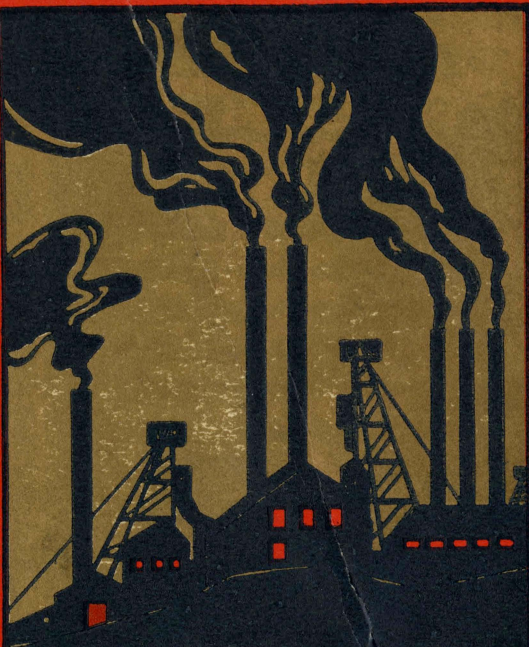




BUTTE



A Short History of Butte

*Containing a few statistics
pleasantly told*

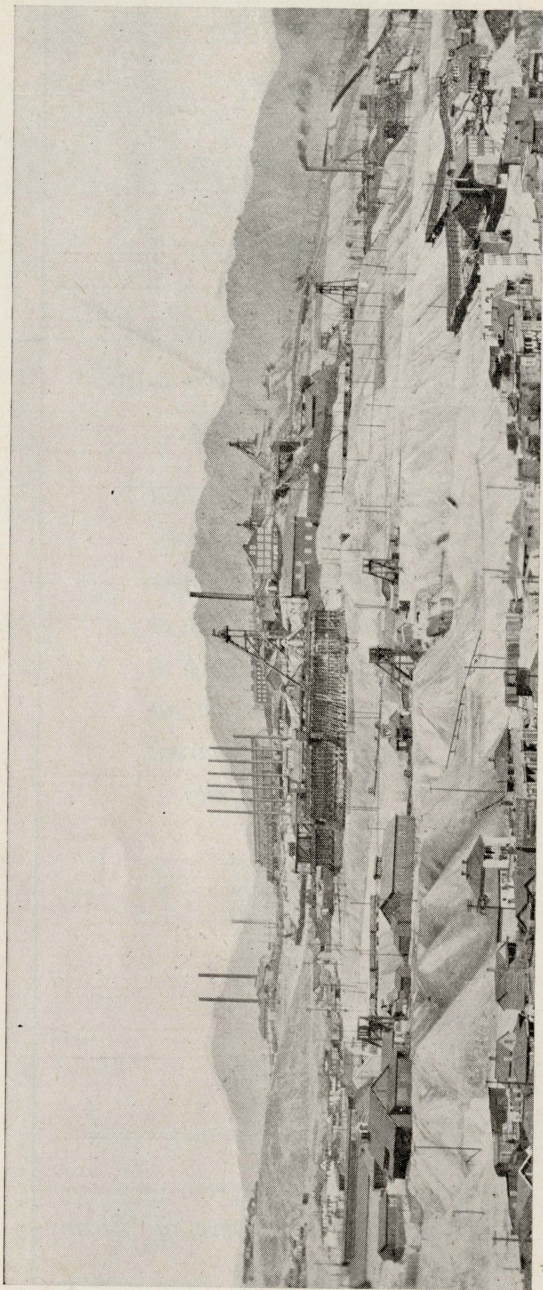
By C. W. TOWNE

*With road maps and
other information of
value to the stranger
within our gates as
well as to those of us
who need to be re-
minded of the marvels
of our own city.*



1925

*Compliments of
Chamber of Commerce of Butte*



BUTTE---The Unique

IN THE CHAIR CAR of one of the trains entering Butte one evening recently, a little girl of five years rushed across the aisle, flattened her nose on the window pane and, after a long, wide-eyed stare at the thousands of city street lights, turned to her mother and cried:

