

vate buildings, three churches—Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist—a fine hospital conducted by the sisters of charity, a splendid court house and jail, and one of the best public school buildings in Montana. The city was incorporated in 1883, and is conceded to be the most orderly in the territory. In no other city of its situation is life and property more safe. There has not been a murder trial in its courts for a period of more than ten years.

Two new enterprises have recently been inaugurated, viz. water works and a bridge. A Holly system of water works, to cost about \$75,000.00, for which the city council has recently granted a franchise to Geo. T. Woolston, of New York, is now being put in. This includes twenty-five double-nozzle fire hydrants, which are to have a pressure of seventy-five pounds to the square inch, for fire purposes, which will dispense with engines and will be a complete protection against fire. An iron truss bridge across the Missouri, for which negotiations are now pending between the city and the San Francisco Bridge Co. and others, will cost about \$40,000.00.

Fort Benton is well supplied with hotels, and is a most delightful summer resort, its climate being a great deal more salubrious than a person would naturally suppose in so high a latitude. It lies from eighty-five to one hundred and forty-five miles north of towns on the line of the Northern Pacific, but as its altitude is from five hundred to two thousand feet lower, it has, in reality, a climatic advantage over them to the extent of from four to twenty degrees of latitude. In other words, for agricultural purposes, the difference in altitude practically puts this section south of those points the number of degrees stated.

To parties contemplating a change, there is no place that offers a more in-

viting field than Fort Benton; more especially now, since we have railroad facilities and are assured low freight rates. There are many special lines of business that would prove remunerative. There is an urgent need for a flouring mill, and any one contemplating engaging in that business can find no better opening than here. There is also a grand opening for a woolen mill, to be operated by either water or steam power; and speaking of water power, while almost every town in the territories of Washington, Idaho and Montana seeks to boom itself on its water power facilities, right here in Fort Benton is the best available water power for manufacturing purposes to be found in any of them, available for the reason that it can be more easily and cheaply applied than at any of the water power towns that advertise as such. I allude to the Teton river, which is some seventy feet above the level of the bottom upon which Fort Benton is situated, and which can be brought into it at a comparatively trifling expense. In fact, there is a company organized now with that as its object. If steam power is preferred, we are in the midst of the greatest coal fields in all Montana. Choteau county is more abundantly supplied with coal than any other section of the same dimensions in any of the territories of the United States. Surrounding Fort Benton, at every point of the compass, fine veins of bituminous coal are found. Owing to the lack of railroad facilities in the past no effort has been made to develop the mines to any great extent. The only market was Fort Benton, which has heretofore been supplied by one or two veins situated on Belt creek, thirty miles distant. In the Milk river valley, in the vicinity of Fort Assinniboine and the Belknap Indian agency, northeast of Fort Benton seventy-five miles, coal of a superior quality is found in every coulee and along every