

Colorado the State of Opportunity

Where Every Man May Do His Chosen Work and Prosper.

AGRICULTURE LARGEST INDUSTRY

Mines Produce Millions of Useful and Precious Metals, but Farms Produce Greatest Part of the State's Wealth.

BY JOHN P. SHAFROTH, (Governor of Colorado). Colorado is the state of opportunity. Colorado offers to every man his own chosen work to do, and good pay for doing it. The resources of this state are more varied than those of any other American commonwealth, and they are as great as they are various. Colorado has the richest gold mines, the cleanest fruit orchards, the banner wheat fields, the grandest and most easily accessible scenery, and potentially the cheapest power for manufacturing of the whole United States. Best of all, Colorado offers the chance not only to work and profit, but to live. The state has every kind of climate, except an unhealthy one.

The greatest industry of the state is agriculture; the most varied and productive agriculture in the world. Colorado can produce everything that Canada can produce, and nearly everything that South Carolina can produce. The only reason we do not grow cotton in this state is that other crops pay us better. Cotton grows here all right. The different elevations of the agricultural lands of the state give us every climate from almost subtropical to real subarctic.

Irrigation Basis of Agriculture. Irrigation is the basis of most of the agriculture of Colorado; though more and more land is being successfully worked without irrigation. The state has already nearly 500,000 acres under ditch; and yet, not a bit more than half of the irrigable areas of the state is at present being watered. The grain crops produced under irrigation average from two to three times as much per acre as the crops raised in the older states without irrigation. Colorado's orchards are without a rival in the world. Orchard land in this state is held at prices varying from \$1,200 to \$4,000 per acre—and pays a big income on that investment. Colorado orchardists have learned to handle every problem that confronts the industry, including the frost problem; for though frosts have been lost through frost in this state, the experience of those who use the orchard heaters proves that such a loss is unnecessary.

Prices and Markets. Two remarkable things about Colorado's farm and orchard products will repay study by the man who expects to change his residence or his occupation. One is the high prices which Colorado stuff commands. Colorado bacon, Colorado cantaloupes, Colorado fat lambs, Colorado feeder steers, Colorado apples, Colorado peaches, Colorado cauliflower, Colorado potatoes, all bring the top of the market. They have no rivals. They do not have to sell as cheaply as other stuff of the same sort. They are better in quality, they are known to be better and consequently they will bring more money. That extra lift in prices explains a good deal of the farming prosperity of Colorado and will give as equal prosperity to three or four times as big agricultural population as we have now.

The other thing to note is the ready and waiting markets. For the articles named, their quality brings a market, makes a market anywhere. For more ordinary things the market is still ready, provided by our large tourist, mining and railroad population. This state, which is peculiarly favored as a dairy and poultry country, imports about \$1,000,000 worth of the two classes of products every year. With the growth of mining and quarrying operations which is now fairly under way, the demand will increase still further. There is no possibility of overstocking the market.

Dry Farming Succeeds. Besides the irrigated farming is what is known as dry farming. This branch of agriculture, which consists in using a small rainfall so as to make it go a long way, has been thoroughly tried in Colorado and has proven a success. This year was an exceptionally dry one, even in the arid regions; yet the farmers who rightly handled their land in the dry eastern counties of Colorado raised twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre—twice the average yield of the United States. Those dry farming counties have increased over 200 per cent in population in the last ten years. Then there is another sort of dry farming of which less is heard which offers splendid opportunities to the settler. This is farming in the higher altitudes, where the rainfall is great enough to dispense with the need of irrigation. The soil of our high mountain valleys is extremely rich, and some crops produced in these high altitudes are better in quality and command a higher price than anything that can be grown nearer sea level.

The manufacturing industry of the state is just started. Colorado waterfalls offer a chance for cheaper power than can be had anywhere else on the continent. Only a fraction of this power is at present being developed, but it all can be developed and profitably used. All that is needed is for manufacturers to learn that it pays better to ship some classes of goods rather than to ship fuel. I know of one electrical power plant that contracted to sell its entire output at a cent a kilowatt hour.

Social Life of State. The social features of Colorado ought to invite the best class of population. This is a state of homes and schools and pleasure grounds. Irrigated farming doesn't make for the tenant population; the man who owns land worth from \$600 to \$4,000 per acre wants to be close to it and know how it is getting on.