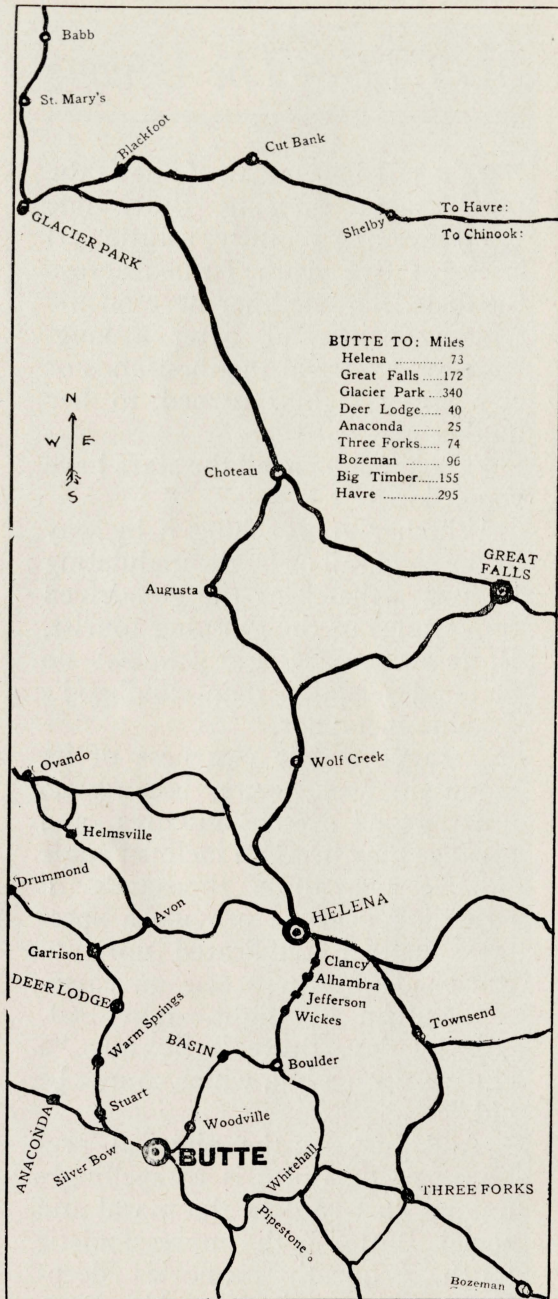
"Look, mamma, all the stars have come down!"

Whether approaching it by way of the steel rail or by the undulating highways that bear the gas-driven conveyance of the gipsying tourist, Butte's nocturnal glory knows no better description than childhood's graphic metaphor.

Because of the clearness of its mountain atmosphere, because no umbrageous screen obscures, and because they lie at an inclined angle to the eye, these thousands of twinkling beacons provide a spectacle neither duplicated nor approached anywhere else on earth.

Beautiful by night, individualistic by day, Butte is literally "a city set upon a hill, which cannot be hid."

And just as the physical presentment of Butte is compellingly unique, just so does the moral and social Butte, with impressionistic touch, bequeath memories deep-graven, rugged, ineffaceable. Born



North from Butte.

of man's primeval lust for gold, brought to adolescence by his continuing quest for silver, and enjoying today the prime of his productiveness in copper and zinc, Butte stands today the greatest mining camp on earth, with a habitat commonly acknowledged to be the richest hill in the world and a citizenry that is the achieved, triumphant amalgam of three score races of man.

¶ ¶

Here, inside a 1,000-acre tract, nature has so concentrated gold, silver, copper, zinc and lead that 50 years of incessant toil have not served to exhaust the deposits. And it is probable that for at least three generations to come, Butte will continue to yield vast quantities of precious ores.

