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above Fort Benton, the present head of steamboat navigation, and supply the river steamboats with the necessary fuel. The vein on the Yellowstone is of a fine bituminous quality, twenty-two feet in thickness, and is very profitably worked. Helena is supplied with coal for gas, fuel, foundry, and other purposes, from a vein worked on the Dearborn, about forty miles distant. Numerous beds of lignite have also been found on the Blackfoot, Marias and Teton Rivers, and various other localities in the Territory. About one-fourth of the Territory is covered with dense forests of white and yellow pine, hemlock, fir and cedar, the pines equaling in size and quality the famous pines of Oregon and Washington Territory.

The climate is remarkable for its equability and salubrity, being generally open and mild during the winter, with summers pleasant and healthful in the extreme. The season of 1875 was exceptional in its severity, the temperature in some localities falling as low as 55° below zero, but notwithstanding this, stock passed the winter without shelter or care, and suffered but little loss. The large quantities of stock and game, and the vast herds of buffalo which range and thrive throughout the year, give proof of the mildness of the climate and the capability of the country for grazing. Although far to the north and of high altitude, it bears a climate corresponding to that of seven or eight degrees further south on the Atlantic coast.

The rivers, like the mountains, are on a grand scale. The Missouri, one of the largest rivers in the world, has its sources in Montana, being formed by the junction of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin rivers, each large streams, and receives in its course a great number of other streams, the principal of which are the Teton, Sun River, Marias, and Milk River on the north, and the Arrow, Judith, Mussel, Shoal, and Yellowstone on the south, the latter having the Big Horn for one of its branches. The Missouri and Yellowstone are navigable, the former to the Falls, a few miles above Fort Benton, 2,000 miles from its junction with the Mississippi, and steamboats ascend the Yellowstone to the mouth of the Big Horn. Above the Falls of the Missouri the river is large, and with slight improvement could be rendered navigable for two or three hundred miles, making it the longest line of navigable inland water on the globe. This constitutes a grand channel of commerce during the summer, but is closed in winter. Steamboats ply upon it from St. Louis and Omaha, and smaller boats, constructed to float with the current, descend loaded with merchandise and passengers, a cheap and pleasant way of making a long journey. The Missouri of Montana is a rapid and beautiful stream of pure, clear water, and is not entitled to its sobriquet of "Big Muddy" until it receives the turbid waters of the Yellowstone.

West of the Rocky Mountains in the great basin enclosed by that range and the Bitter Root and Cœur d'Alene ranges are the Pen d'Oreille, or Clark's Fork, Flathead, Hellgate, Blackfoot, Bitter Root and Kootenai rivers, all being tributaries of the Columbia. Clark's Fork is navigable but is obstructed by Thompson's Falls, at which point navigation ceases. These navigable streams, reaching out both east and west, will, when the resources of the country are developed, and its rich mines and fertile plains become peopled, become of incalculable value as aids to commerce. The railroad, however, is the great desideratum. The Northern Pacific is the hope of the country. This is needed to bring this isolated region into easy and cheap communication with the world, to bring population, machinery and merchandise, and to bear away the products. The country that has been the favorite home of the Indians and fed the countless herds of buffalo, is surely an attractive one to the skilled labor, industry and enterprise of the white race.

Montana contains many grand and attractive features of natural scenery, and for its health-giving atmosphere, mysterious wilds, abundant game, rich mines and grand objects in nature will become a resort of tourists from every section of the world. The Valley of the Yellowstone presents scenes most weird, and awe-inspiring of any section known to man. A region of one hundred miles square has been devoted by Congress to the purposes of a National Park, and forever open to visitors in search of the wonderful and curious. Here are waterfalls of great magnitude, deep cañons, sulphur springs, boiling springs and geysers, one of which throws a stream of boiling water and steam from 300 to 600 feet into the air. The grand scenery of the National Park of the Yellowstone is already attracting tourists from all parts of the world, and as railroads open the country it will become the resort and pleasure grounds of multitudes of people, as nothing so sublime and peculiar exists elsewhere.

Such are the features of Montana. A country of lofty mountains, great rivers and broad plains; with resources of gold and silver, copper, lead and coal beneath the surface, towering forests, grass-covered hills and plains and fertile valleys to invite the agriculturist and manufacturer, game without limit for the sportsman, and grand scenery for the curious and scientific, and thus promises to become one of the noblest of the sisterhood of States.

TABLE

Of Counties, County Seats, Area, Population, Vote of 1874, Valuation of Property, 1874, etc.

Counties.	County Seats.	Area.	Population	Vote 1874.		Acres in Cultivation	Valuation of property 1874.
				Rep.	Dem.		
Beaver Head.....	Fannack City.....	4,250	721	104	149	12,000	\$553,060
Big Horn.....	Unorganized.....	64,400					
Choteau.....	Fort Benton.....	26,425	517	30	160	2,055	600,000
Deer Lodge.....	Deer Lodge City.....	15,300	4,356	699	993	28,753	1,619,303
Gallatin.....	Bozeman.....	6,890	1,578			63,904	529,000
Jefferson.....	Helena.....	2,720	1,537	285	433	33,225	500,000
Lewis & Clarke.....	Radserburgh.....	1,700	5,030	986	938	41,500	3,000,000
Madison.....	Virginia City.....	5,100	2,864	765	734	69,604	1,867,138
Mengher.....	Diamond City.....	7,650	1,387	200	343	25,069	585,316
Missoula.....	Missoula.....	20,400	2,555	184	414	32,588	850,000
Totals.....		154,745	20,545	3,313	4,164	310,998	\$10,099,817

LIBRARIES—PUBLIC AND SOCIETY.

County.	Location.	Name.	When Organized.	No. Vols.
Gallatin.....	Bozeman.....	Library Association.....		
Lewis and Clarke.....	Helena.....			
Madison.....	Virginia City.....	Temple of Honor.....	1873	
Deer Lodge.....	Deer Lodge.....	Deer Lodge.....		300