thoroughly competent teacher of the manly art. Their rooms are in the old Spurgin & Crowder building on 1st Ave. S. A boat-club will be organized next spring by the same gentlemen.

#### LAUNDRIES.

There is no excuse for wearing soiled clothes in Great Falls, for there are three good laundries, the Park hotel, Mrs. Neagle's and Mrs. Ganzer's.

#### SPECIALISTS.

Robert S. Williams and Fred W. Anderson in their quiet way are pursuing the investigation of Montana botany and ornithology. Though not appreciated now, their names will be honored in future years for their unrequited labors in neglected but important, fields.

#### SCHOOL.

The Great Falls public school has fifty pupils enrolled and is presided over by Rev. James Largent.

#### CHURCHES.

There are four religious denominations represented, viz: Presbyterian, Rev. John Reid; Disciple, Rev. J. M. Largent; Episcopal, no regular pastor; Universalist, the same. The Presbyterians will erect a \$1,500 house of worship here next spring.

#### BAKERY.

Mrs. Taylor opened a bakery here last spring, and recently Phil. Gerlach built a substantial brick building on Central Ave. where he proposes to provide the best of bread, pies and cakes for the millions.

#### MINERS.

Our professional miners are Prof. O. C. Mortson, Patk. Hughes and Frank Pottle, all of whom know a good lead when they see it. Mr. Colin Napier is also a mining expert and engineer, who is looking after the interests of the Montana Central Coal Co. in Sand Soulee.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

We herewith submit the following list of improvements which have been made in Great Falls during the past eight months.

RESIDENCES.	AMOUNTS.
H. P. Rolfe.....	\$1,200
J. N. Bridges, (3).....	2,000
O. C. Mortson.....	250

Hackshaw.....	800
H. O. Chown.....	1,250
".....	1,500
Gibson & Phelps, (2).....	1,500
Gibson, Chown & Ladd.....	1,000
Silas Beachley.....	650
Jerry Quessnell.....	1,000
John West.....	400
Andrew Olson.....	900
Mitchell.....	1,200
W. S. Wetzel.....	1,000
Nebauer.....	400
Bell Williams, (3).....	1,200
J. M. Largent.....	800
Chown & Gibson.....	700
Wolf.....	500
Hackshaw.....	700
James Mathews.....	500
Al. Frame.....	500
Dahlgren.....	300
Wolf.....	300
Gehring.....	1,000
W. J. Pratt.....	600
C. P. Downing.....	600
O. E. Spear.....	800
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$20,550</b>

BUSINESS HOUSES.	
Phil. Gerlach, bakery (half complete, already expended).....	\$1,600
Phil. Gibson's office.....	600
H. E. Burch, store.....	800
Gibson & Vaughn, foundation.....	1,000
Webster, Dickerman & Co., 3 stores.....	9,000
L. G. Phelps, et. als, foundation.....	1,000
Gibson & Chown, Park hotel.....	13,000
Tribune building enlarged.....	800
E. J. Canary, store.....	3,600
First National Bank.....	2,500
Murphy, Maclay & Co.....	6,000
John Glass, store.....	400
Payne, Martin & Kinlock, bank.....	2,500
E. J. Canary, 4 buildings.....	2,300
Phelps & Webster, store building.....	1,000
Spurgin & Crowder.....	2,000
Gibson & Chown, paint shop.....	350
Mrs. Taylor, bakery.....	900
Clark & Chandler.....	1,000
W. P. Wren, store.....	1,200
Mrs. Nagle, laundry.....	700
Max Kabacker, store.....	1,200
Ben. Lapeyre, store.....	800
J. H. McKnight & Co., foundation.....	1,200
Hickory Bros., foundation.....	400
Kennedy & Wildekopf, building.....	1,100
Albinus Milhem, store.....	800
Webster, Dickerman & Co., store.....	1,000
Burke & Sweeney, hotel.....	1,500
Webster, Dickerman & Co., laundry.....	350
Hamilton & Eaton, stable.....	3,700
Chown & Dickerman, stable.....	1,600
Phil. Gibson, carpenter shop.....	400
H. Criss, carpenter shop.....	700
Mr. Brown, store building.....	1,400
C. N. Dickinson, barn.....	400
J. J. Hill, improvements on restaurant.....	400
Improvements on dam.....	5,000
Peck & Collins, improvements.....	300
Willis, building.....	1,500
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$75,450</b>
<b>Total—dwellings for'd.....</b>	<b>\$23,550</b>

Total improvements in last 8 months.....	\$99,000
Improvements prior to May 1st 1886.....	\$79,700
<b>Grand total.....</b>	<b>\$178,700</b>

It must be distinctly understood that the above figures are not stretched in any way, for the sake of making a good showing. If there are any errors they are against the town rather than in favor of it. We have not given any prospective improvements. Contracts have already been let for buildings to be erected in the spring, amounting to nearly \$100,000. None of those are included in the foregoing list of improvements.

### Montana People.

Tenderfooted pilgrims who come from the culture centres of the east, expecting to find a class of semi-barbarians in Montana, get badly fooled. They are entirely different from ruralists of eastern states. They are uniformly successful financially, have considerable leisure, travel a great deal, come in contact with all kinds of people and are consequently well informed, versatile and ready. Their spare winter hours are not wasted but devoted largely to study and reading. Go where you will, to the miner's cabin in the dark pocket of a mountain, to the isolated shack of the stockman, mingle in the philosophic circle of the village grocery, and you will find intelligent, well posted men provided with the latest newspapers and periodicals. Their hospitality is proverbial. "Everything goes" for a guest. They don't know what it is to be small and mean, but you can be pretty certain that they are shrewd when it comes down to business. They are strangers to fear and bear, with stoical fortitude, the most extreme hardships and deprivations. They like good meals and the choicest potations, but care nothing for "purple and fine linen." In this country you don't want to size up a man's "pile" by the coat he wears.