The production to date from the Butte district includes:

1. More copper and more silver than any other district in the world.
2. One-third of all the copper mined in the United States.
3. One-sixth of all the copper mined in the world.
4. In all, more than \$2,000,000,000.00 in mineral wealth, of which \$1,500,000,000.00 has been left here in the form of wages, freight and supplies.

More than 100 shafts pierce the hill, from which 15,000 miners wrest from the tenacious clutch of

age-old fissures 20,000 tons of ore a day. Some of these shafts are more than 3,600 feet deep.

In round figures, the maximum annual production of the Butte district is 300,000,000 lbs. of copper, 175,000,000 lbs. of zinc, 12,000,000 lbs. of lead, 12,000,000 ounces of silver and 60,000 ounces of gold.

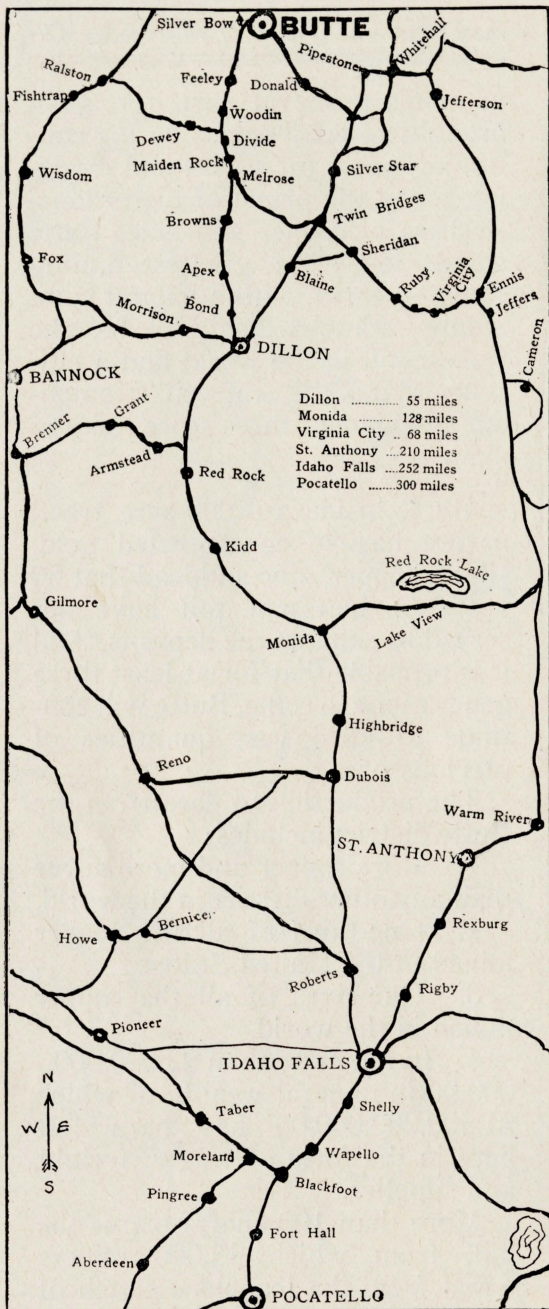
An idea of the magnitude of the operations is conveyed by the fact that, while Butte has on the surface 253 miles of streets, her underground workings aggregate no less than 2,700 miles.



