

Col. J. T. Dodge down the Missouri in that spring to examine the shores for a railroad route. After dwelling on the resources surrounding the new city, the letter said: "With all these resources surrounding this enchanted spot of unlimited water power, Great Falls as the future city has been named, is destined to become a great manufacturing centre—a Lowell, a Pittsburgh and a Minneapolis combined."

THINGS ACCOMPLISHED.

Since that time what has been done? Then you had about 500 inhabitants. Now you have over 3,000. Two magnificent bridges have been built across the Missouri, each a thousand feet in length. Your flouring mill and the great silver smelter have been constructed. The Sand Coulee branch railroad has been put in operation and daily hauls a thousand tons of coal from the mines. The Neilhart branch will be completed by spring and will open up two of the richest mining districts in Montana. The great dam across the river at Black Eagle falls will be constructed within a year and the mammoth smelting and refining works of the Boston & Montana Copper company will be built. The surveys for the road to Lethbridge to connect with the Canadian Pacific railroad, and the western extension of the Manitoba railway will be completed by spring. A new line of road from Duluth across Minnesota and Southern Dakota, will cross the Yellowstone and come up through the Musselshell and Judith valley to your city. Roads from Chicago and St. Louis are pointing towards you, and are sure to be built in the near future. So the possibilities of what your city will become can only be imagined.

In a future letter I hope to give you a synopsis of the history of all my voyages down the Missouri since 1878. They all relate to the beginning of your city and are matters pertaining to the early history, and will be prized highly by those who come after us, when we have left these shores. With wishing Great Falls and its people a happy new year, and a prosperous future, I close this letter.

THE LAND OF MONTANA.

The following extracts from the Rocky Mountain Gazette, a newspaper published at the capital of Montana twenty years ago, will prove of interest, both for the geographical information they contain and the comparison of wealth and resources that may be made with facts and statistics of the present day found in this publication:

"The name Montana is Spanish and means mountains. The Indians gave it the name of Tayabeshockey, or the country of the mountains, it having been their home anterior to the discovery of America. It consists of a series of basins five in number. Four of them lie on the east side of the mountains and one on the west side. The basins are subdivided into a number of valleys by spurs jutting down from the main chain of the Rocky mountains, which frequently exceed the main chain in altitude. The basin west of the mountains is in the northwest corner of the territory and is drained by the Missoula and Flathead rivers, the last named being the outlet of the lake of that name, a fine sheet of water forty miles long by twenty miles wide, lying at the foot of the mountains near the northern end of the basin and not far from the line of British Columbia. This lake is surrounded by a beautiful country, a portion of which is valuable for agriculture. From the lake there extends southward, to the Pen D'Oreille mission, a distance of more than forty miles, a well wooded country (rolling) clothed with a fine growth of grasses. Across the hills to the south is the Jocko valley, which is small, but in beauty and fertility is unsurpassed. Here is the Pen D'Oreille reserve. Across the spur of the mountains lies the Hellgate valley, which is twenty-five miles long, with an average width of six miles. It is nearly all farming land. The fertile valley of the Bitter Root extends sixty miles, with an average width of seven miles. The mineral wealth of these mountains is great."

"The northwestern basin contains eight principal valleys, viz.: Valley of Flathead lake, Jocko, Hellgate, Bitter Root, Big Blackfoot, Flint creek and Deer Lodge. The drainage of this basin is to the northwest, and is 250 miles long by seventy-five miles wide. It is the best timbered part of Montana."

"The northeast basin extends from the Rocky mountains to the eastern border of the territory, along its north side nearly 600 miles, by 150 miles wide. The eastern portion of this vast basin is composed of clay table lands or 'mauvaises terres,' but there is good farming land along the streams. There are several spurs and mountains in this basin. The Bear's Paw, Little Rokeys and Three Buttes. This basin is drained to the east by the Missouri, Milk, Marias, Teton, Sun and Dearborn rivers, the first three emptying into the Missouri river below Fort Benton and the last three a short distance above the Great falls. The western portion of this basin is but little broken."

"The east central basin is drained to the east by the Jefferson river and its tributaries. The basin lies in the shape of a spreading fan and is one hundred and fifty miles wide by one hundred miles long. Traces are still visible of glaciers throughout the Rocky mountains of depth showing that only the loftiest mountain tops once rose above the sea."

"The number of acres of mineral land in Montana is estimated at 9,900,019; agri-

cultural land, 23,000,000 acres; grazing land, 69,000,000; sterile land that may be reclaimed by irrigation, 23,000,000; broken by mountain ranges, 40,008,320; of timber, 11,502,420."

