

whole families at a time, may be seen making their periodical pilgrimages to the springs. It is often the case that medicinal springs find their devotees only in strangers from a distance, but not so at White Sulphur Springs, for every citizen has a firm belief in the virtue of these waters, and this belief is not founded solely on the testimony of chemists, but upon their own observation and experience. Some of them have used the water regularly for years and have watched its effect upon themselves and others, and such persons are the most enthusiastic in its praise. There have been no deaths at White Sulphur Springs for some time. Not long since an individual who thought the town should be prepared to furnish suitable funeral pomp, when necessary, invested in a hearse, but has as yet found no demand for its services. Even the offer of a free ride to the first passenger has failed to create any enthusiasm for its use, and the offer still remains open.

The stage route from Townsend being the shortest is the one most generally traveled, and stages run daily both ways. The fare is \$5, or \$9 for the round trip. Parties of four or five will find a private conveyance both a more pleasant and cheaper mode of traveling. A splendid road leads from the springs to Livingston, though the distance is about twice that to Townsend. Still it will be found a pleasant route to travel, especially by those intending to pay a visit to the great National Park of the Yellowstone.

THE BENCH LANDS OF MONTANA.

THAT part of Montana bounded on the west by the Rocky and Belt mountains, and extending as far east as the 109th degree of longitude, and lying between the Missouri and Marias rivers on the north, and the Musselshell River on the south, possesses more and better agricultural lands than can be found elsewhere in Montana. This area embraces about 30,000 square miles of territory, and is but little traversed or broken by mountain ranges. It is divided into valleys and bench lands. The valleys, though rich and fertile, cannot generally be successfully cultivated without irrigation. This Territory, however, more than any other, is favored with large streams and an abundant supply of water. The important feature of this part of Montana is its extensive table lands. The old-timers have been slow to believe that any land in Montana can be cultivated successfully without irrigation. It is now a settled fact that vast stretches of bench or table land in this part will, one year with another, produce wheat averaging from twenty-five to fifty bushels to the acre. A Highwood farmer of large experience told me last fall that he considered the benches of this part of Montana the best wheat lands he had ever seen in any country, and that his experience had demonstrated that they would produce large yields of wheat and oats with only the natural supply of moisture. Let any man driving from Great Falls to Fort Benton, on either side of the Missouri River, note everywhere the rich soil and abundant grasses. He will see no sage brush and no alkali land. If he examines the soil he will find it mellow and well mixed with silica, the "grist of the mountains," so essential to the rapid growth of grain and to the retention of moisture.—*Great Falls Tribune.*

NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST.

Work has been commenced on the foundation and basement of the new capitol building at Boise City. Idaho will soon have a capital worthy of her increasing wealth and importance.

A company has begun the development of a ledge on Castle Mountain, near White Sulphur Springs, Montana. A shaft will be sunk 100 feet, and if the vein holds good to that depth, a 200-foot tunnel will be run in from the side of the hill to tap the ledge much lower down.

Bellevue, Idaho, is erecting a handsome brick school house, containing two stories and a basement. It will excel anything in the Territory except the school building at Boise City, and is an evidence that Bellevue is prospering and that her citizens appreciate the value of good schools.

From January 1 to May 31 the coal mines of Puget Sound have shipped 142,895 tons of coal to San Francisco, apportioned as follows: Carbon Hill, 81,444; Cedar River, 5,316; Green River, 3,286; Renton, 16,637; South Prairie, 2,500; Seattle, 33,712. The Carbon Hill and South Prairie ship at the city of Tacoma, and the others at Seattle.

During the month of May ten cargoes of lumber were shipped from Puget Sound for foreign ports—Honolulu, Melbourne, Montevideo, Kalahui, Valparaiso, Callao, Panama and Norway. During the same month twenty-six vessels sailed for ports along the coast, chiefly to San Francisco. The cargoes aggregated 19,317,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$195,000.

During the month of June 21,151 head of cattle were purchased in Eastern Oregon and Washington and shipped to the ranges further east, chiefly in Montana. They were all passed by the Territorial Inspector at Horse Plains as being perfectly free from even the germs of disease. Many of them will go to the block this season, while others will remain on the ranges.

Visitors to White Sulphur Springs will find excellent hotel accommodations—far better than many of them will anticipate. The Higgins House, owned and managed by Jonas Higgins, is a handsome three-story brick structure, and offers first class accommodations, both as to rooms and table. It is one of the best hotels in Montana, which is certainly a sufficient recommendation.

The Big Yank ledge, in Rogue River, is being developed by two tunnels—one on the north and one on the south, each to be 200 feet long, and cut the ledge about 800 feet below the surface. A 100-stamp mill will soon be erected, and the ledges of Southern Oregon will be brought into prominence by the result of its workings. The ledge can be traced a distance of nine miles on the surface.

The large 120-stamp mill which has been erected on Douglas Island, in the Yukon River, Alaska, was started up on the 19th of June. This marks the opening of quartz mining on an extensive scale in that region, and the result of its operations will be watched with interest by hundreds of miners who are anxious to see a practical test of the mooted question of a profitable working of the Yukon ledges.

The Minich, a ledge situated near Wickes, Montana, was sold recently to C. D. McClure and A. Lambeth for \$25,000. Three shafts have been sunk on the property to a depth of 65, 90 and 100 feet respectively, and one level run a distance of 110 feet, uncovering a vein thirty inches wide and a body of ore of more than 2,000 tons.