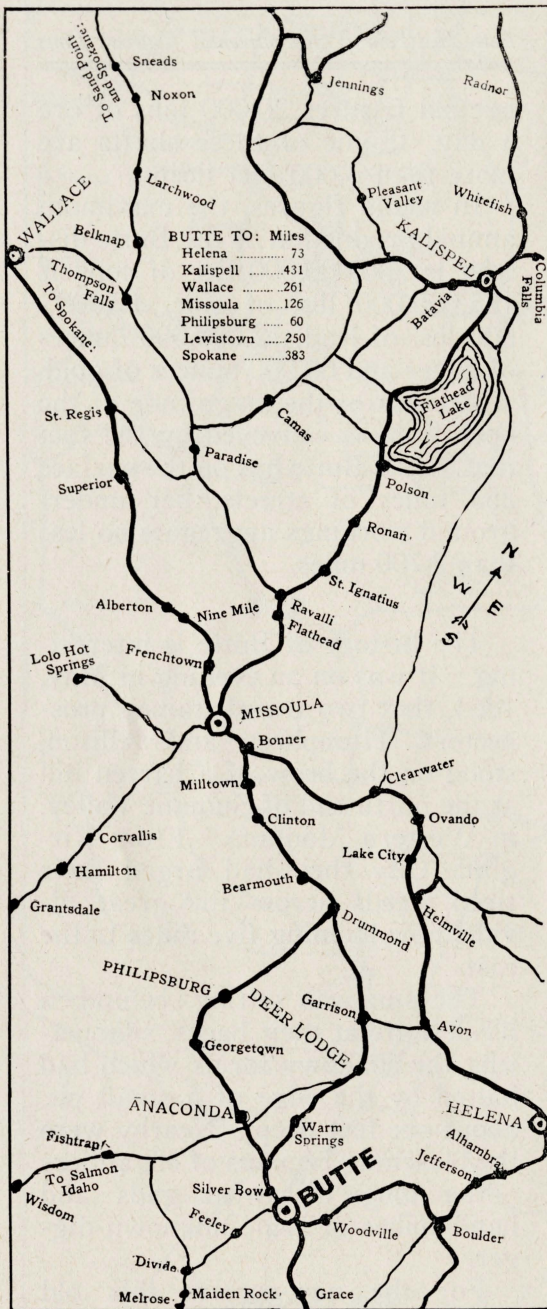
The history of Butte is interesting. It was on an evening in May, 1864, that two travel-stained prospectors, Humphrey and Allison, stood on the brow of a barren hill at the north end of Summit Valley, in Western Montana. From Virginia City they had urged their tired steeds across the great divide, now looming five miles to the east.

The sun was setting behind a bleak butte at their backs, silhouetting the shadowy forms which had halted by the edge of a small pit, about six feet deep. Nearby were the bleaching remains of elk antlers—the long discarded gads and hand-spikes of some unknown digger.

For the new-comers this old



South from Butte.



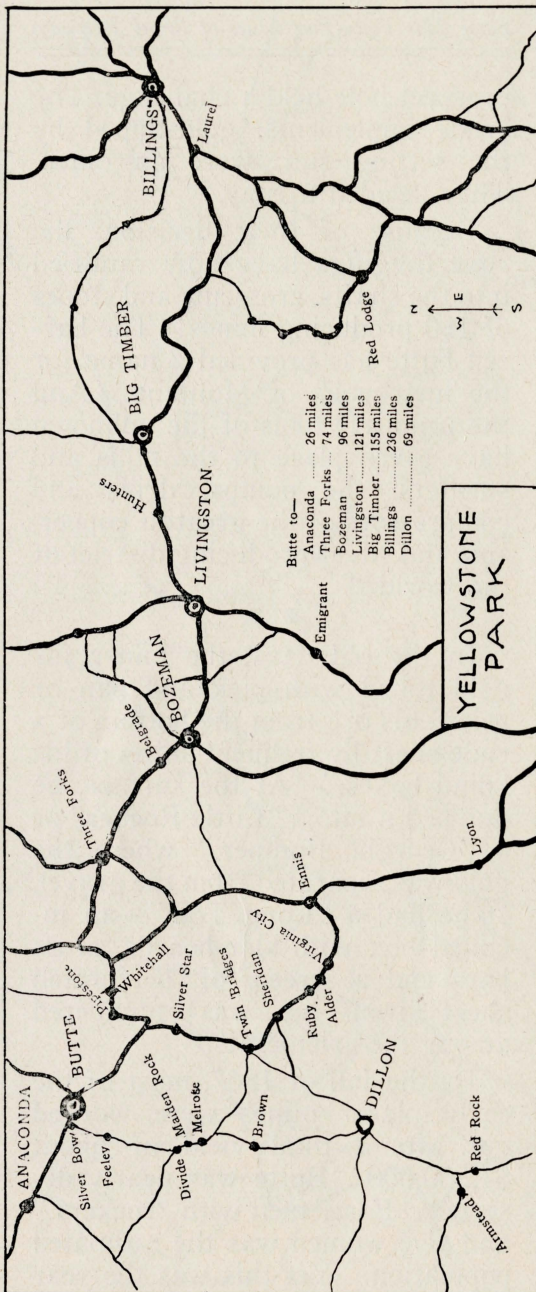
prospect hole held a challenge. The crude implements, gold-tipped by the setting sun, were an omen. They decided to stay.

