

vegetables, 200,000 pounds. Of cattle there were 7,716 head; sheep, 20,480 head; hogs, 2,497 head; horses, 6,771 head. A great deal of this stock comes from the famous Marcus Daly ranch at Hamilton. At Lolo, a few miles south from Missoula, is the Mills

herd of Jersey cows, the finest in the Northwest.

The valley is particularly adapted for dairying and stock raising. Poultry, bees and hogs bring splendid returns, too. In fact the Bitter Root is ideal for diversified farming.

## Towns of the Valley

### Hamilton

Hamilton, situated forty-eight miles up the Bitter Root Valley from Missoula, is an enterprising and modern town and had 2,240 population, by the census of 1910. It is thoroughly up-to-date in all respects; has good stores, attractive residences, numerous churches, schools, a public library, several banks, newspapers, a flour mill, oatmeal factory, water and electric light system, one of the largest saw mills west of St. Paul, and good water power undeveloped.

The town is in the very heart of the fruit-raising section, is attractively located, and is sure to remain one of the most important cities in the state. Here is located the Hotel Ravalli, named after the famous priest who accomplished so much in the development of this section. Marcus Daly originally built this edifice for the entertainment of his Eastern friends fifteen years ago.

Hamilton boasts of the finest chamber of commerce building in the state.

### Victor

Victor has an ideal location in the valley and its business houses gain their trade from the highly developed nearby orchards. Victor schools have established a reputation for efficiency. Its high school is progressive and up-to-date. Victor is nicely laid out and is the richest jobbing point in the county for fruit, grain, hay, vegetables and hogs. In fact, it has doubled its population in the past two years.

### Stevensville

Stevensville had a population of 796 by the census of 1910, and is a hustling and rapidly growing community; it is the oldest settlement of whites in the state. It has large department stores, two newspapers, churches, theatres, schools, banks, electric lights, city water, etc. The building permits in 1910 amounted to \$100,000. An unusually successful creamery is located here. Stevensville is noted for its heavy shipments of hay, grain and potatoes.

### Darby

Darby is an important and busy town, being the terminus of the Northern Pacific's Bitter Root branch railway. Last year from its vicinity there was shipped 125 cars of fruit, indicating the nearness of some of the largest orchards in the valley. Its bank, hotel and business houses are substantial.

### Corvallis

Corvallis, due to its proximity to a great farming region, shines as one of the most promising towns of the valley. The large general stores located here indicate that the thickly settled farming district round about is prosperous. Land values are reasonable near Corvallis, and recently a cheese factory has been launched there with very satisfactory success.

## Flathead Reservation

The former Flathead Reservation is a land of marvelous possibilities. The old reservation was sixty miles long and forty miles wide, and it aggregates a million and a half acres, of which 111,320 acres are agricultural land, 336,189 acres are grazing land, the remainder being mountainous and timber land.

The Flathead lies but a few miles northwest of Missoula and west of the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains in western Montana, and the climate is not severe. The mountain streams from all directions flow toward the center of it furnishing an unlimited water supply, which the government is conserving for the farmers who have just taken up land since the reservation was opened in 1910. There will be 150,000 acres or more embraced in the government reclamation scheme here, several hundred thousand dollars have been already expended on the project, and many thousand acres are now under irrigation. Reservoir sites have been established at several points, and this will be one of the best of the government reclamation projects.

Many years ago Governor Stevens, of Washington Territory, met the Kootenai Indians from the north and the Flathead Indians from the Bitter Root Valley near the junction of the Bitter Root and Missoula rivers, and induced them to sign a treaty whereby they were to cede all the western part of Montana to the settlers, and the government would in turn set aside a reservation and give them cattle, horses, food and clothing.

Under the terms of the treaty the Great White Chief in Washington was bound to protect their interests and save their reserve from being absorbed by the progressive white men, and, consequently, the vast area known as the Flathead Indian Reservation remained until its opening to white settlers, in 1910, a crude, undeveloped country. The Indian in his natural environment knows nothing about the farm, the development of mines, the advantages of trade and commerce, or of lumbering.

