

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

An interesting Review by the Father of Great Falls.

(By PARIS GIBSON.)

In May, 1882, I first saw the upper falls of the Missouri river and what is now the townsite of Great Falls. I approached it from the east, and when I reached the summit about two and a half miles from the mouth of Sun river, the view presented impressed me more than any other I have ever seen. The beautiful Sun river valley, with the rocky mountains in the distance, the plain which gradually descended to the water's edge, the Missouri, widening into a broad expanse at the head of the falls and resembling a lake rather than a river, formed a picture never to be forgotten. The scene impressed me, perhaps more strongly from the fact that, save a solitary sheep herder, not a human being was visible in any direction. I rode forward to Prospect hill, opposite the mouth of Sun river, and then followed down the river bank to Black Eagle falls, the Giant spring and Rainbow falls. I then returned to a point just below the railroad bridge and camped for the night. Except Lucas Connanz, who occupied a cabin on the west side of the river, there was

NOT A SETTLER WITHIN 10 OR 12 MILES of the Missouri falls; and this spot was the same in all respects as Lewis and Clarke found it eighty-three years before, except that the buffalo herds had left it forever. I may be pardoned for stating that what I saw on the first day of my visit to this place satisfied me beyond a doubt it was destined to become at no distant day

A GREAT INDUSTRIAL METROPOLIS.

I knew that there were near this spot fields of bituminous coal stretching for miles to the east and to the west, and I looked with wonder upon an available water power far greater than any I had ever before seen. Having traveled over the surrounding country for three years previous, I knew something of the mining resources and of the fertility of the country tributary. From that day I decided to devote myself unremittently to founding a town on this favored spot.

JAMES J. HILL INTERESTED.

If I was fortunate in coming to Great Falls then, I was more fortunate in finding a man to co-operate with me, who had the means at his command and views of the great west sufficiently broad-minded to permit me to acquire this immense water power and lands adjacent sufficient for a great city. This country was a wilderness then, the nearest railroad being at least five hundred miles distant; and yet James J. Hill, the man to whom I owe my support, in my judgment, from his office in St. Paul, saw more clearly than any other living man at that time, the advantages possessed by this place and the possible development of this great western empire. To him I owe lasting gratitude for constant and liberal financial support in carrying out plans for two years before he set foot upon this place.

PROGRESS MADE.

Let us pass over the intervening period of seven years, which have been devoted mainly to the preliminary work of establishing a town, and, looking at Great Falls as we now find it, ask the question if any other town, east or west, has made more rapid and substantial progress during this short time. It is today the western terminus of the Manitoba or Great Northern railway and the eastern terminus of the Montana Central railway. An important branch of the Montana Central connects Great Falls with the Sand Coulee coal fields; and another branch, known as the Great Falls and Belt Mountain railroad, with two termini in the mountains is being rapidly pushed to completion. The close of the year 1890 will witness the extension of the Great Northern railway from Great Falls to tide water on the Pacific, and the coming year will hardly close before two other railway lines will be completed to this town.

UNEQUALLED ADVANTAGES FOR TREATING ORE.

The unequalled advantages possessed by Great Falls for the treatment of ores have been fully recognized by mining and smelting men, and as the result, we have the costly and extensive plant of the Montana Silver and Lead Smelting company, while the Boston Consolidated Copper and Silver Smelting and Refining company are now breaking ground for works at Black Eagle falls, scarcely second in importance to those of the great Anaconda company. As Great Falls, from her resources in coal and water power, has no peer in the western country for works of this kind, we may confidently rely upon the location here of other great enterprises for the treatment of ores within the next two years.

THE GREAT DAM.

Another event of vast importance to our town is the construction of the dam at Black Eagle falls.

falls. This important and costly work has already been commenced, under the direction of Engineer Fanning, and will be carried forward to completion as fast as four or five hundred men can execute it. When completed, it will be one of the best works of the kind on the continent and will afford ample power for all the varied manufacturing industries that may be attracted here.

RAPID PROGRESS.

