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MONTANA, GREAT GOLDEN STATE.

The Third in Size of the Sisterhood, and Second in the Wealth Yearly Disgorge From Precious Mines.

Millions of Acres Free to Settlers, Only Awaiting to Be Ticked With a Hoe to Smile With Big Harvests.

Agricultural Resources for Hundreds of Times Its Population and Pastures for Millions' More Stock.

For Health and Sport, as Well as for Farming and Grazing, This Great Land Commonwealth Unsurpassed.

Montana, the third of the quartette of territories to enter the sisterhood of states in 1888, is next after Texas and California, the largest state of the Union, being 500 miles in average length from east to west and 275 miles in average width from north to south. Expressed in square miles, its area figures up into the hundred thousands (145,770), and its acreage, 38,290,000. The eastern portion of the state consists for the most part of rolling plains, which embrace about three-fifths of its entire area, and being well watered, afford almost unlimited pasturage for flocks and herds. The western portion is mountainous, the main chain and divergent spurs of the Rocky mountains traversing it from southeast to northwest. One of the principal of these diverging spurs is the Bitter Root range, between which on the west and the main chain on the east is a vast basin, occupying almost the whole of the northwestern portion of the state and embracing nearly 20,000,000 acres of cultivable land, well watered and drained by dashing mountain streams of clear, cold water—the home of the mountain trout—and interspersed with numerous valleys of great fertility. Immediately to the south, across an intervening mountain

square foot of the ground upon what today is the very business center of a substantially built and flourishing city of 14,000 population, has, at one time or another, been tossed by the shovel and washed through the sluice-box of the placer miner.

These were the days when the fame of "Last Chance Gulch" rivaled the tales of the "Arabian Nights." But other camps soon sprang up, like mushrooms from the ground, and ere long Helena began to assume the aspect of a commercial city, built up by the very nuggets of yellow gold which had been washed from her gravelly soil. This commercial ascendancy has ever maintained; and what is of far more importance, her culture and refinement have kept steady pace with her business growth.

Though there are in the neighborhood of thirty separate and distinct mining districts already developed in Montana, and others almost daily springing into notoriety, Butte City is, beyond compare, the mining camp of the world, whose annual output of mineral wealth is valued at \$20,000,000 to the wealth of its citizens. With an altitude of 5,875 feet above sea level, this phenomenal city has a good system of water works, fire companies, a \$150,000 court house, is lighted by electricity, has three street car systems

(cable, steam and electric motor), two telegraph companies, and a monthly mining newspaper, and nearly \$1,000,000. The city's population is 11,000, and including its suburbs (Walker, Centerville, Meadville and Burpee), probably 27,000, of which perhaps 5,000 are engaged in, or connected with, the development of its mines. The Northern Pacific railroad recently completed an "air line" from Logan, near the head of the Gallatin valley, to Butte, thus offering choice of "snaps" in winter, the average yearly temperature is about 50 degrees. Taken altogether, it would be difficult to find a climate better adapted to pursuits requiring open-air life, or more pleasing in its effects upon persons whose systems need that general toning up which the pure, dry ozone of Montana seldom fails of bringing about.

The plains stretching eastward from the mountainous portions of the state are, for the most part, treeless, though along the numerous watercourses there is generally a growth of cottonwood, willow, aspen, and the like. The valleys are fertile and easily irrigated, as a rule, and yield large crops of grain and vegetables. Hay is a very profitable crop, owing to the soft water and constantly increasing demand.

Eastern farmers often express astonishment at the agricultural fertility of Montana, thence come to look upon its high latitude, coupled with its supposedly high altitude, as obstacles more or less insurmountable in the way of a successful tilling of a soil which in a latitude farther south might doubtless be rendered productive. The late Prof. Agassiz, in a scientific treatise upon this subject, states as an untailing fact of nature that 300 feet of altitude, in its climatic influence, and with irrigation, is equal to a latitude of 10 degrees. The statistical tables of the government topographical survey, conducted by Prof. E. V. Hayden, show that nearly all the arable lands of Montana average from 500 to 2,000 feet lower than the most fertile valleys of Colorado, Utah, and that the average altitude of the entire state is 2,200 feet lower than that of New Mexico, Nevada, Wyoming or Colorado, a difference amounting to seven degrees of latitude. Thus it is seen that, as compared with other high latitudes, the altitude of Montana is really low, a fact which goes far toward compensating for her high latitude. Again, the isotherms of 50 deg. Fahrenheit passes through Harrisburg, Penn., Cleveland, O., and Chicago, in Illinois, and upward thence to St. Paul, in Minnesota; thence passing through the northeast corner of North Dakota, and entirely to the north of Montana. The influence of the great, warm Japan current of the Pacific ocean, and the prevailing westerly winds, termed "chinook winds," which waft this warmth even across mountain barriers to the westward of the Mississippi basin, imparting to the climate of Montana, far inland as it is, some of the well-known mildness of the Pacific coast.