"There are sixty-three cities and towns in Montana. The aggregate values of agriculture and mining are: Wheat, \$900,000; barley and oats, \$500,000; potatoes, \$100,000; hay, \$200,000; vegetables, \$75,000; cattle, \$550,000; poultry and eggs, \$100,000; butter, cheese and milk, \$400,000; lumber, \$300,000; gold, \$10,000,000; total, \$13,922,000. The annual profit on capital invested in merchandise is \$2,500,000; on capital invested in banking, brokerage, etc., \$200,000; on capital invested in transportation, \$400,000; on capital loaned to government, \$200,000. The annual income of lawyers, physicians and clergymen is \$180,000; annual compensation to clerks and messengers, \$1,064,000."

Now we have over 2,500 miles of railroad in operation; 20 National banks with an aggregate capital of \$2,000,000 and deposits amounting to \$12,000,000; there are now 315 cities and towns where U. S. mail is delivered; the total value of taxable property is \$75,000,000; there are 1,500,000 head of cattle, 2,500,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in the state; the annual output of our mines is \$40,000,000; 3,000,000 acres of land have been appropriated for agricultural purposes; the commerce of the state exceeds \$50,000,000 and its population 200,000.

ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAY.

Early in 1890, Great Falls will be provided with a street car system of great excellence. It will be operated by electricity and equipped in the best manner. It will traverse the principal streets and avenues and will extend to the Black Eagle falls, thereby providing quick communication between the Boston & Montana smelter and refinery at the west side of the river. The electric wires will be overhead the track, thereby

precluding all risk of accidents such as arise from wires which are laid near the surface.

000 within the last two weeks and I might say I have myself invested as much as any one in the room.

The proposed railroad can hardly be put through for less than \$200,000. We could build and equip one for \$50,000 with what are known in the east as bob tail cars—cars that have no conductors. But we do not want such. We want to place here a street railroad system that we will all be proud of.

The Townsite company wanted us to carry out this work in a first-class manner. They asked me the best way to do so. The failures of electric railroads have been many. In Richmond the electric railroad was a total failure. In Boston \$150,000 have been expended on experiments. Our people accordingly decided to put in here an electric railroad of the best kind or to put in none at all. The Townsite company are bound to give us water power at the other side by the first of September next year. It may be a month later at this side. We would at once avail ourselves of this power in running electric railroads. We would use steam dummies only temporarily. The 150 bridge carpenters who will be employed at the dam and other works will want to go up town as quickly as they can when work is over. We all want, in fact, a big plant that will make the town howl.

POPULAR OBJECTIONS.

I. "I am too old to go west." This remark is often made by men in the forties and fifties in the east. They deem themselves too old "to pull up stakes." The best answer that can be made to such objection is to point to the experience of millions of people of middle age who have attained prosperity in the west. The founders of California, Montana and the Dakotas were largely men of mature

THE GARDEN SPOT.

Practical Information Relating to Cascade County Lands.

The vast possibilities of agriculture in Cascade county can hardly be appreciated by one who has not given the subject thorough study. This county has an average length from east to west of 66 miles and a breadth of 35 miles. It is nearly twice as large as the state of Rhode Island. The surface comprises level bottom lands lying along the rivers, high rolling prairie, or bench land, and mountains. The greater part of the area is high rolling prairie, through which flows numerous streams. These streams are fed largely by springs which are numerous in nearly all parts of the county. In the spring and early summer when the grass is green and the air is laden with the perfume of flowers which are scattered broadcast over the prairies

NO MORE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

can be found than here, where the surface sometimes stretches away in almost level plain and again rolls on in billowy prairies. The grasses cure as they stand, retaining their nutritive qualities, and in the fall this country looks like a vast field of grain. To the farmer who has spent years in clearing land in the east, this land is especially inviting. Here he may select his farm in the spring, begin plowing and sowing the seed the next day after he arrives, and when the crop is planted he can spend the summer in improving his place. He is not compelled to spend a season or two wielding the ax and grubbing hoe. Meantime his stock, turned loose on the "range," will keep in excellent condition without a particle of grain.

ONCE AN INLAND SEA.

The configuration of the county clearly shows that all this region was at

seems to be richer and on account of more frequent rains the grasses grow taller. Last May the writer saw among the foot hills of the Belt mountains, bunch grass that was two feet tall. The old timers settled along the creek valleys thus availing themselves of flowing water, hence the bench lands have never been tested for farming until within the past few years. The results which have been achieved are astonishing, and seem incredible to the eastern farmer.

THE SMALL GRAINS AND VEGETABLES.