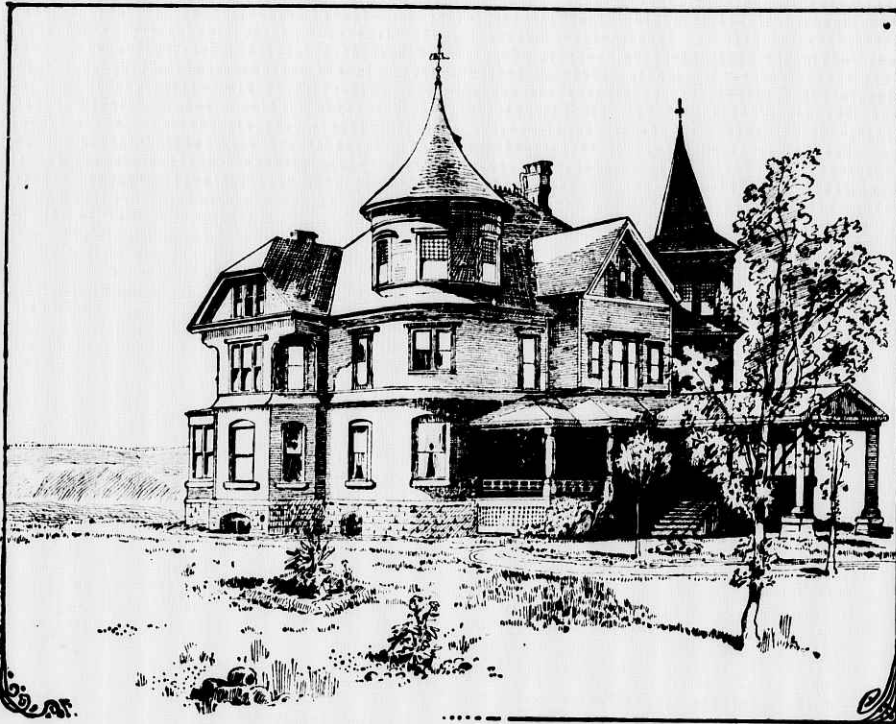
The river, at the head of the rapids, is spanned by two bridges, and another bridge is about to be built across Sun river near its mouth. The city has the Holly system of water works, built the present year at a cost of nearly \$100,000, and two electric light plants, while a Boston company, the present year, will connect the west end of the town with

gold, silver and copper ores and the manufacture of steel and iron, we must not forget that this is a favored spot for the establishment of many manufacturing industries. Our superiority over other towns in this part of the west as regards cheap coal, extensive water power and agricultural resources, establish this fact beyond question. The advantages afforded by nature for the employment of large forces of laboring men are greater at this place than any other I know of in the west, and it is my firm belief that this will be fully demonstrated to everyone before the close of the present decade. Those who live to see Great Falls in 1900 will doubtless see the Missouri river, from Black Eagle falls to Rainbow falls, LINED WITH THE MOST EXTENSIVE WORKS for treating the raw material of this rich-

To crown the whole, Montana has a climate unsurpassed by any other section of the world in those qualities that make man strong and energetic. As Great Falls, so wonderfully endowed with local advantages, is situated in the centre of this great state, can anyone doubt that her growth will be as rapid and substantial as any of the western cities I have mentioned?

GREAT FALLS WATER WORKS.

These works are located on the east bank of the Missouri river, about one mile above the central part of the city and just above the mouth of Sun river. They were built by the Great Falls water company. Work was commenced about April 25th, and the works were completed August 1st, 1889. The buildings consist



GENERAL MANAGER'S RESIDENCE, MONTANA SMELTING COMPANY.

Black Eagle falls, the Giant Spring and Rainbow falls by an electric railway, deriving its power from dynamos located at Black Eagle falls. The population of Great Falls, now about three thousand, is increasing with such rapidity that buildings are not being erected fast enough to supply the demand. It is safe to state that, with the impulse of the great smelters under construction and the increased railway communications now assured, the population of Great Falls will reach ten thousand during the present year.

