

INTELLIGENCE OF ANTS.

SOME warm day, when you do not know what else to do, find an ant hill under a shady tree and watch the little fellows at their work. That is what I have been doing. The ring of earth around the hole, like the wall of a fort, is familiar, but the most interesting part of their home is under ground. See them drag the pebbles out of the hole in the center. If you could follow it down you would find the way irregular, and at the end a number of galleries each supported by pillars of earth. The young ants are kept on these shelves, and, in fact, it is their city. Here the chief men meet to talk over the matters of the colony. But how can they talk? Put an ant under the microscope and you will see two little projections on the head called mandibles. The ant converses by touching its mandibles to those of its neighbor. Ants are very strong, persevering and industrious, some working all night, and I have seen an ant carrying a stone two or three times its size. I once laid a piece of sugar near a hole. An ant soon found it, and though the piece was many times as large as itself, it lifted the sugar above its head and started for the hill. It attempted to drag the sugar up the hill, but when the first pebble was struck it would roll over and over. At last, by leveling a place so as to get a start, by the occasional help of a passing ant, the sugar was pulled over the hill. I noticed a spider one day stop to rest near an ant hill. Four or five ants came out. They took hold of his legs and swarmed on his back. He was dragged into the hole and the rest flocked out to help eat him up. The ants carry their young out every pleasant day to lie in the sun, and at the first sight of rain they hurry them into their houses. These little creatures have good memories, and never forget their friends. If an ant be taken out of an ant hill, kept for two months and then put back into the same hill, it will be received; but if placed in another it will be killed. In Texas there is found the agricultural ants, that clear a place from weeds and grass for about two feet around their home. They then drop the seed of a kind of grass whose grain they like very much. The ants take care of the young blades, protecting them from insects, and when the grain is ripe, carry it into their homes. But what is more peculiar, if the store of food should become damp during a rain, it will all be carried out on the first sunny day and dried, and then brought back. The habits of ants indicate great intelligence and reasoning power.

THE Okanagan & Shuswap Railway Company has applied to the Legislature of British Columbia for a charter to build a line of railroad from the north end of Okanagan Lake by way of Spallumcheen Valley to a connection with the Canadian Pacific. A grant of 650,000 acres of land, including all minerals thereon, is asked for by the company. This is one of a number of lines that will branch off from the Canadian Pacific in various directions through British Columbia, and aid in developing the rich mineral, lumber and agricultural resources of the Province.

MONTANA'S PRODUCTIVENESS.

MONTANA is destined to become one of the greatest agricultural States of America. Its climate, soil and native products of grass are alone sufficient to assure this. The harvest of 1883 yielded 745,500 bushels of wheat, an average of about thirty bushels per acre, and 1,614,000 bushels of oats, an average of forty-five bushels, to say nothing of minor crops, such as barley, potatoes, etc., which run up into the hundreds of thousands of bushels. Our pastoral area outnumbered our tillable lands at least ten to one, and our live stock products constitute the bulk of our agricultural wealth. There are in our Territory 74,560 head of horses, worth at a low estimate \$2,237,000; 5,254 mules, worth \$157,320; and 21,000 milch cows, worth \$840,000; and 378,713 head of stock cattle, readily worth \$11,951,330, making a total valuation of \$12,691,320. There are also in Montana 527,440 head of sheep, the cash value of which is fully \$1,582,322, yielding an annual product of 2,637,000 pounds of wool, which last year brought the growers a total of \$527,400. About 10,000 mutton sheep brought \$35,000. Thirty-five thousand beeves have been sent to the Eastern cities, and all of 15,000 have been sold to Indian agencies and railroad builders, making the round number of 50,000 head, which brought between two and two and a half million dollars. It will be seen that, aside from real estate, the husbandman of Montana represents a cash valuation of \$14,373,012, and hence it will appear that our live stock interests are bringing the Territory the handsome income of nearly three million a year. This does not include what is consumed at home, and consequently does not anything like reach the value of our product.—*Husbandman.*

TREE PLANTING.

SO small would be the money outlay, so inconsiderable the labor required, to insure for the next generation a wealth of timber land equal to that of which we have the benefit, and shade and shelter trees in even more adequate supply, that it is a great wonder to us, amid all the forcible facts brought forward against the rate at which forest destruction is going on, there has been no more general movement in tree planting. In Germany and Austria, for upward of half a century, the number of trees planted has borne a good proportion to those annually cut down, and it is certain that this is the case now, year by year. In France, Italy and England, also, tree cultivation is now general, and is held to be a most important matter of public concern. But here, with the characteristic improvidence which has come to be considered a marked feature of American character, we are destroying our great virgin forests with a rapidity never before equaled in any other country, and without taking any measures to insure their future growth.

THE Anaconda Company, whose new smelting works gave birth last year to the bustling town of Anaconda, is now shipping eighty tons of copper per day. This is a large addition to the already great shipments of that metal from the mines of Butte City and vicinity.