

BENCH LAND FARMS.

The Coming Wheat Farms of the Northwest—Prospects of Luxuriant Crops—No Irrigation Needed.

A visit to the wheat falls on the bench land about Great Falls, would convince the most skeptical person of the fact that Montana is the coming "granary of the world." It is remarkable what a change has been produced in the last ten years in the minds of our own residents, as to the value of Montana lands for agricultural purposes. Then it was the commonly accepted belief that Montana was only fit for mining, and agriculture would never pay. Fruits were declared impossible to grow, and grain would not pay to raise save in the most favorable localities. Within that period, however, a Helena gardener has demonstrated that no finer flavored strawberries and small fruits can be raised than those raised in our own territory. It is hardly more than six years since there was an attempt to farm in Choteau county. Now the yield of grains, potatoes and vegetables even with the poor, haphazard, shiftless style of farming in vogue, is such as to cause an eastern man to open his eyes with astonishment and to classify truthful accounts with the stories that cattle and horses are turned loose on the prairies in the winter and come out alive in the spring.

TREES FLOURISHING.

Two years ago the most enthusiastic old-timer about Great Falls secretly sneered at the idea of setting out trees on the townsite, and regarded it as one of Paris Gibson's visionary schemes. To-day the waving branches of 300 vigorous, healthy and beautiful shade trees, all living and flourishing, demonstrate that the far-seeing founder of Great Falls builded better than even he knew. Half our residents are preparing to ornament their houses with trees and shrubbery and we predict that next year Arbor day will be observed by all our citizens.

THE NEW WHEAT BELT.

It has long been the belief of our far-sighted men that the bench-lands were destined to become the wheat-fields of the west. Mr. Geo. E. Huy and others who were pioneers in Minnesota, say that these lands show better soil than did those of Minnesota a quarter of a century ago and that there was at that time a greater skepticism as to the utility of the lands of Minnesota and Dakota for wheat and agricultural products generally than there is in Montana to-day. Inspired by the belief in the fertility of Montana bench-lands, farmers on the bench have been encouraged to plow deep and sow early and the results are most satisfactory. Last year when crops in one of the most fertile valleys in the territory were universal failures—when there was the longest drought experienced in Montana, the bench-lands about Great Falls displayed crops which would have been considered first-class in the states. Never have I seen a finer growth of potatoes than last year on sandy soil within one and a half miles of town. Almost in sight of town was cut wheat averaging one and one-half tons of fodder to the acre, which experienced farmers declared would have yielded eighteen to twenty bushels to the acre if it had been threshed. Oat-fields showed the same yield. These instances were the most remarkable, as they were mostly on lands lately broken. Let the land be broken well and then plowed deep for one or two seasons and we will put a crop of wheat or oats on the bench-lands, near by, against any crop grown in the most fertile valley with irrigation. The farmers also are coming to this opinion and many say that the next ranch they file upon will be upon the benches.

Let any one jump into a carriage and they can soon be convinced. North of town on new soil are the wheat fields of Messrs. McMillan and others which were put in in May or June, and now present a flourishing growth. A little north east in sight of town, also on newly broken ground are the wheat fields of Ambler and Mansfield which give promise of large yields. Another field on older ground is the best grain-field in Choteau county, north of the Missouri. On this side of the river the wheat-fields of McPherson, Gibson, Dickerman, Webster, Mansfield and others are in a flourishing condition. The potatoes and oats of Mr. Rolfe are as fine looking as we have seen. Further south, we see the fine field of Geo. Badington and still further we notice Frank Huy has a large area in preparation for sowing another year.

Mention should also be made of the fields of Phelps, Crowder, Walker and others near the Central avenue eastern extension.

When we consider that these crops are many of them on newly prepared soil and that some of the fields were poorly plowed and put in late, we must express wonder at the fine showing made, and we predict that within two years these bench lands will be fairly covered with grain fields and the so-called arid belt prove like the great American desert, to have been a misnomer—to have been called a desert simply because people were ignorant of its capabilities.

Water has been found in abundance upon these bench lands for stock and family use, at the depth of twenty-five to thirty feet. Flowing wells in two or three instances have been found and it is probable could be found anywhere by drilling less than 200 feet.

It is the opinion of experienced men who have carefully examined these lands, that northern Montana is destined to become the greatest wheat growing section of the northwest. That their judgment will be verified by actual results we believe.

RANCHERO.

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Great Falls, Montana.

