

petual snows of the Crazy mountains and the other from those of the Belt range and, like the Yellowstone, is fed throughout its course by many beautiful mountain streams, Rock and Flathead creeks being of no small volume and importance. Its average width is about twenty miles, including the valley proper and the bench lands, thus making a total area of 640,000 acres. The valley proper is very fertile and is much less liable to the early frosts than any other locality in the state east of the Rocky mountains, while the bench lands, extending toward the Crazyes, are a paradise for the growth of winter wheat, as the mountain snows lie here throughout the winter, affording entire protection to grain sown in the autumn, allowing it to mature in the early summer before the need of artificially supplied moisture is felt. On the other hand, to the west the bench lands extending to the Belt range cannot be surpassed as stock ranges, exceeding any other locality in the state for the advantages furnished in this branch of agriculture. Settlers in this region have not lost hope in the location of a railroad that will pass up this valley and connect with the Great Northern at Benton, on the Missouri river. The only bugbear to a more rapid settlement of this region is its distance from market and railway facilities, consequently stockraising is the leading industry.

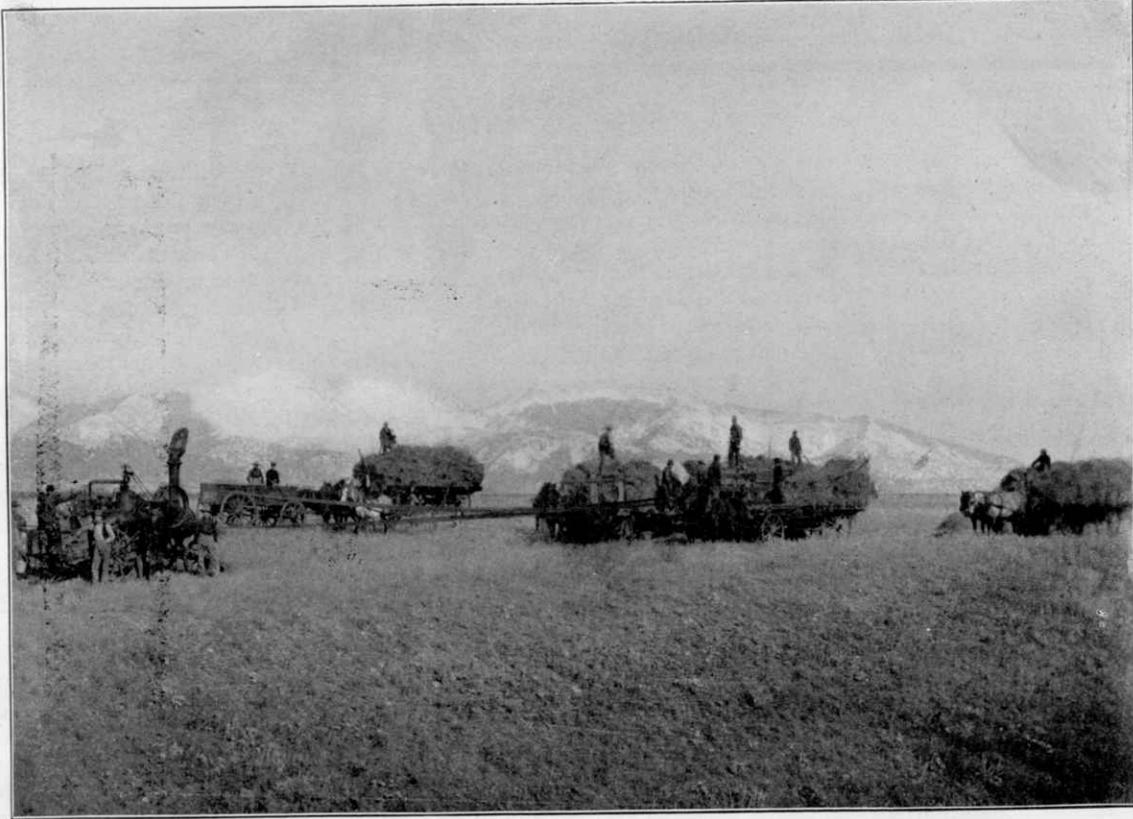
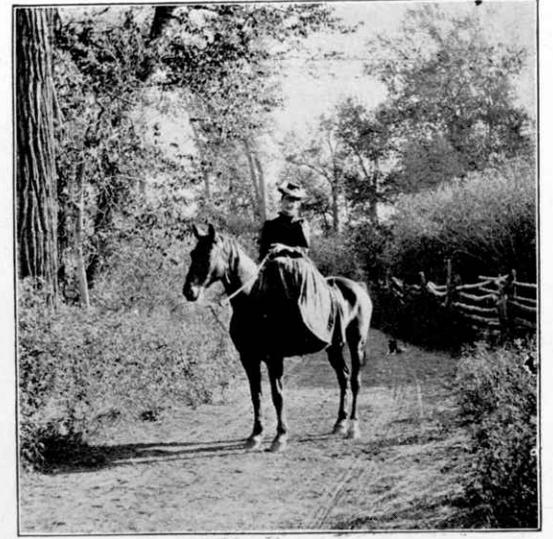
Meyersburg is a small village with a postoffice. It is situated on Flathead creek, and in the center of the great industries, and promises to be a town of great importance in the advent of the proposed railroad.

IRRIGATION.

