

agricultural interests of the state that have ever come into force there. This, together with the still more recent bill of congress, will be likely to result in the entire relief of the irrigable lands of the state, so that eastern farmers, who are so strongly prejudiced against any section requiring artificial watering, will see the great advantages following the control of one's own water supply on the farm. The new law gives any person the right to appropriate water not heretofore appropriated or subject to rights at the time of the adoption of the constitution. The use of water is deemed a public use, and it shall always be subject to condemnation as provided by the legislature. All land owners are entitled to water to the full extent of the soil for agricultural purposes, and shall be entitled to right of way through other land to bring the water to his land.

Condemnation proceedings may be instituted upon the refusal of the owner to grant the right of way. In case there is not sufficient water in a stream to supply all the country through which it runs, superior judges may appoint commissioners to apportion the water in an equitable manner, a certain amount on alternate days in certain localities.

Any person owning lands in the vicinity of any natural lake or stream, not abutting the same, may take water from it if there is any surplus. In case of an unusual drouth, the commissioners appointed to apportion water shall endeavor to make their apportionment so that orchards and perennial plants upon farms shall be kept alive.

The vested rights to water whenever called into question shall be based and determined upon the usual volume of water, and if the same is unusually low the rights of persons shall be reduced in accordance. County commissioners have authority to prevent waste and punish persons who disobey for contempt of court. Ditch owners are required to keep their ditches in good order, so that there shall be no waste or damage to the property of others, to build a bridge sixteen feet wide where their ditch crosses a public highway.

During the irrigating season it shall be unlawful for any person to run more water than he needs through a ditch, and upon conviction he may be fined from \$100 to \$1,000. Each county in the state is made an irrigating district, to be under the charge of a commissioner whose duty it shall be to divide the available water among the ditch owners according to their prior rights. He is vested with full power to enforce this act.

Rights of way may be condemned the same as railroad rights of way. Corporations may build irrigating ditches to supply water, but the rights of condemnation given them shall not extend beyond the riparian rights of persons as set forth in the common law, and is not intended to deprive any person of water in use for irrigating purposes. Superior courts have authority to adjudicate rights. Approved March 4, 1890, and went into effect immediately.

BUTTE, MONTANA.

Nobody longer disputes the fact that Butte is now the liveliest city of its size in the world. There is no reason why it should not be. The mining and smelting companies here pay out wages at the rate of \$20,000 per day, or \$600,000 per month. The mines are producing copper and silver at the rate of over \$2,000,000 every thirty days, and the prospects are good for a production of \$30,000,000 for the year 1890. Silver is booming. It has passed the dollar mark after hovering for five years between ninety-one and ninety-five cents, as the result of democratic hostility to the metal. The Alice, Monahan, Silver Bow and Blue Bird companies ought to make plenty of money this year. A mine that could not pay expenses with silver at ninety-two can now make eight cents profit on every ounce of silver

it produces. Thus, if the output of the silver mills be 500,000 ounces per month worth \$500,000, eight per cent. of it, or \$40,000, may go to the stockholders. Heretofore some of the silver companies have had much trouble in keeping the stamps dropping. But the copper mines of Butte are now producing more silver than the silver mines, and their profits will be increased, too, by the rise in silver. And not only are the silver mines of Butte prospering, but so, also, are the copper mines. The Parrot, Butte & Boston, Boston & Montana and Colorado are all making money, and plenty of it. Very few people know how much they are making. The Butte & Boston and Boston & Montana both own mines as rich and valuable as any of those belonging to the Anaconda concern, while the other two have properties which are entitled to be considered great in any country. The Anaconda, of course, is making the most money because it has the largest smelting plant. It is netting considerable in excess of \$500,000 per month. How do we know? Let us figure a little. It is treating 1,000 tons of ore daily which carries ten per cent. copper. That means 100 tons of copper which is worth, at twelve cents, \$240 per ton, or \$24,000 for the day's product. In thirty days that would amount to \$1,152,000. Against this amount must be charged, perhaps, \$200,000 for wages, \$100,000 for fuel and \$100,000 for freight. We can then allow \$100,000 for refining charges, etc., and still the company will have a net balance of \$500,000 per month, upon a restricted product. If it were not for the fire in the Anaconda, the smelter would run full blast and between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of ore per day could be worked, thus almost doubling the profits of the enterprise and making it the best paying concern of the kind in the world.

ELECTRICITY AT HELENA.

The incorporation of the Missouri River Power Co. promises a good deal for Helena, including that which is so desirable—cheap power for manufacturing purposes. The company also has in view several other desirable features, which are enumerated in this article. The incorporators of the company are Messrs. A. J. Davidson, A. Lambeth, J. H. Lawrence, T. H. Kleinschmidt, H. M. Parthen, O. R. Allen, C. C. Stables, William Muth and A. M. Holter. The capital stock of the company is placed at \$2,000,000, in shares of \$25 each. The company intends to develop, at the most available point on the Missouri river, water power sufficient to create enough electric power, which will be conveyed by wires to the city, to run all the machinery to which power is applicable. The company estimates that at the present time 7,000-horse power is required for the needs of the city, such as manufacturing enterprises, street railways, electric light, and all sorts of mechanical industries. With this idea in view the company was incorporated, and it is proposed to immediately go ahead and make the necessary surveys, get the proper plans and specifications from the best hydraulic engineers of the country, and to construct a dam at a point near Stables ferry, which will be very substantial and permanent in its character, and capable of producing as much horse power as will be required for all use in the city for many years to come. The immediate benefit to be derived from this project to the city will be the reduction of the cost of the manufacturing power for all branches of industry, thus inducing additional manufacturing enterprises to come to the city, with the prospect of cheap power and abundant supply. The raising of the dam will also put the scheme in a position to lift by water power any amount of water required for the use of the city at any elevation. This water will also be available to the water company of the city at any time it is required.—

Helena Independent.