The schools of Colorado are equal to those of any part of the country, and better than most. The state of Colorado owns some very valuable land which it holds in trust for the school fund. During the last seventeen months enough of this land was sold to yield the school fund \$1,200,000. The state maintains a splendid system of graded schools and high schools, with state university at the head of the system. The Colorado State university is ranked among the best conducted institutions of learning in the United States. Besides this state college, there is one university and one college, both of high class, supported by private endowment. Technical education is well cared for. The state normal schools keep up the needed supply of trained teachers. The State School of Mines of Colorado has students from all over the union and a good part of Europe and Asia. The State Agricultural college is one of the most practical and helpful institutions of its sort in the world. There is no place where a boy or girl can get education with less trouble than right here in Colorado, and it makes little difference what sort of education is demanded. The state has them all.

Good Roads Campaign. Almost alone among the newer states of the union, Colorado has seriously undertaken the task of making good roads. There is a State Highway commission, which in a little less than a year's existence has proven itself one of the best in-



John P. Shafroth - Gov. of Colorado

vestments the state ever made. This commission is now building 300 miles of state highways, and has 4,000 miles more on the schedule to build as fast as they can be reached. The state pays one-third of the price on most of these roads, and the counties traversed pay two-thirds. Putting the construction under the charge of the state commission has resulted in getting better and cheaper construction, and in unifying the scheme of roads throughout the state. This state has already become the nation's playground and will take higher and higher rank in that regard as the years go by. It is planned to eventually have good roads to every part of the state, roads which will rival in usefulness though not in cost the famous roads of France.

The state is using its convicts in road building, and using them under a system which makes guards unnecessary and helps the convict as well as the state. Every convict who is deemed worthy to be put in a road gang gets ten days off his sentence for every month he works on the road. The result is he guards himself, does splendid work, averaging to produce better results than the gangs of paid laborers working on the same general sort of task, and goes out of prison at the end of his shortened term able and willing to face the world and earn his living. He has no "prison pallor" and no "prison gait." He is a man, with good, hard muscles, and he is ready to take a man's place.

Millions in Mining. The mines of Colorado have produced nearly \$60,000,000 of gold during the year 1910, besides over \$14,000,000 of other metals. The mining industry has advanced tremendously in this state in the last two years; yet the advance has just begun. It is possible that within five years a single camp will produce almost as much gold per year as the whole state does now; and even so, that camp will have to hustle to keep first place. No state in the union offers such opportunities of profit to the mining investor as does Colorado. Wildcatting has been nearly wiped out, and no man need be swindled in mining operations unless he is looking for the chance to be swindled. The chambers of commerce of the different mining camps will always warn the investor of bad schemes if he will give them a chance to do so.

There is not a single worked-out mining district in the state of Colorado. The oldest districts, which have been producing steadily for the last fifty years, are still producing and still paying dividends. And most of the mining part of the state has been hardly more than scratched.

In this list of mining, no account is made of coal. Colorado is fifth, if not fourth, in the list of coal producing states of the union, and the opening of Routt county will soon push the state up to third place. It is estimated by the geological survey at Washington, D. C., that there are 27,000,000 tons of coal in Colorado. The world's consumption of coal is 1,000,000,000 tons per annum. Hence we have enough coal to supply the entire world at the present rate of consumption for 27 years.

Where the Women Vote. Women vote in Colorado, and partly as a result of women's interest in political questions, there has never been a child labor problem in this state. There never will be one. If one ever shows itself, it will be solved before it reaches the dimensions of a real problem.

All that I have said is but a repetition of the first statement, that Colorado is the state of opportunity. The state has 104,000 square miles and only 800,000 population. Not more than half its irrigable area is now under water. Less than half its dry lands are being made to yield anything like their proper returns. The state has the best markets in the world for its own, and has the cheapest land, too, when land is measured by what it will produce. A free home, with a creek in the kitchen and a fire in the grate, is no more to be had in Colorado than anywhere else. But the chance to earn a home and collect it when one has earned it—or a little before—is better in Colorado than in any other state I know. The state maintains an immigration bureau to furnish information free from bias—to prospective settlers. The opportunities of the state are almost beyond cataloguing. We can support five or ten times our present population and support them well.

Foley's Kidney Remedy—An Appreciation. L. McConnell, Catharine, St. Elmore, N. Y., writes: "I wish to express my appreciation of the great good I derived from Foley's Kidney Remedy, which I used in a bad case of kidney trouble. Five bottles did the work most effectively and proved to me beyond doubt it is the most reliable kidney medicine I have ever taken." Sold by all druggists.

GREAT FALLS IS BOOMING

E. W. Pettibone, Booster at Land Show Predicts Wonderful Things.

GREAT RICHES SURROUND IT

Has Exceptional Water-Power, Mineral Leads and Railroad Facilities.—Country About is Land of Opportunities.