Great Falls is located at the falls of the Missouri, which furnish the greatest available water-power on the continent. It is within seven miles of the most extensive coal and iron district in the West, immediately beyond which are rich gold, silver and copper districts. It lays tributary to the best agricultural and grazing part of the territory, and the proximity of the upper Missouri and its tributaries. It is especially adapted by its natural resources and geographical position to become the leading manufacturing city between Minneapolis and the Pacific ocean, and the principal railroad center of Montana. The trip to Great Falls will amply repay tourists by the beauty of the scenery on the way, and they will find here the most magnificent series of water-falls in the world, while the surrounding country is rich in picturesque scenery.

For information address
SAM H. NICHOLS, Secretary Great Falls Water-Power & Townsite Company, Great Falls, Montana.

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REFERENCES—The First National Bank, Great Falls; The Montana National Bank, Helena.

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GRAND

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

.....AT.....

GREAT FALLS.

Notice for Final Proof.

U. S. Land Office, Helena, M. T., May 25, 1887.

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 Register and Receiver at Helena, Montana, on July 14, 1887, viz: John B. Risser, who made pre-emption D. S. No. 7027, for the W. 1/4 of the SE. 1/4 of section 14, and the W. 1/4 of the NE. 1/4 of section 23, township 18 N., range 2 E.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Charles Turner and John Ainsworth of Truly, Montana, and Frederick K. Tibbets and John Kinsey of Helena, Montana.

S. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

Notice for Final Proof.

U. S. Land Office, Helena, M. T., June 21, 1887.

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 W. Tattan, probate judge Choteau county, at Fort Benton, on August 4, 1887, viz: Charles A. Crowder, who made pre-emption D. S. No. 8149 for the SE. 1/4 of sec. 10, tp. 20 N., range 4 E. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Commodore P. Downing, Delos H. Chown, Phil Gibson and Jonathan D. West, all of Great Falls, Montana.

S. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

Notice for Final Proof.

U. S. Land Office, Helena, Montana, June 21, 1887.

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 W. Tattan, probate judge Choteau county, Montana, at Fort Benton, on August 4, 1887, viz: James E. Walker, who made homestead application No. 2330 for the SW. 1/4, sec. 11, tp. 20 N., range 4 E. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: James E. Walker, Charles A. Crowder, Herbert P. Rolfe and Herbert Moran, all of Great Falls, Montana.

S. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

Notice for Final Proof.

U. S. Land Office, Helena, Montana, May 27, 1887.

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 Register and Receiver at Helena, Montana, on July 16, 1887, viz: John P. Dzus, administrator of the estate of John Carroll, deceased, who made pre-emption D. S. No. 6252, for the SW. 1/4 of the SE. 1/4 of section 2, and the N. 1/2 of the NW. 1/4 and the NW. 1/4 of the NE. 1/4 of section 11, township 18 N., range 1 E.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: James L. Perkins, William Sweet, George H. Mullery and George Travis, all of Gorham, Montana.

S. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

Notice—Timber Helena.

U. S. Land Office, Helena, Montana, April 9, 1887.

Complaint having been entered at this office by William J. Bower against John Woods, for failure to comply with law as to timber culture entry No. 119, dated January 22d, 1885 upon the N. 1/4 NW. 1/4 and N. 1/4 NE. 1/4 sec. 27, tp. 20 N. R. 3 E., in Lewis and Clarke county, Montana, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, contestant alleging that the claimant has failed to break or cause to be broken five acres of land the first year, and has up to the present time failed to comply with the requirements of the timber culture law. The said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 22nd day of July 1887, at 10 o'clock a. m. to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged failure. Said testimony to be taken before Geo. E. Huy, Notary Public at Great Falls, Montana, commencing on the 15th day of July.

S. W. LANGHORNE, Register.

10:00 a. m.--- FINEST PROCESSION ever witnessed in Northern Montana, led by the regimental band of the Third U. S. Infantry (stationed at Fort Shaw and considered the finest military band in the army), with Fire Companies, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, United Order of Workingmen, Trade Societies, and Citizens in the line.

1:00 p. m.--- ORATION, at the pavilion in the Park, by GEORGE W. TAYLOR.

2:30 p. m.--- THE DAY'S SPORTS: Horse Racing, Boat Racing, Foot Racing, Sack Racing, a Grand Tournament, Base Ball Game between Fort Shaw and Great Falls Nines, with prizes aggregating FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS.

9:00 p. m.--- BALLOON ASCENSIONS AND DISPLAY OF FIRE-WORKS, unparalleled in the history of Montana.

The celebration will conclude in the evening with a Grand Dance, given for the benefit of the Hook & Ladder Company, in the new and spacious dining-room of the Park Hotel.

An efficient Committee of Reception has been appointed to provide comfortable quarters for people coming from a distance.

All are cordially invited and a good time guaranteed.

By order of
THE COMMITTEE.