Because of their decision, the rude diggings have now ramified into the shafts, crosscuts and stopes of 150 producing mines. The barren butte has provided a name for the metropolis of Montana. And the primitive tools of the unknown have given place to the mills and smelters, the pumps, drills and compressors of the greatest copper, zinc and silver producing district of the world.



In the old days, the miner for gold toiled with pick and pan or raised his ore from the bottom of a rude shaft by frequent shifts of his "mud boxes." At the surface, he dumped it into a "Little Rock" or a "Georgia Bumper," where the gold was separated from the gravel. If he had a "Long Tom"—an inclined box with side-boards, cross bars and a screen of perforated sheet iron—he was numbered among the aristocrats.

By the fall of 1867, most of the early placer mines were worked out, after a total yield of about \$1,500,000. Butte was nearly deserted. Forty men with "rockers," and five women was the estimated population. Yet this was the year



East from Butte.

in which the site of the present city was laid out.

“Yes, they’ve laid out Butte at last,” muttered a grizzled pessimist, “and if it has any friends now that it’s laid out, they’d bury it.”

Although all the placer and quartz mining of gold in this district was done between 1864 and 1867, yet as early as 1865 the Travona mine developed a rich silver ore shoot, and in the following year silver development work began in the Original mine.

The first successful treatment of silver ores was when the Dexter ten-stamp mill and furnace were completed and put in operation, largely through the energy and financial assistance of William A. Clark.

The climax of what may be called the silver period of Butte was reached in 1887, when 290 stamps were working. These mills handled 440 tons a day and 100 tons more were shipped daily to the smelter. In 1893 came the collapse in the price of silver, and with it the practical disappearance of silver mining as a primary industry in Butte. Today Butte’s silver and gold production is a by-product of copper and zinc recovery.

It was in 1880 that the young manager of the Alice silver mine first declared that Butte hill was rich in copper. No sooner had he

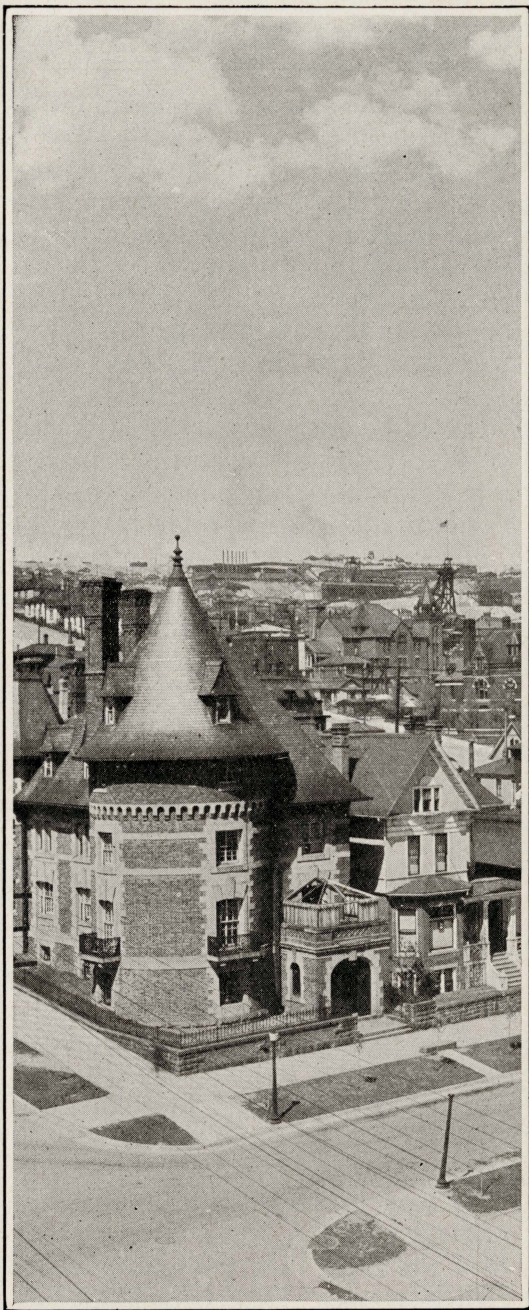
made the assertion than he was laughed out of court by every mining engineer west of the Mississippi.

