

**THE RESOURCES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES OF  
MONTANA. 1917 EDITION.  
"THE LAND OPPORTUNITY"**

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The Resources and Opportunities of Montana. 1917 Edition. "The Land Opportunity" by  
Department of Agriculture & Chas. D. Greenfield

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DEPARTAMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CHAS. D. GREENFIELD

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## Medals Won by Montana Farmers at Panama-Pacific Exposition



AT THE Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco, Montana farmers were awarded more gold, silver and bronze medals and received more honorable mentions than were given agricultural exhibitors of any other state or foreign country. Montana was also awarded the grand prize in cereals and the grand prize in apples, the highest competitive awards in the agricultural and horticultural divisions. At the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Diego, Montana won the grand prize in agriculture. The above is a photograph of the medals awarded by the exposition at San Francisco. It shows nine gold medals of honor, awarded the state, 73 gold medals, 236 silver medals and 195 bronze medals awarded agricultural exhibitors from Montana.


Resources and Opportunities of Montana

1917 Edition

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# "The Land of Opportunity"

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By  the Department of Agriculture and Publicity  
Chas. D. Greenfield, Commissioner

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This Publication is Issued and Circulated by Authority of  
the State of Montana

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Helena, Montana

1917

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Independent Publishing Company  
Helena, Montana

## FOREWORD

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SSUED by the authority of the State of Montana, "Montana-1917" seeks to give homeseekers, investors, young people who are looking for a new field, those who are seeking a place where they can start life anew, reliable and accurate information of the opportunities which are offered them in the Treasure State.



The third largest state in the Union, with a population of less than one million, with untold undeveloped mineral and agricultural wealth, something about how this wealth is being developed, and the opportunities offered for further development are told in "Montana-1917." The proofs of growth and development are taken largely from official publications of the United States government, and may be depended on as plain, unbiased and unvarnished statements of facts.

The endeavor has been in this publication to give the information about the state and counties which homeseekers and investors desire to know. To accomplish this it has not been possible to go into great detail. The endeavor has been to tell something of the agricultural, mining, hydro-electric, coal and gas and oil, livestock, dairying, horticultural, transportation, mercantile and other industries of Montana; to give facts as to climate and educational facilities. In short, to truthfully picture in words not only Montana as a whole but its sub-divisions. To tell how Montana is growing, what it is and what it offers today. On these statements the homeseeker and investor may judge whether the showing is such as to justify him in throwing his lot in with a state and with a people where his welcome will be of the whole-hearted, western type.

This is the seventh edition of "Montana." That the previous issues have justified their publication there is evidence in that they are regarded as a standard of authority on the state. The demand for each edition comes not only from all sections of the United States but from lands across the waters.

The hope is that this latest edition of "Montana" will prove as valuable and useful as have those which have preceded it.

CHAS. D. GREENFIELD, Commissioner

# Montana—Land of Opportunity

With Less Than a Million People Living Within Its Borders, the State Added to the Wealth of the Nation in 1916, \$342,000,000



GRREAT AS is the area of Montana, in comparison with other states of the union, its wealth in natural resources far exceeds in proportion the number of square miles within its borders. With an area of 147,182 square miles, a population of 750,000, in the year 1916 the value of its mineral, farm, livestock, wool, coal and lumber products reached a total of \$342,000,000. And Montana is only in its infancy. Millions of tillable acres have not been touched by the plow; there are mountains of riches in gold, in silver, in copper, in lead, which have never been touched by the pick of the prospector; there are coal deposits which are yet hid from the eyes of man; gas and oil deposits which await the magic touch of capital and labor to pour forth their streams of wealth; mountain streams which need but to be harnessed to furnish the power to operate thousands of miles of railroads, to drive the wheels of factories, to light new towns, to lift the water from the rivers to the dry lands. In no section of the state has development reached its maximum. Numerous as has been the number of cities and towns which have come into being in the past five years, every one of which has shown steady growth, their number will be greatly exceeded in the coming five years, due to the development of resources and the settlement of the state. In the new towns and in those which are already in being, the merchant, the banker, the professional man, the craftsman will find opportunities which are not excelled anywhere in the land.