When our varied variety of potatoes, onions, cabbages, beets, carrots, melons, celery, pumpkins, peas, beans, etc., yield abundantly without irrigation in many localities, and with irrigation where required. The quality of all grains, vegetables and berries grown

upon Montana soil is very fine. Gooseberries, currants, and blueberries, also serviceberries and barberries grow wild, while all kinds of berries and the hardier varieties of fruit may be grown with proper care.

The valleys of the Clark's Fork, Lo Lo, Flathead, Jocko, Deer Lodge, Bitter Root and Missouri, in the northern and western part of the state, and the Prickly Pear, Gallatin, Madison, Jefferson and Smith rivers in the central portion of the state, east of the main mountain "divide," are among the more noted agricultural sections, though there are numberless other valleys equally fertile awaiting only the plow and the plowshare to transform them into productive farms. Wheat yields from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre, oats, 25 to 30 bushels, while dairying is remarkably profitable, the rich grasses producing the best of milk, butter and cheese. The state is yet a virgin field for the way of farm products, the bulk of the population being consumers in this line rather than producers; and as the home consumption is great, every rancher is certain to obtain high prices for everything he may have to sell, especially in the way of vegetables, garden truck in general, and dairy and poultry products.

Stock Raising.

Montana stands unexcelled as a grazing region. Stock require little, if any, other food, summer or winter, than the native grasses afford. Nutritious "bunch" and other grasses grow in plentiful supply, not only in the valleys and upon the "bench lands," but also upon the "foot-hills," and even upon the mountain slopes. In early spring-time, before the frost is fairly out of the ground, the tender, juicy blades of bunchgrass appear, rapidly mature, cure early in autumn, and stand as hay of the finest quality for the winter sustenance of grazing herds. Cattle fatten quickly, and keep in better condition upon this grass than those which graze upon the plains of Nebraska or Colorado, or even the blue grass pastures of Kentucky. Montana beefs are noted the world over for their excellence, and their raising has developed rapidly, to become an industry second in importance only to mining. The number of cattle in Montana in 1890, was estimated to be 2,400,000 head.

In several parts of the state the breeding and rearing of horses has for years been carried on with great success, and much profit, and ever since the wonderful turf exploits of the Montana horse Spokane much attention has been given to the breeding of racing stock. The pure air and bracing climate appear to be peculiarly adapted to the purpose.

development of the ideal horse, as the Bitter Root ranch of Marcus Daly, near Butte, and the Bannock ranch of Banker C. W. Hoffman, Bozeman, amply attest. Those whose good fortune it has been to inspect the breeding and rearing of thoroughbred horses, and to see the rapidity with which the bright eyes of perfect foals are developed, and the beauty of form which seem as natural to the Montana equine as the pure blue of the sky, will be struck with an objection to earlier days when bands of wild couriers grazed upon these same grasses and led would-be captors many a hopeless chase over these same hills and dales.

Sheep Culture.

Sheep husbandry is another great source of wealth to Montana agriculturists. Here grasses, soil, climate and all the conditions necessary to the production of mutton of the best quality, and some of the most numerous and ordinary excellence, seem to have combined to render many portions of the state a veritable paradise for the shepherd and his flock. The profits derived from Montana sheep ranching are large and certain, while far less capital is required than in raising cattle or horses. The annual wool clip per sheep is enormous, and the natural increase of a flock from 60 to 70 to 80 per cent. A careful estimate places the number of sheep upon Montana ranches Jan. 1 last at 2,500,000, and the wool clip for 1889 is given as 12,000,000 pounds.

Coal and Stone.

Coal of excellent coaking quality is found in abundance in the mountains between Bozeman and Livingston, and several mines are being rapidly developed. The coke ovens at Coledale, near Livingston, are doing a prosperous business and producing an excellent crop, owing to the soft water and abundant fuel at the smelting furnaces. Heretofore all coke used in Montana had to be brought from Pennsylvania. Whole mountains of coal, of the best quality, are found, and many of the valleys contain excellent brick and pottery clays.

Health Resorts.

Fifty-one miles south from Livingston the location of the sulfate granaries of whose scenery annually attracts thousands to its borders, and whose rare hot springs and awe-inspiring ceyers are the unparalleled wonder and admiration of the nineteenth century. This great American playground contains, besides many grand waterfalls and dancing cascades, numerous sparkling mountain streams and gem-like lakes, nearly all of which are plentifully stocked with mountain trout. One of these—Yellowstone lake—is fifteen by twenty miles in size, and occupies an elevation nearly half a mile higher than the summit of New Hampshire's mountain resort—Mount Washington. Like all mountain lakes, its depth is great and its water clear and transparent as a safe. The extensive forests and snow-capped mountain peaks with which it is surrounded are clearly reflected in its blue depths; and the little islands which here and there dot its surface lend an additional charm to its picturesque beauty. Besides the hot mineral springs of the National Park there are the Hunter's Hot springs, near Springdale, in the east of Livingston; the Ferris Hot springs, near Bozeman; White Sulphur Springs, forty miles northeast of Townsend; Pinestone Hot Springs, on the "Big Lost Line," near Helena Hot springs, and others of somewhat similar names in the Bitter Root valley, not far from Missoula. These several springs all possess remarkable healing properties, particularly in the case of scrofulous and rheumatic diseases, and are rapidly attaining prominence; silica, iron, ammonia, lime, magnesia, iron, potassium, and sulphates and chlorides are the principal mineral constituents. Through the public spirit of Col. A. C. Broadwater, of Helena, the soda are the principal mineral constituents. Through the public spirit of Col. A. C. Broadwater, of Helena, the commodious hotel and natorium have been erected at these springs at a cost of nearly half a million of dollars. All

