

EDGEMONT lies at the gateway of the Black Hills. Here the road divides before the rocky barrier which opposes, and turning right and left makes its way to the recesses of the Black Hills. The main road turning westward and pursuing a northwest course, penetrates the Big Horn mountains, and thence reaches Billings, Montana. The "Hills" division follows the valley of the east, when it turns sharply north, and the whole length of this remarkable mountain region. The region about Edgemont is a delightful agriculture of a dense and prosperous population. The surface is pleasantly diversified, the soil is deep, fertile, and possessed of enduring qualities that makes it a mine of wealth. The lack of a sufficient natural supply of water has retarded its

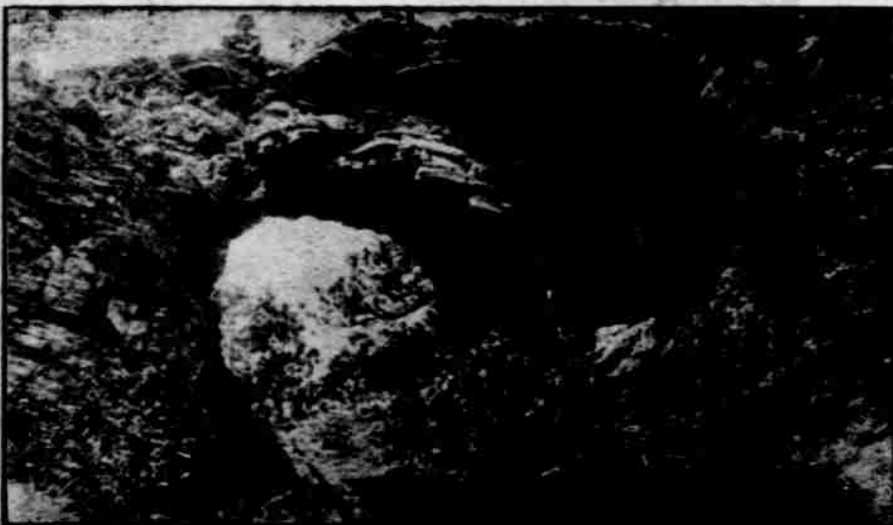


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superb railroad system which brings a ready market right to the door of this section, it is bound to be rapidly filled with enterprising farmers. A large irrigation canal, designed to distribute the never failing water of the Cheyenne throughout this region, is now in course of construction. The rapid growing cities of the "Hills," as well as the great outlet toward the southeast, are certain to supply a demand



for all surplus product. Such considerations, combined with delightful natural surroundings, need only to be understood to awaken the western fever in the already crowded precincts of the middle states, with all its early power. Minnekehta is the junction where the visitor to Hot Springs transfers himself and traps to a waiting train, which carries him on a winding trail among the lesser hills, and in thirty-five minutes lands him in the site of the junction alone bears in the Sioux tongue characteristic waters of the region. It once the practical demand for a less euphonious name of Hot Springs along the course of the Fall river among the lesser hills until we glide along the banks of Hot Springs town. We are still amid the either side, solid structures of stranger's wondering gaze cultivated civilization for ed little preparation. The is essentially cosmopolitan. It springs exist for the world. thoroughfare, and the throngs



"Carlsbad of America." The the attractive appellation which izes the thermal quality of the had a wider application, but plainer term substituted the Springs for the town. We fol valley winding in and out emerge from the labyrinth, and brook into the center of the encircling hills, but here on storied sandstone greet the and proclaim a prosperous and which the approach has afford town, in its origin and genius exists for its springs, and its The railroad is its principal which it brings dominate the