But George Hearst, James B. Haggin and Lloyd Tevis, California capitalists, preferred the opinion of the practical miner to that of the so-called experts. They put their money with his, acquired as much of the hill as they believed valuable and founded the industry which has since earned for Montana the title of "Treasure State."

Meanwhile, world-wide authorities re-wrote their text-books to conform to the geology of Marcus Daly, the unschooled Irishman who had dared to proclaim Butte a promising copper prospect.

The property first acquired was the Anaconda mine, owned by Michael Hickey. While a soldier in the Union army, Hickey had read in one of Horace Greeley's editorials that McClellan's army would surround Lee's "like a giant anaconda." The name so impressed him that he bestowed it on his first mining claim.

Today this verbal legacy of a rude prospector's whim survives in the corporate name of the Anaconda Copper Mining company, the largest enterprise in the world engaged in the mining, smelting, refining and fabricating of copper, with 40,000 stockholders and with



In the Residential District, West Side.

large interests in Montana, where its expenditures amount to \$70,-000,000 a year, and its employees number 20,000, besides properties owned and operated in a dozen other states and in South America.



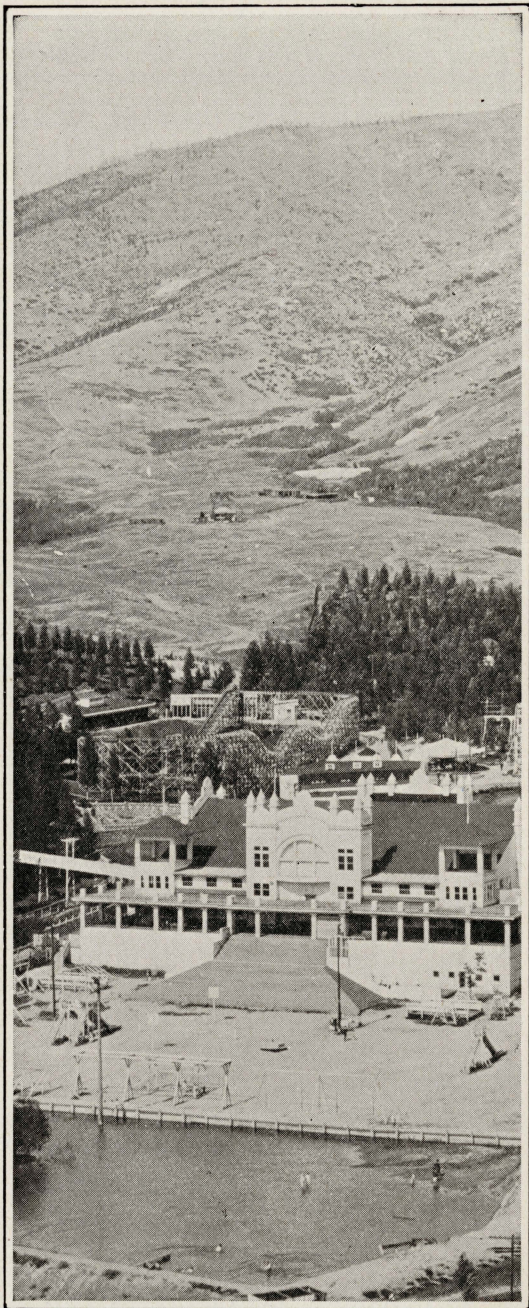
Yet Butte and its environs are more than a mining camp. Here is an up-to-date community of 60,000 people, cosmopolitan in character, metropolitan in aspect, thoroughly American to the core. In tabloid form, some of its assets may be summarized as follows:

