

It contains six matting furnaces, and produces a matte which assays from \$1,200 to \$1,500 in silver and 50 per cent. copper, and which is sent to Denver for separation. The value of the annual output of the Colorado works has been \$1,000,000 per annum since 1882. The capacity of the plant is being increased yearly. W. A. Clark, of Butte, is one of the heaviest owners in the enterprise.

Bell.—This is a two-stack smelter, which has been in constant operation for the past year, drawing its ore supply from the Bell mine, one of the richest in the district, as its product, like that of the Colusa, carries silver with the copper. Bell matte assays 50 per cent. copper and \$50 in silver.

Clark's Colusa.—On this property a concentrator and smelter, having a capacity of 100 tons, have been lately erected, and are in active and successful operation. The mine has a productive capacity of 200 tons a day, and could produce more if the hoister machinery were larger. The mine is 400 feet deep, and shows in the slopes of the 300-foot level a forty-foot ore body.

Other great copper mines of the district are the Mountain View, 600 feet deep; Clear Grit, 300 feet; Ramsdall Parrot, 300 feet; Gagnon, 600 feet.

In conclusion it may be said that Butte is the most productive and permanent mining camp in the world. The ledges are regular in dip and strike the ore bodies from three to sixty feet wide, with well defined walls, in a granite formation, and its machinery, mills and smelters the best that money can buy. The camp is destined to have a population of 20,000 before the close of another year.

WESTERN MONTANA.

THE main divide of the Rocky Mountains separates Western Montana into two parts. To the north and west lie the counties of Missoula and Deer Lodge, and to the south and east Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson. Through the very heart of this region, and touching all the counties named except Missoula and Jefferson, passes the Utah & Northern, a narrow gauge division of the Union Pacific, running north from Ogden through Northern Utah, Eastern Idaho and Western Montana to a connection with the Northern Pacific at Garrison, in Deer Lodge County. The Oregon Short Line, the branch by which the Union Pacific reaches Portland, leaves the main line at Granger, Wyoming, and runs westerly across Southern Idaho. This line is crossed by the Utah & Northern at Pocatello, on the Port Neuf River, and only a few miles east of Snake River. These routes render Western Montana accessible by the Utah & Northern from every portion of the United States, viz.: From all Eastern points by the Union Pacific to Ogden, or by the main line to Granger and Oregon Short Line to Pocatello; from California by the Central Pacific to Ogden; from Oregon and Washington by the Oregon Short Line to Pocatello, connection being made with the Utah & Northern at both Ogden and Pocatello.

The industries of Western Montana are three-fold, embracing agriculture, stock raising and mining, the last

being the leading feature, especially in Silver Bow County, of which, with Butte City, the great mining metropolis of Montana, a more particular description is given in the preceding article. The agricultural resources of this region are entitled to far more consideration than they have received in the past. As is usually the case, the allurements of mining have drawn the attention of the people from the more commonplace pursuits of agriculture, leaving, therefore, a better opening than is to be found in many other places for those who wisely choose the certain prosperity which follows industry and thrift intelligently applied to the soil, to the excitements and uncertainties of the mines. The interdependence of mining and agriculture, where both exist in proximity, as they do in this region, renders the arable tracts especially valuable. The mines look to the farms for support, and the latter find in the former a good cash market. To be sure, much of this region is not so immediately contiguous to mines now being extensively worked as to render farms especially valuable, yet new mining localities are constantly springing up, and as the whole area is mineral bearing, it would be folly to assert that any particular section would not in the near future contain one of these thriving mining centres. Aside from this, the increasing population, the springing up of towns and industries, the extension of transportation facilities, and the general success of cattle, horse and sheep raising, to which this section is peculiarly adapted, render Western Montana worthy the careful attention of the intending settler. Briefly the status of this region may be defined by counties as follows:

Beaverhead County, which ranks third as a mineral producer, contains the richest veins of silver-bearing ore in the Territory. The leading mining camps are Glendale, where the Hecla Consolidated Company is operating on a large scale, Argenta, Bannock City and Blue Wing. Dillon, the county seat, is on the line of the Utah & Northern, and contains a population of 1,500. It is a most important business centre, and supplies the region lying on both sides of the road for many miles. It is the distributing point for Beaverhead and Madison counties, as well as many localities in Idaho. Through the county flow the Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers, which unite to form the Jefferson, one of the triple parents of the great Missouri. Along these streams and their principal tributaries are to be found many thousand acres of pasture and farming land still open to settlement. Timber is abundant on the mountain slopes, and the whole region is well watered with never-failing streams. The valley of the Big Hole, the largest in the county, is a vast expanse suitable for agriculture, and its contiguous cattle ranges furnish excellent grazing for cattle and sheep. The total assessment of the county for 1884 was \$4,500,000.

Madison County lies east of Beaverhead, and is one of the oldest mining regions in Montana. Alder Gulch, which in the four years following its discovery in 1863 yielded upwards of \$30,000,000, is still being worked. On Alder Creek is situated Virginia City, the former capital of the Territory and the present seat of justice of