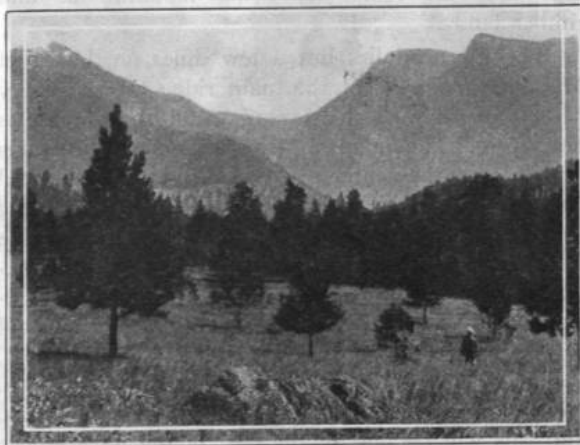
Perhaps nowhere in the world is to be seen such varied and picturesque Apline scenery as is adjacent to the Reservation. The eastern boundary is marked by the towering snow-capped peaks of the Mission Range, several of which reach an elevation of over 10,000 feet. Flathead Lake on the north is said to be the largest fresh water lake in the United States other than the Great Lakes. The lakes and streams abound in a plentiful supply of mountain trout and the mountains afford excellent opportunities for hunting.

The climate is comparatively mild, the temperature rarely reaching either extreme. A few days in

the hot months of July and August the temperature will reach 100 degrees or a little more and during the winter will go as low as twenty degrees below zero for a day or two. But these are extremes and do not occur often. It is a fact that during many winters the mercury has not gone below zero. The humidity is so low that these excessive temperatures are not felt as they are in moist climates.

At present the Reservation lands are accessible by daily automobile and wagon stage coach lines from different points on the Northern Pacific Railway on the southern boundary of the Reservation. These roads reach all the important points inland. The Northern Pacific has a prospective road surveyed from Dixon to Kalispell, directly across the Reservation. Many Eastern farmers have shown their sagacity by taking advantage of the present low land prices and securing farms now, biding their time until the coming of the railroads, which are bound to be built in the next few years. The market at present for Reservation grain and products is Missoula and the Western Coast cities, while a great deal of the grain not used locally goes to St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and Superior.

The land that for two generations has been reserved for the Indians, the wards of the United States government, has at last been given over to the white man. The Indian gives to his white brother, who has reached the last frontier of Uncle Sam's domain. In the place of the tepee and the primitive methods of the red man we now find the intensive



A Bitter Root Valley Fruit Ranch



Apple Orchard, Western Montana

farm with its irrigating canals and approved scientific treatment of the soil, and the home of a modern civilization. The good influences from the surrounding country are all lending their aid to push forward and rapidly develop the last frontier spot in the very heart of civilization. In 1910 over 3,000 settlers filed on government land immediately following the opening of the reservation.

These settlers have changed the whole aspect of this vast area of agricultural land, transforming much of it already into productive acres of grain, hay and vegetables. The Dixon bill allowing the Indians to sell from forty to fifty acres of either their improved or unimproved lands is an advantage in selling and settling up these lands.

In 1911 the production on the Flathead lands was: Of wheat, 528,588 bushels; oats, 376,416 bushels; barley, 34,960 bushels; rye, 7,048 bushels; hay, 8,891 tons. Of livestock there were sold: Cattle, 3,930 head; sheep, 984 head; hogs, 611 head; horses, 2,897 head.

Cereals are the banner crop in this vicinity, wheat, oats and barley producing large yields. Wheat averages thirty to forty-five bushels and oats forty-five to eighty bushels to the acre. Alfalfa will grow

three to five tons to the acre, the price of hay ranging from \$9.00 to \$16.00 a ton, and being in great demand in the Pacific Coast cities.

Particularly enticing are the opportunities for dairying—the herds give rich returns and a creamery and cheese factory in this locality would barely take care of the local consumption.

Montana is noted for her potatoes and in this locality they certainly grow bountifully, 200 bushels an acre being the average, the yield oftentimes running as high as 700 bushels an acre. Seldom does the price of potatoes drop below \$1.00 a hundred pounds, quite often the price is \$1.50 a hundred-weight.

Thousands of beef cattle and horses roam the reservation hills, from which may be viewed the majestic Mission Range, its jagged and snow-capped peaks piercing the blue sky, in the foreground the rich and fertile Mission Valley, beautiful in its spring verdure, inviting the traveler to rest, to make his home and to stay amid the beautiful surroundings.

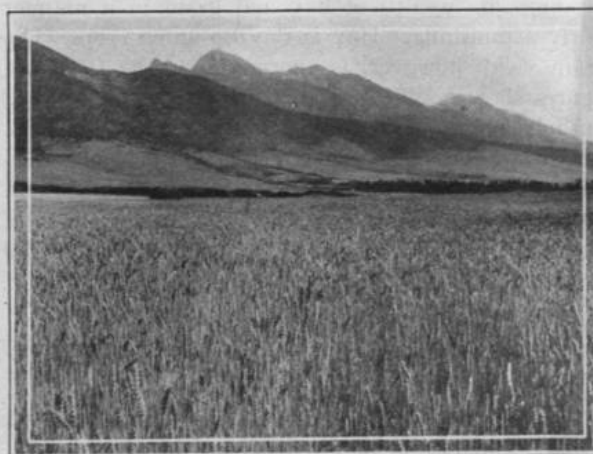
The delightful and exhilarating climate of Montana has produced the best horses in the world, and the Flathead is a decidedly advantageous section for stock raising and many carloads are shipped each year to Western markets.