More than \$2,000,000 a month is paid to Butte's 20,000 wage earners, about the largest payroll in the country for a city of this size.

Butte has 42 churches, 25 public schools, seven parochial schools, the largest business college in the Northwest, and the Montana State School of Mines. Total school enrollment, 10,000.

Butte pays out \$10,000,000 a year in freight charges and is the only city in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming or North Dakota that has four transcontinental railroads—Northern Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Great Northern and Oregon Short Line, in addition to the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific railroad.

Butte has 45 miles of electric street railways, which carry 17,000,000 passengers per year



Columbia Gardens, One of the Finest Recreation Places in the World.

Butte's Educational Facilities Are of the Very Best

Sixty-five per cent of Butte's 10,000 homes are owned by their occupants.

There are 8,000 automobiles in Butte—one for every eight residents.

Butte has four banking institutions with deposits exceeding \$33,000,000 and clearings in excess of \$60,000,000.

Butte has 9,500 telephones, 3,000 gas connections and 15,000 electrical connections.

Butte has excellent hotels, clubs, theatres, hospitals, department stores and the famous Columbia Gardens, a recreational center at the foot of the Rockies, two miles east of the city.

Within two hours' motor ride of Butte are four springs resorts—Boulder, Pipestone, Alhambra and Gregson—all having natural, hot medicinal water and offering up-to-date accommodations.

Butte is an important point on the Yellowstone Trail, being the natural gateway to Yellowstone National Park and a convenient stopping place for those bound for Glacier National Park, to the north. The free tourist camp, equipped with all modern conveniences, is symbolic of the city's spirit of hospitality.

From Butte the best hunting and fishing grounds in the United



Main Street Looking North.

States are easily accessible by automobile, furnishing nearly every variety of fresh water fish and every kind of game known to the Rocky Mountain region.

Butte has the best lighting and water systems in the Northwest, and a climate that is ideal, with days never uncomfortably warm and nights always cool. There is more sunshine and a lower death rate here than in any other city in the country. The elevation of the city at the courthouse is 5,755 feet.



So much for the physical, the material Butte. For the moral and social Butte and its ideology, the discerning eye and graphic pen of Mary Brennan Clapp are at our service:

"We had been starved for flowers. Summer had become a season to be desired mainly for the release it offered from furnace smoke and coal bills.

"Today Butte has made her desert places bloom. The summer is a succession of delights all the keener for their background of gray quartz and dull brown rhyolite. From the first blue flare of the larkspur and the glint of golden poppies against brown bungalow walls to the last brave purple of the asters, the summer is a carnival, a glad forgetting of the barren years, and a renew-

ing of happiness for the long winter months through which a memory of this bloom may 'trail its clouds of glory' and carry on to the summer time again.

"Charles Dudley Warner protected his growing garden from the depredations of child neighbors by a sign, 'Children, Keep Out. There Is Protoplasm Here!' The wonderful thing about protoplasm is that nobody knows at first just what it is going to grow into. Its potentialities are immeasurable.

"In Butte, a Finlander went over to his American neighbor one day to announce that the golden poppy had bloomed. He found the American listening to Caruso on the Victrola. He listened, too. Never again were the two strangers. An Irishwoman carried a larkspur root to a stranger from Scandinavia, and found her ironing a Hardanger runner. Followed a discussion of Hardanger and Carrickmacross and a joint call on a newcomer from Finland, who had her bobbins filled for Cluny.