this has been done in order that the visitor may not only have the best bathing privileges afforded anywhere in the United States, but the comforts of a charming hotel and advantages of city surroundings as well.

For Sport.

No state in the Union affords such magnificent angling as Montana, nearly every one of its numerous mountain streams and charming lakes are well stocked with the game and toothsome mountain trout, while whitefish and grayling are quite frequently taken. What has been said of angling is also true of hunting. Grouse, sage hens, ducks, geese, brant and swans are numerous in autumn, while grizzly bears, deer, elk, antelope, mountain sheep, mountain goats, caribou and moose are to be had the year round. Glendive, Miles City, Billings, Custer, Livingston, Bozeman, Missoula and Horse Plains are all good outfitting points for those in search of the exciting sport connected with the capture of noble game, while the angler will find splendid fishing all the way up the upper Yellowstone river, from Livingston to and through the Park; also in the Bitter Root, Jocko and Lo Lo creeks, easily reached from Missoula, and in Flathead lake and its affluent streams.

The Northern Pacific Railroad company has upward of 10,000,000 acres of fine farming, grazing and timber land in Montana for sale at low prices and upon easy terms, while there are millions of unoccupied public lands, which the government gives free to actual settlers under the provisions of the public land laws.

IT WILL PAY

To Grow Fruit and to Raise High Grade Stock.

A few words on tree culture. There were this year 29,350 trees planted throughout the state on Arbor day, and the number of acres planted during the season was 1,112, making the whole number of acres planted and growing 38,412. There were 231,515 rods planted on highways and farms, which is a no mean question for the farmers of Minnesota. The trees protect the crops. The grain annually lost by a single storm that answered for the loss of every eighty-acre lot. The woods of Minnesota are large, but the woodsman's ax is quickly leveling them to the ground, and this yearly planting of young trees is a work which cannot be too highly commended.

To conclude with a few remarks on fruit growing and stock raising. It has already been briefly shown the interests farmers are taking in stock raising and fruit growing, but purely in a statistical way. There is nothing he may want for his household needs, so far as fruit is concerned, but what he can raise upon his farm, he will sell to the best advantage in any of the older counties in Minnesota and the visitor will quickly ascertain that in the fruit and vegetable lines the farm is the source of all. It would prolong this already too long article to enter into details about fruit growing. A very large crop of strawberries are annually raised in the state, and the home market is in the latter part of this season entirely supplied from this source. Raspberries were also a most excellent crop this year, and very satisfactory returns were forthcoming. J. S. Harris, of La Crosse, says: "I hold to the opinion that the farmer and his family should be supplied with an abundance of fruit the whole year around. There are but few farms in the settled portions of the state so badly located that it cannot be produced upon them in most varieties in quantities ample for the needs of the families, and at a cost that will make the growing of it a profitable investment."

In addition to strawberries and raspberries, plums, blackberries, currants and grapes thrive well in this state. Currants are a valuable and much neglected fruit. They will grow in any kind of soil. Every farmer ought to grow small fruit. It will pay him in the end. Fruit and potatoes can be an excuse for him not undertaking this necessary and pleasing adjunct to a farm.

In special articles, from the pens of gentlemen especially identified there with, Minnesota as a stock-raising state has been critically treated. To state that the enter into any dissertation thereon would be unwise. That it will pay farmers to raise stock cannot be gainsaid. There was a time when they had been half-breeded. The question was brooded abroad: "Does it pay the farmers to raise stock?"

Prices, however, are better now, but it may be said that prices never can be too low when the farmer would be justified in dispensing with his stock. The farmer should not excuse himself to raise cattle solely. It will be found that horse raising, in the future, an important factor in the receipts of the Minnesota farmer. The Minnesota climate is peculiarly adapted to horse breeding. What the farmer must do is to raise a horse that will sell to gentlemen especially identified there with, Minnesota as a stock-raising state has been critically treated. To state that the enter into any dissertation thereon would be unwise. That it will pay farmers to raise stock cannot be gainsaid. There was a time when they had been half-breeded. The question was brooded abroad: "Does it pay the farmers to raise stock?"

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