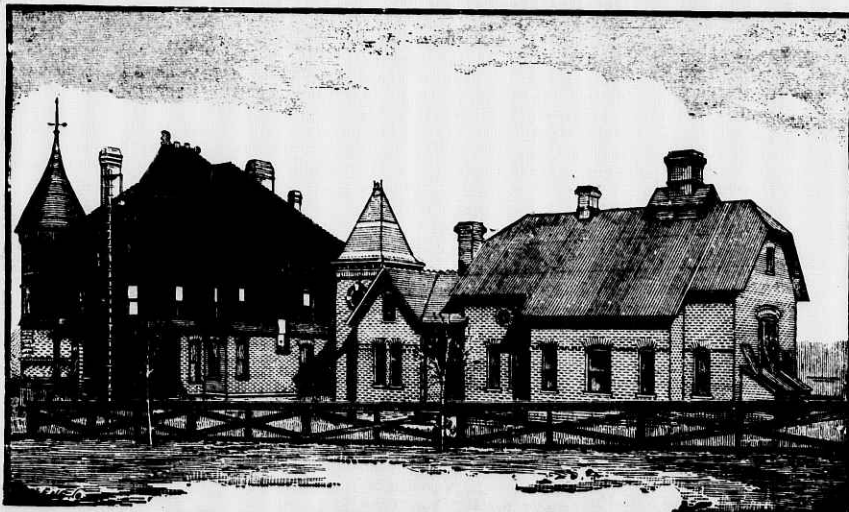
FAVORABLE LOCATION.

No town could be more favorably located as regards coal supply and the ore-producing sections of Montana, as it has the advantage of descending grades from every direction. The chief engineer of the Montana Central remarked to me re-

ly endowed state. They will also see here a city made beautiful by industrious, intelligent men and containing within its limits a hundred thousand people. If this growth seems too rapid to the readers of this article, I would remind them that we are living in a wonderful period for the growth and development of great natural centres like this. The population of the United States is now fully sixty-five millions, railway lines are being built from all points in Montana, and all of them will surely be extended to Great Falls, because it will be pre-eminently a freight producing town. Cities are built much faster now than they were some years ago; and when investors are satisfied a town possesses superior resources and advantages for growth, they seize upon them, and populous towns are created with a rapidity unknown to the world

of pump house, 32x36 feet; boiler house, 30x32; coal shed, 18x30; and a five room cottage for the engineer. The buildings are all made of brick and stone and have good, high ceilings and are of neat design as will be seen by the cut. There are two 75 horse power steel tubular boilers and two Gordon compound duplex pumps, each with a daily capacity of one and one fourth million gallons. There are seven and one tenth miles of mains, ranging from 6 to 12 inches in diameter, and 71 fire hydrants.

The ordinary water pressure for domestic use is 55 pounds, and 100 pounds for fire duty. The pumps will easily furnish ten inch fire streams at once with the above pressure. There are 95 taps in the mains for private consumers. Quite a number of extensions of the mains are talked of early in the spring.



OFFICES AND LABORATORY OF THE MONTANA SMELTING COMPANY.

cently that a car turned loose at Nelhart, the terminus of the Great Falls and Belt Mountain railway, would run to Great Falls, except for a short grade leading up from Belt valley to the table land. The same may be said of a railroad from the Rocky mountains, sixty miles away. The altitude of Great Falls is 3,350 feet, while that of the mining districts of the Rocky mountains, ranges from five to eight thousand feet. This is a most important consideration in estimating the advantages of any town as a centre for treating ores cheaply.

AN INDUSTRIAL CITY.

While the industries that must, in the future, give especial prominence to Great Falls are the smelting and refining of

twenty-five years ago. The creation of the cities of Denver, Kansas City, St. Paul and Minneapolis in so short a time, tells us what

MAY BE EXPECTED OF GREAT FALLS.

which is not inferior to any of these cities in natural resources for the concentration of population and capital. Montana, by common consent, ranks first of all the states in the production of precious metals and of copper. Her coal and iron fields cover thousands of square miles and are almost inexhaustible. Her grazing lands already yield an unfailing revenue of many millions annually from the sale of horses, cattle, sheep and wool, while her rich farming lands cover an area of more than sixty thousand square miles.