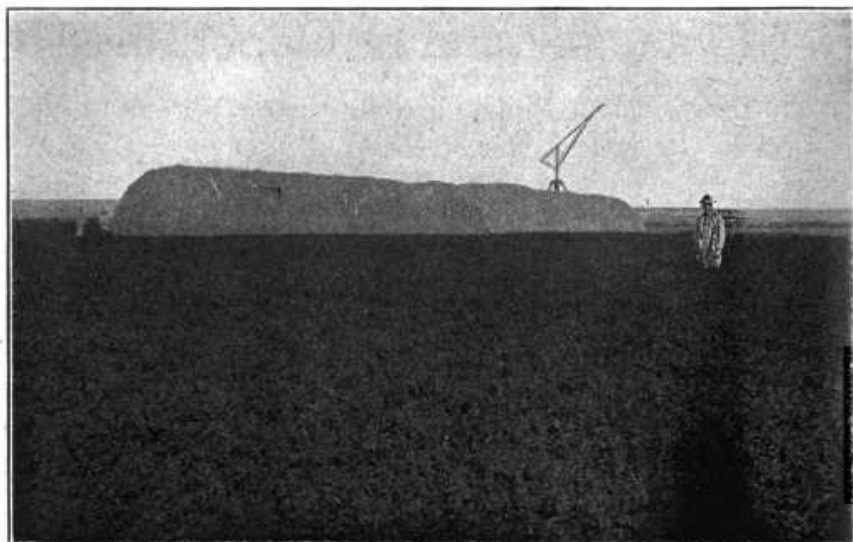
There are forty-three counties in Montana and the assessed valuation of property for purposes of taxation is in round numbers \$586,000,000, assessments as a rule being made on a basis of forty per cent of the actual valuation. Contrary to the common belief held in the east and the middle west, forty-one of the forty-three counties of Montana are classed as agricultural, but two, Silver Bow and Jefferson being noted more for their mineral production than for their farm output.

There is no state which offers superior and few equal opportunities to the investor and homemaker as await the taking in Montana. When it is remembered that this state has an average length from east to west of 535 miles, and the average width from north to south of 275 miles, embracing an area of 147,182 square miles and that in this immense territory the population is only about three quarters of a million, one can readily see that it is virtually a virgin territory so far as opportunity is concerned. Montana embraces a greater area than all of the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland combined.

## Great Area Agricultural Land.

In recent years the belief held by many that Montana was wholly a mountainous state, and that its area of agricultural land was small, has been dissipated to a large extent. In the past five years more than 30,000,000 acres of public lands and lands once included in Indian reservations have been taken up and settled upon by home makers. What this settlement has meant to the food production of the country





Montana Alfalfa Hay in Stack 1917

may be judged by the reports of the agricultural department at Washington. The wheat production has jumped 25,000,000 bushels, oats 20,000,000 bushels, corn 1,000,000, potatoes 3,000,000, flax 3,000,000 and hay 1,000,000 tons.

In these five years the productivity of Montana soil as compared with that of other states has been amply demonstrated. Going again to an official source, the United States department of agriculture, the report of that department under date of December, 1916, shows the average per acre production in bushels in 1916 of the twelve principal agricultural states of the union, the average for the entire United States, and the average for the same period in Montana as follows:

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax	Potatoes	Rye	Corn
Ohio .....	13.5	23.0	27.8	.....	45.0	14.5	31.5
Indiana .....	12.0	30.0	27.0	.....	44.0	14.0	34.0
Illinois .....	11.0	33.5	32.0	.....	53.0	15.5	29.5
Michigan .....	17.0	30.0	24.5	.....	43.0	14.3	27.5
Wisconsin .....	17.6	37.0	30.0	12.0	47.0	16.2	35.0
Minnesota .....	7.4	26.5	19.0	3.5	60.0	15.0	23.5
Iowa .....	15.8	37.0	29.5	10.0	42.0	17.0	36.5
Missouri .....	8.5	25.0	20.0	7.0	60.0	11.0	19.5
N. Dakota.....	5.5	21.5	15.5	10.3	93.0	13.3	26.5
S. Dakota.....	6.3	30.5	22.7	9.7	66.0	13.0	23.5
Nebraska .....	19.4	35.5	28.0	8.0	73.0	16.0	26.0
Kansas .....	12.0	23.5	16.0	5.8	71.0	14.5	10.0
U. S. ....	12.1	30.1	23.6	9.6	80.4	15.3	24.4
MONTANA .....	19.3	38.0	28.0	9.5	125.0	20.5	25.0

#### Acre Value to Farmers.

Even more interesting than this comparison of yields is another compilation of the United States department of agriculture which shows the comparative value to the farmer of an acre of wheat, of oats, of hay and potatoes in Montana and other agricultural states for 1916:



