

stream. At the Belknap agency it has been used for years past, both for fuel and blacksmithing purposes.

This same vein crops out in coulees near the springs on the Assinniboine stage road, twenty-four miles from Benton, and has been used by freighters and hunters, in camp in the open air, for cooking purposes, so freely does it burn. The croppings of veins in the Milk river valley have been found in extent of country fifty by one hundred miles. The Manitoba railroad comes through the very center of this immense field. Directly west of Fort Benton, near the town of Dupuyer, coal has been found in abundance, and is used by the farmers and stockmen, as well as by the citizens of Dupuyer. All along the Teton river, which approaches to within three miles of Benton, float coal and croppings have also been found extending west to the Rocky mountains, one hundred and twenty-five miles distant. South of Fort Benton, at Sand Coulee and Deep creek, points almost on the line of the Manitoba railroad, large veins of coal have been discovered and sufficiently developed to prove that it exists in large quantities and good quality. On the Dearborn, still farther to the south and west, is a large coal field, developed to some extent, through which the line of the Helena & Northern will run on its way to Benton.

The advent of railroads will provide the means to handle and distribute the product of these mines at reasonable figures. We will be brought in quick communication with the quartz mining districts, where unlimited quantities of the article are used. This will justify the opening and working of the measures on a large scale, for, in addition to the demands stated, the railroad will require an immense amount for its own use. Competition between rival coal companies and opposing railroad lines

will make the article cheap, and Northern Montana will step to the front as the great coal producing section of the territory.

The following table shows at a glance the relative average production of Montana farms as compared with the states:

PRODUCE.	IN THE STATES.	IN MONTANA.
Wheat.....	11 to 15 bus.	30 to 40 bus.
Barley.....	24 to 30 bus.	40 to 50 bus.
Oats.....	20 to 25 bus.	45 to 60 bus.
Hay.....	1 to 1½ tons.	1½ to 2 tons.
Potatoes....	100 to 150 bus.	300 to 450 bus.
Onions.....	200 to 250 bus.	350 to 450 bus.
Cabbage....	.....	7,000 to 9,000 lbs.
Sugar Beets.	.....	1,000 bus.

A careful study of the above, which presents only a few of the leading articles, will give the thoughtful reader a clearer idea of our agricultural possibilities than whole pages of writing. From the enormous yield and easy cultivation of the sugar beet, this would be a splendid point for the erection of a refinery of beet sugar. Strawberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries and huckleberries are found growing wild throughout this section, in many places in abundance. There are, also, other native berries, peculiar to this section and climate, that grow everywhere along the streams in great profusion.

A few persons in this vicinity are now turning their attention to the production of small fruits, and are succeeding admirably. Our market is being supplied with home productions, that, for size and flavor, can not be excelled in any country. This industry is much more profitable here than in the states, for ready sale is always found, and better prices obtained.

Tomatoes, musk melons and water melons are successfully cultivated in all the valleys adjacent to Fort Benton. In the mining districts from one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles south of us, melons and tomatoes can not be grown, owing to the fact that their table