Northern Montana seems to be the home of the small grains, such as wheat, oats and barley. The yield is not only abundant but the grain is of the first quality. Dakota and Minnesota millers prefer the Montana grown wheat and from it make the best quality of flour.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.

In the production of vegetables Montana certainly leads the world. Potatoes here grow to a very large size and are noted for their excellence, being superior to those grown in the humid atmosphere of the east. The cabbage and cauliflower grow here in their greatest perfection. Beets, turnips, onions and other garden vegetables produce fine crops with very little cultivation.

MONTANA WANTS NO "PET NAME."

An enterprising Boston publisher who anxiously wrote for Montana's "pet name" that he might insert it with the "Empire State," the "Sucker State," etc., received the following characteristic reply from the Hon. W. F. Wheeler, librarian for the Historical Society of Montana:

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 14, 1889.

M. F. Sweetser, Esq., Boston, Mass., Publisher, etc.—DEAR SIR: Hon. Mr. _____ has handed me your letter of inquiry, dated Nov. 20, asking him to give you the description or "pet name" of Montana, as New York is called the Empire state, and South Carolina the Palmetto state, etc. He refers to me for answer.

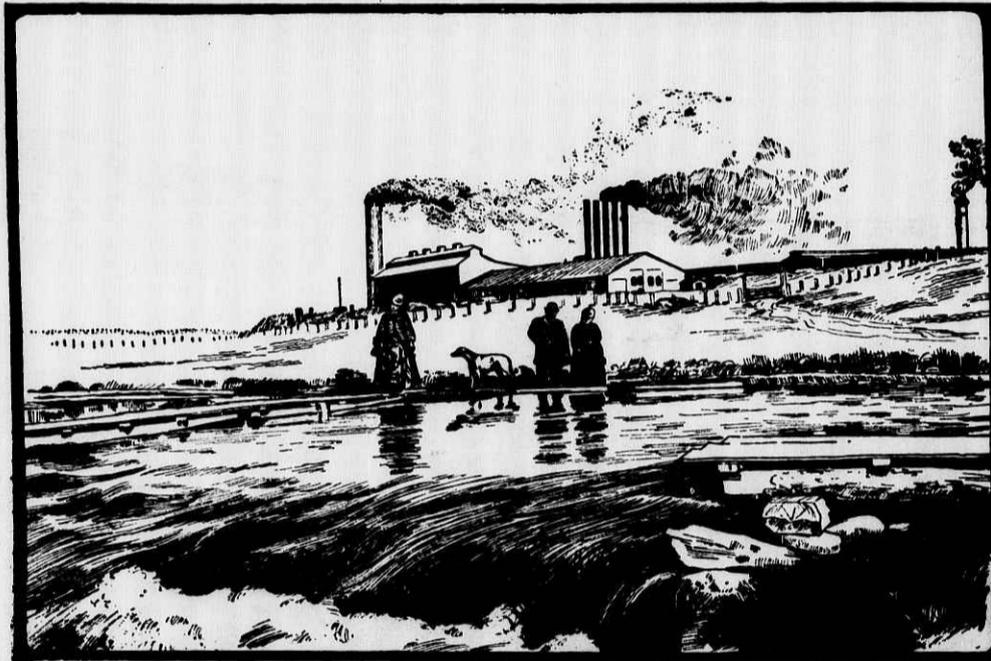
I answer first that Montana has never had a "pet name," because it never was a pet of anybody's. It is like "Topsy," who never was born, but just "grewed up." It had no father who first settlers ever heard of, and no mother but mother earth. It grew up here in the great Rocky range, right across the backbone of the continent, and owns more land than two New Englands, more timber than Michigan or Minnesota; more coal and iron than Pennsylvania; more gold, silver, copper and lead than any other state in the union; and the greater available water power at the falls of the Missouri, than any other in the United States; more pasture land than Indiana and Illinois, and the grass is just as good in winter as in summer, more than 5,000,000 acres of lands granted by congress for the support of common schools and 686,800 acres for public buildings, educational and charitable institutions; 1,800 miles of completed railroads, 1,600 miles of steam navigation; the purest air and the most beautiful climate in the world, and a thousand other unnumbered blessings for which, I hope, we are duly thankful.