The works are complete in every detail and the system is one of the best in the west. The works were built at a cost of \$95,000. The incorporators of the company are T. E. Collins, Ira Myers, E. G. MacLay, Paris Gibson and A. E. Dickerman. John A. Cole of Chicago is consulting engineer and E. W. King superintendent.

NORTH MONTANA owes her steady prosperity largely to diversified industries. Wool growing, stock raising, tillage, mining and manufacturing keep her people employed. Dull times in any one pursuit is offset by progress in another. This diversity develops the people's aptitudes and increases the demand for skilled labor.

HINTS TO EMIGRANTS.

Some Good Advice to Prospective Citizens of Montana.

(By F. W. ANDERSON.)

During the year 1890 thousands of eastern farmers and others will migrate to one or another of the four new western states. Many of these are family men and will have on hand a big lot of household goods of all descriptions, to say nothing of plows, harrows, reapers, mowers, wagons and other farming implements. They must either dispose of all these goods and chattles, in many cases for a mere song, or, else, charter a car or two and bring the goods to the new country.

ONE VIEW OF IT.

Some will say to themselves, well, we have broken up the dear old home; we've burst the bonds of kindred, old friendships, old associations and are about to enter a land new to us; we shall have to begin all over again; learn new ways, make new friendships and even perhaps exchange many of our present ideas and ways of thinking for newer, broader, more liberal and more comprehensive ideas than it is possible for us to hold now, bound as we always have been to the comparatively narrow sphere of New England life. Seeing that we must make all these changes and that we must tear away from these sacred ancestral ties why, we'd better leave everything behind but our clothes and household goods and start quite anew in the home before us. Mark you, reader! Many do think and act on just this line and in the average case they are thankful for it in the end.

THE OTHER VIEW.

Others there are who do not think exactly in this wise, but say to themselves, we think we can do better out west. We are going to try it. It will cost us a great deal to get there, and from all we can learn it will cost us a great deal to live there, at least until we are well established in the home we have yet to find. All kinds of implements and tools are even more expensive proportionately than food and clothing. We'll have to sacrifice a great deal in every way by going there; but we'll take all our goods with us and be sure of having something to start with when we arrive. Their plan in theory sounds very wise and full of forethought, but the man who leaves all behind and begins to accumulate from almost the very beginning again usually comes out the winner. Why this is so we'll see later. Again there are other men fortunate enough to have reliable friends in the west to advise them what to leave and what to bring; but it is not for the benefit of these favored ones that this article is written.

GOOD ADVICE.

In the first place, friend, if you intend coming west, don't try to bring your house and its contents with you; no, don't even try to bring the bulk of its contents. Bring only what you know will certainly be needed by your family the first few months after your destination is reached, that is if you are a poor man, or at most in but medium circumstances. You might bring clothing, blankets, sheets and other linen, table ware, clocks not too long to be packed in a trunk, a few of your children's toys, the choicest of your books and pictures, but not too many nor too bulky. By the time these are selected and packed, you will have enough to make you sweat before they are finally lodged in the new house on the farm you have yet to find. Bring no bulky furniture of any kind. Storage rates are high and storage often insecure and further you are likely to be unable to find a place to store your goods in till you can build a little home of your own.

Moreover, pray do not bring any of your farming implements, unless you have some fine horses and cattle to bring and will have part of a car space unoccupied, because such things are apt to be a burden to you and cost you more in worry and expense than it would take to replace them by new implements in the west and the new will be better adapted to the work here. If you have any really fine horses or cattle, that is, females, or registered males, bring them along, for they will bring you much more in the west than they would in the east during the same given time.

COME TO MONTANA.

I have nothing to say about the lands or the climate, nor other existing conditions in other states than Montana. I urge no man to come here; the simple, yet overwhelming merits of this state are now so well known, that people are glad to come without being asked, or urged. I say nothing of the conditions in other western states because I have not made a special study of their natural features as I have of Montana during the past seven years. Many who read this TRIBUNE ANNUAL will be preparing to come to Montana. Some will have the means to start into the sheep, cattle, or horse business on a more or less extensive scale right away. Others there will be who,