Few of the visitors at the Land Show fail to secure some souvenir of Great Falls. This city has a large and interesting exhibit first in front of the stage in the Auditorium, and here the Great Falls boosters are busy passing out souvenir books and buttons. E. W. Pettibone, the representative of the Great Falls board of commerce, who has charge of the exhibit, speaks of his city and the country around it as a "land of wonderful opportunities." He says "there is more opportunity to the square inch in Montana than there is to the square foot in the eastern states."

In speaking of Great Falls Mr. Pettibone says: "Great Falls is destined to become the largest city between Omaha and Seattle. It is located in the heart of one of the best agricultural regions in the entire northwest. A great plateau country that has been demonstrated to be the richest wheat land in America stretches away from the city to the west for seventy miles, to the east for 80 miles and north to the international boundary line, 150 miles.

Settlers flock in. "During the last year millions of acres of this land has been settled upon by thousands of home seekers, and there yet remain millions of acres more for settlement.

"The development of this vast agricultural region is alone reason for the building of a mighty city, but there are other good reasons why Great Falls should make the best city between here and the coast. Among these reasons mention should be made of the immense water-power of which the city boasts. The Missouri river here is over 1,000 feet wide and has a total fall in a distance of six miles of 25 feet. The development of these falls will give 30,000 horse power, which is the greatest available water power in the United States. Seventy-five thousand horsepower has already been developed, and a dam has been begun which will develop 100,000 additional horsepower.

Mineral Wealth Fabulous. "A third reason for the growth of Great Falls is the wealth of mineral resources found in the mountains south and west of the city. Lying 100 miles west of the city is the main range of the Rocky mountains and thirty miles south is the Belt range. All of the mountains in these ranges are mineral bearing, having rich deposits of copper, silver, gold, lead, zinc and iron.

Hauls to City Short. "From every existing camp and many that will be developed in the near future, the haul to the city is short and the grade down from the mines. The necessities of the cheap reduction of these minerals is an abundance of water, cheap motive power, cheap electric current, cheap fuel, lime and gravity plant sites—and Great Falls has each of these advantages, and as a natural consequence will become a great

mineral reduction and refining and metal manufacturing point, and aside from the reduction and refining of the more costly of the precious and commercial metals will be a great steel and structural iron works center. Lying north of the Belt mountains and underlying the foothills and plateaus there are over 1,000 square miles underlain with a heavy seam of bituminous coal that has a hard head rock roof and floor. There are now three large coal camps within a few miles of this city that are extracting coal from this measure, their output for the last year having been approximately 1,500,000 tons of merchantable coal. In the same area there are great deposits of carbonite and crystallized lime, extensive beds of fire clay and wide measures of cement shale of the highest grade. With such mineral resources what can prevent Great Falls becoming the Pittsburgh of the west?"

"Added to the foregoing reasons for its development, Great Falls is destined to be the railway center of Montana. Already the Great Northern and the Burlington have lines radiating from the city in six directions. The Great Northern is at present constructing a cut-off line from the eastern boundary of the state directly to the city and with the completion of this line and the line that they are also building up the Sun river west of the city, Great Falls will be on the main line of the Great Northern. The Milwaukee railway is building into the city from both the east and the west, having secured right-of-way through and a very central location in the city for its depots, and on the west side for its yards, shops, etc., and as soon as this line is completed, on account of its low grades and shorter distance, will become the transcontinental line of that railway. The city is also assured the 800 line, coming in from directly east and running south of the Missouri, within the following year.

"Great Falls is at the extreme western gateway of the Rocky mountain range and every northern railway seeking a way to the coast can traverse 400 miles of Montana over a comparatively level prairie country, being in position in that distance to tap any mining camp or coal camp to the south paralleling mountain ranges, enter Great Falls, a point of perpetual and great east and west freight producing capacity, and go west through the mountains over any of a half dozen possible routes—and those advantages will bring the city several additional transcontinental railways.

Railroads Building. "With railways radiating from the city in every direction, with mineral resources abundant and near at hand, with unlimited water power, and with 20,000,000 acres of tributary agricultural land there can be little question but that Great Falls will soon become the metropolis of the intermountain states of the northwest."

Six Passengers in Biplane. DOUZY, Ardennes, France, Jan. 25.—Roger Sommer took up six passengers in a large biplane today and after circling the aerodrome at a height of 100 feet, flew to Romilly and return, and began a world record for a cross country flight with passengers and a new mark for total weight lifted.

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