Before Montana had a name it was inhabited by powerful tribes of Indians, and a very few white men, who consisted mostly of fur traders, trappers and hunters. In 1862 the first systematic working of gold began at Pioneer City and Banack, and in 1863 the world-wide famous Alder gulch was discovered, which in four years yielded \$40,000,000 in fine gold. Road agents (stage robbers) hard characters and murderers from the east and west, over-ran the country. With no civil organization, the people rose in their might, and in less than a year captured, tried in people's courts, and hung sixty or seventy of the leading criminals, thus rendering it safe for man, woman or child to go and come alone unmolested with their gold or silver or any other property, and at the same time whipped hostile Indians whenever necessary. And so with these heroic actions, this young Hercules of the mountains, sprang into existence and has ever since been able to care for himself, and needed not to be called by "pet names."

This evidence of strength, self confidence and unsurpassed wealth caused congress on application of the miners, to create by law the Territory of Montana (meaning mountainous or pertaining to the mountains) in 1864, and thus "Uncle Sam" became the stepfather of Montana, which had grown up alone in the wilderness, without organized law or government, from any of the territories of which its surface was then composed. Montana was self-planted and self-supporting from the beginning; and now, since it has become a state of the Union, will maintain its characteristics and supremacy. The very name "Montana" is dear to those who made it a state, and no pseudonym or "pet name" would be accepted. It needs none. Respectfully,

W. F. WHEELER.

The copper industry which is to be one of the bases of Great Falls prosperity is now on a firm foundation. The consumption of copper is increasing, notably for electric wires, cables and appliances. The metal is scarce; so much so, that the late French syndicate was able to control the entire supply. Butte and the Lake Superior region are the chief producers. Chili comes next. The Butte and Lake Superior mines are in the hands of strong companies which were not shaken by the downfall of the French syndicate. The current price yields a liberal profit to the producers who are not overburdened by the cost of transport. The copper industry at Great Falls is now on a firm foundation.



VIEW OF THE GIANT SPRING AND MONTANA SMELTER.

years. They laid the keel of the ship of state. The young men came and helped to build her up. As a rule, the middle aged man who is able to earn a living in the east will do still better in the broad west where the opportunities are greater.

II. "I can't take any risks." This is what many stalwart men and women, too, say to themselves in the east. They are earning from \$10 to \$30 a week and have steady work. They dislike change. They would come to Montana if some one would guarantee them good wages, but they fear discomforts and disappointments. To such people we would say the risks are exaggerated. The farmer who begins by paying \$50 to \$100 an acre for land in Indiana does much better when he gets 160 acres for nothing from Uncle Sam. The mechanic who works for wages makes more progress when he starts on his own account and becomes his own master. The west is full of people who saved money by day's work and are now wealthy.

III. "I'll wait until the country is more settled." Many intelligent people in the east suppose that rowdiness is rampant in the west. There is really less crime in the west than in the crowded cities of the east. Society is as orderly in Great Falls as in the oldest New England towns. Those who wait until the west is more populated miss golden opportunities. The early settlers are generally rewarded for their enterprise. It is they who acquire the best farms, the richest mines and the most prosperous stores. They generally hold the public offices and have most to say in public affairs. Be first in the field and the opportunities of achieving success will increase many times. The "old-timers" of Montana are today practically the leaders in wealth, enterprise and everything else.

Regarding electric railways, I would say that some are in operation, but the expense is high. The charter submitted to you was carefully prepared in Boston where there has been much experience in street car lines and where people may travel 25 miles in one direction over connecting street railroads. In this enterprise our people mean to do the right thing. They have dropped in here \$100,

one time the bottom of a vast inland sea. The surface shows that in the vast upheaval the whole country was lifted together, the levels remaining relatively the same as when submerged. This accounts in some degree for the unevenness of the surface.

FERTILITY OF SOIL.

The soil of this part of Montana is unsurpassed in fertility and friability. After the virgin sod has once been turned by the plow and the grass roots become decayed the soil readily crumbles. After the second plowing the rich black loam pulverizes very easily. In some localities the soil is not so good on account of too much sand. In other localities too much adobe exists, making the soil hard to work; but such localities will not constitute one-fiftieth of the surface. The river and creek valleys are narrow, varying from a few feet to two miles in width, so that by far the greater part of the surface is the high rolling prairie known here as "bench" lands.

THE RICH BENCH LANDS.

These benches are covered with buffalo and blue joint grasses and are vast natural pastures. Advantage has been taken of these by stockmen until Montana's beef has a national reputation and her horses are the best in the world. Settlers who come in naturally select the choicest of these lands; stockmen see their free pastures are being taken and some are wont to raise a cry against farming. They tell the settler that he cannot farm in this country without irrigation, and thus try to induce him to move on. But the eastern farmer has learned that where grass grows luxuriantly and wild flowers flourish other plants will grow; he therefore turns up the sod and sows his grain feeling satisfied to risk the season. As the mountains are approached the soil

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