## Towns of the Flathead Country

### Dixon

Shortly after the opening of the Flathead numerous small towns sprang into existence, some originating from a few Indian cabins gathered around old landmarks and others springing out of the lonely prairie as if by magic. These towns are all progressive and up-to-date.

Dixon is thirty-eight miles from Missoula on the Northern Pacific main line; as a starting out point across the reservation and one of the chief shipping points of the region, Dixon has made phenomenal progress the last few years. When the railway begins construction from this town across the reservation to Polson and beyond, Dixon will without doubt triple in population. Already it has a bank, newspaper, general stores, etc.



In the Flathead Valley

### St. Ignatius

This energetic community is but five miles from Ravalli, which is a main line station on the Northern Pacific. At Ravalli one takes the automobile or wagon stage to go across the reservation. Located at St. Ignatius are the Catholic Indian and parochial schools of the reservation. Three Catholic societies have their institutions at "The Mission" as St. Ignatius, which was established here in 1854, is sometimes called. The business houses here enjoy large trade, as the grain output in this particular vicinity is immense. One firm shipped 150 cars of grain the past year. Between Ravalli and St. Ignatius is located the National Bison Range, where the "last of the buffalo" are being taken care of. There are now seventy buffaloes on the range, which skirts the Northern Pacific Railway.

### Ronan

Ronan is about the thriftiest city one could ever imagine, twenty miles from the railroad. Telephone connections, however, keep it in close touch with the nearby cities, and four stage lines with many autos are required to take care of the stream of travel

going and coming. While the population now is but 800 the stretch of agricultural territory near by will without doubt create a city twice the size in a couple of years. Its banks, mercantile establishments and newspaper bespeak for it the enormous acreage of grains adjacent. One large general store of nine full and complete departments, doing justice to a city of 100,000, surprises the stranger beyond conception.

### Polson

Polson is the largest city in the Flathead Reservation and is most delightfully situated on that wonderful and magnificent body of water, Flathead Lake. Numerous steamers connect with daily stages to transport passengers and freight in all directions. With a population already of over 1,000 the prospects for this energetic city are extremely good. With the advent of the railroad, which is bound to come in a short time, not only Polson, but the surrounding fruit and grain country as well, will grow with leaps and bounds. The mills, business concerns, banks and newspapers of Polson indicate clearly the prosperity of the country.

## The Blackfoot Valley

It takes strong language to do justice to the Blackfoot Valley, so many and manifest are its excellencies. Extending eastward for 100 miles in a series of smaller separated valleys, valley after valley produces its wealth of hay and grain in a manner fairly astonishing. Hay is the top-notch crop. The grain yield, however, is enormous, as the following figures show: Wheat, 75,286 bushels; oats, 120,772 bushels; barley, 14,080 bushels; rye, 10,560 bushels. This is as well an excellent stock country, and thousands of cattle and other livestock secure splendid and unlimited pasturage here. The proportions run about as follows: Cattle, 24,461 head; sheep, 36,020 head; hogs, 463 head; horses, 2,318 head.

The total hay tonnage runs into staggering figures. In 1912 the crop was 43,425 tons, and \$10.00 a ton is the average price received.

Through this remarkably rich country runs the projected extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound to Great Falls or Lewistown. The

track is laid for twenty-five miles and the roadbed built to Ovando, fifty-seven miles from Missoula, and the trading center of the Blackfoot. A daily accommodation train is in service over the completed track. This railroad will, when finished, mean much to the Blackfoot farmers and allow them to market their products better than heretofore. The neighboring mining and lumbering interests use most of the land products in this valley, thus creating a nearby market.

P. H. Griffin is one of the many prosperous farmers in this territory, and he came to the Blackfoot from Iowa four years ago with little money, but a boundless ambition to acquire a competence. He worked hard, early and late. As a result he has accumulated considerably more of this world's goods than he had hoped for. He sold three-quarters of a section for \$16.00 an acre a year ago, and values his ranch as it stands today, including livestock and general improvements, at \$50,000. Last year his hay tonnage