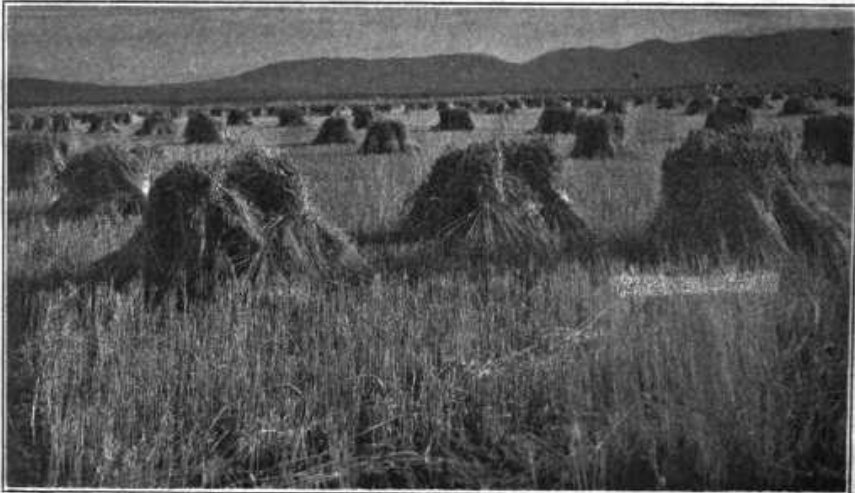
Montana Has Many Herds of Good Dairy Cattle

	Hay	Potatoes	Wheat	Oats
Illinois .....	\$16.33	\$102.82	\$18.15	\$19.64
Indiana .....	15.70	77.83	20.28	15.30
Iowa .....	14.49	73.50	24.65	17.76
Kansas .....	11.78	117.15	19.63	12.92
Michigan .....	15.90	76.80	23.39	15.90
Minnesota .....	12.95	78.00	11.99	18.87
Missouri .....	12.69	103.00	14.02	13.25
Nebraska .....	15.62	109.50	31.04	16.68
North Dakota .....	10.20	106.95	8.86	9.46
South Dakota .....	10.26	90.42	10.20	14.03
Ohio .....	18.64	81.90	22.82	14.84
United States .....	18.36	117.48	19.43	15.80
<b>MONTANA .....</b>	<b>18.70</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>81.07</b>	<b>17.86</b>

Is it any wonder, in view of the proved phenomenal richness of Montana soils, that in recent years one-third of all the homesteads filed upon in the United States have been in Montana? In the eight years including 1916, 25,000,000 acres of public land in Montana have been filed upon, the number of filings aggregating 126,000. But on the last day of June, 1916, there still remained in Montana open to entry more than 16,000,000 acres of public land. More than half of this it is estimated is suited to farming.

#### Free Lands Going Fast.

But the opportunity to get a free homestead in Montana is not going to last much longer. Since the first of the year thousands of entries have been made, and tens of thousands of acres of public land have been filed upon. The time is rapidly approaching when the man who wants land in Montana for growing crops will have to buy it. Even today in some sections of the state this is the condition. But this does not mean that the opportunity to get farm land cheap has disappeared. Taking into account the productivity of the soil, the good markets and



An Oat Crop in Eastern Montana

other conditions, farm lands in Montana are selling today at much less than in other states. When one can buy winter wheat lands which will produce from 25 to 40 bushels an acre at from \$20 to \$40 an acre, and irrigated lands at from \$40 to \$75 an acre, it cannot be said that there is lacking the opportunity for the homemaker to make a start with a comparatively small outlay.

#### From Range to Farm.

Ten years ago when the homesteader began to come into Montana in large numbers, taking up the quarter sections and fencing them, the cattle industry as it had been conducted for more than a quarter of a century, was looked upon as doomed. As the years have passed and the homesteader has come in larger and larger numbers, the prediction has been fulfilled in large part. While in different parts of Montana there are still cattle on the range, yet the number as compared with the thousands which ranged the public lands ten years ago is comparatively small. But the disappearance of the range cattle has not reduced the annual output of beef cattle from Montana—it has merely brought about a change in the system of cattle growing. Instead of the big cattleman, running thousands of head, and shipping to the eastern market by the trainload, beef cattle are now produced in Montana by the small ranchman and farmer. He markets from half a dozen to a dozen animals a year, making up a train load with his neighbors. Last year Montana sent to market 227,828 beef animals and 3,000,000 sheep, while the value of the horses shipped out of the state aggregated \$10,000,000. Breeding a better class of beef animals has been going on for ten years and today there are in Montana herds of pure bred Herefords, Shorthorns and Angus, than which there are no better in the United States.

#### Dairy Industry Grows.

The development of the farming industry has naturally led to a greater diversity of the operations, and one result has been an almost phenomenal growth in the dairy industry and increase in dairy cows. Co-operative creameries have been