The success of agriculture in a distinctly arid region, like the valleys of the Yellowstone and Shields rivers, where perennial streams flow from snow-capped peaks, is a self-evident proposition. Here, the high altitude renders irrigation necessary as far as a certain crop is concerned; although trusting to the rainfall, alone, in favorable seasons part of a crop can be realized. But this latter fact is not the object to be considered. No settler thinks for a moment of trying to cultivate the soil until he has provided his irrigating ditches, the construction of which is only a work of comparatively small labor; while these agricultural lands are in close proximity to streams with swift currents and a constant de-

scant. When once the irrigating ditches are made, the settler can bid defiance to the exigencies of the season. He no longer watches the clouds with painful, anxious wondering; for if his crops need moisture he turns the water into the dead furrows and they are supplied. When they have had enough he dams up the mouths of the dead furrows and allows the water to flow past his fields. There is no fear of floods, as summer rains do not visit these valleys in the dry season, consequently his crops have just the required moisture.

Owing to the adopted mode of farming in this region there is no ebb and flow to the tide of emigration as is common on the great plains, or any of the sections where the crops vary according to the rainfall, and at the profit or loss of the settler. Comparatively speaking, there, the settler makes his farm as wide-reaching as possible in the hope that he may recoup his losses in a fortunate year. He is in a certain sense a gambler, staking everything upon luck, with the chances against him. On the other hand, by irrigation, permanent success lies in limiting the operations to a comparatively few acres, and in cul-



THRESHING SCENE ON THE BENCH LANDS OF THE CRAZIES.

tivating these carefully and safely and at small expense. The farmers of Park county know that their system of irrigation is one of the most perfect in the world, for where light expense and an abundance of water and the fall is found there only can exist model irrigation farming.

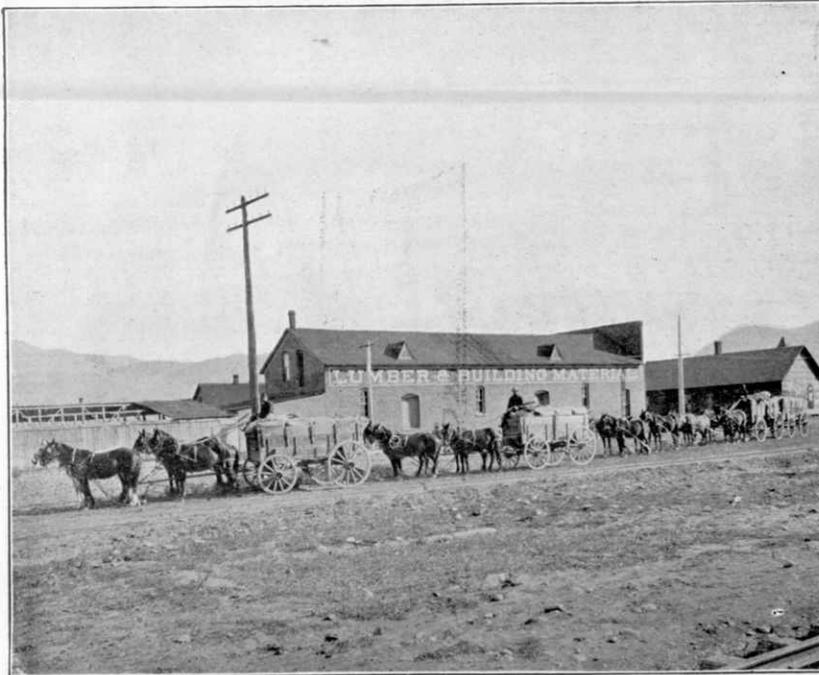
system of irrigation, it is an important item to know that this system's total valuation is only \$8,136.



PARK COUNTY'S EXHIBIT AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

A MINERAL CABIN was prepared and donated to the Montana exhibit by the ladies of the Park County Columbian association, their aim only being to give a correct idea of its great mineral resources, and at the same time add an attractive feature to the state's display.

The cabin was planned by Mrs. W. M. Wright, and constructed by Mr. A. B. Lind, both of Livingston, and the minerals were secured from Cooke City, Boulder and other mining camps. A wooden frame was at first constructed and around it the larger pieces of ore were placed, while the intervening places were filled with chippings. The ledge, resting on an iron frame, was composed almost wholly of small pieces of gold and silver-bearing ores, while the chimney was made of ores of the brightest colors. The dimensions of the cabin were: length, 20 inches; width, 18 inches; height of walls, 20 inches; chimney, 4x8. The roof was composed of crushed free-milling ore. The cabin weighed nearly 200 pounds, and rested on a beautiful and strongly built table. On the front of the cabin were the letters, "Park County, Montana." These letters were formed of precious stones set in the table with cement, embracing arrow heads, ribbon and moss agates, and tiger eyes—the letter "P" being composed entirely of arrow heads and the intervening spaces filled with gold nuggets. The two letters "O" were formed of ribbon agates and tiger eyes. From the above represen-



FREIGHTING GRAIN.

In passing up the Yellowstone or Shields river valleys, the traveler will notice long flumes surmounting ravines and narrow ditches winding along the foot-hills. Here and there in the midst of the unclaimed or uncultivated arid land appears a beautiful oasis in the form of a well-kept farmhouse surrounded by magnificent growing crops. All of these phenomena, of course, means irrigation. Here one sees just beside the swift-flowing stream a broad, dusty plain whose last blade of grass is parched and withered with excessive drought; while rapid mountain streams are pouring down these foot-hills and emptying their contents into the rivers. Many young orchards

are now adding a stimulant to irrigation farming here, and the older settlers are reaping, yearly, bountiful harvests of apples, cherries and the smaller fruits, such as gooseberries, currants, strawberries and raspberries. For their orchard products they are receiving fabulous prices in the local markets.

Since the irrigating system has been so successfully established, which seems for all time to come, the ranchers have taken mostly to diversified farming. In this way their large flocks and herds are divided into smaller groups, which can be better under the supervision of their own watchful care. Under the above plan, Park county's last assessment represents 11,413 head of cattle, not including calves; 60,046 sheep; 4,533 horses, and 629 hogs. As all of the wealth of the county's agriculture is due to her complete