"Truly there is protoplasm in gardens. It is growing into some thing precious in Butte, from acquaintanceship to intimacy, through civic consciousness and brotherhood to a common ideal, an Americanism that shall have added to all that is most worth while in America—the lovely and laudable



On the South Side.

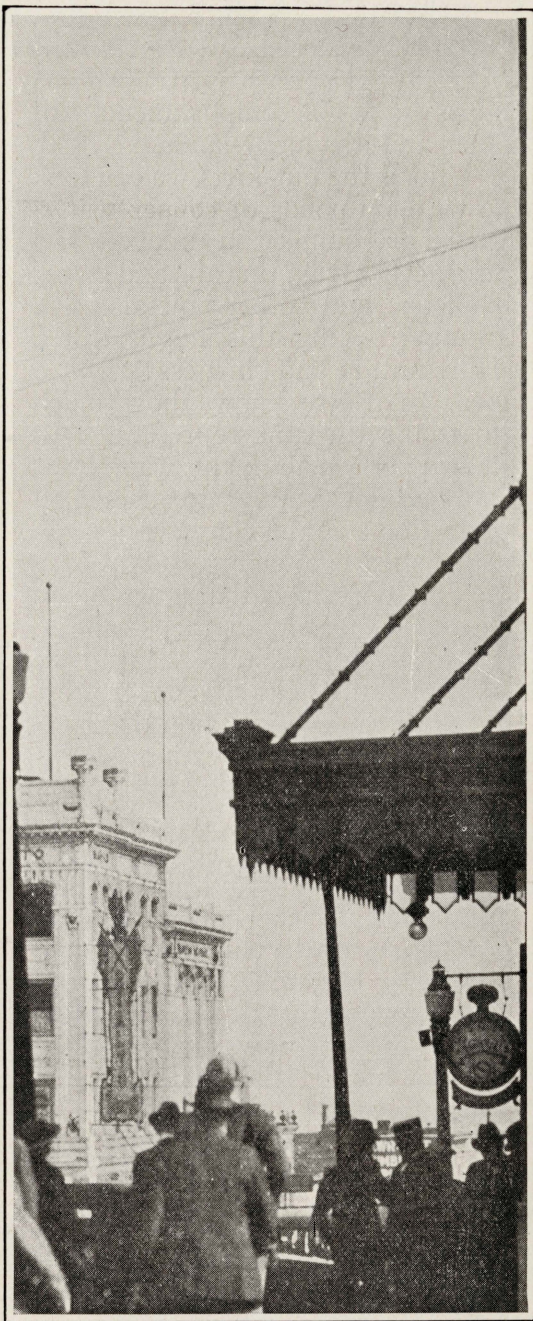
Butte Is the Natural Gateway to the Yellowstone

hopes and accomplishments of older and less lucky lands. * * *

"Along the outskirts we can look down upon ponds of copper water, where are dumped in unlovely and disorderly array, tin cans and pieces of iron and other metals. A stranger seeing this might think, 'How untidy and shiftless!' But a lover of Butte knows how much thrift the tin cans represent. All the copper waste in the water that flows from the mines is collected on these tins and the conservation accomplished is amazing.

"So, too, much that goes on in Butte may seem, to the stranger, disorderly and wasteful. But to the lover of Butte, who sees not blindly, but with the eye intuition of affection and faith, the stream of sociology flowing through the mines carries with it much of value and the heaps of discarded containers of human hopes and discontents and inadequacies shall take on a new value, preserving what would otherwise be waste, and bringing to the concentrator of co-operation all the pure metal washed from the mass of human ambitions and disappointments.

"Not until the middlings thus conserved are assayed and commuted in terms of material advance and political agreement will the world understand what marvelous processes are at work in Butte."



Scene in the Theatrical District.

BUTTE'S ANNUAL OUTPUT

The annual output of the Butte District in metallic copper, zinc, lead, silver and gold would fill 4,569 33-foot railroad cars, making a train 28½ miles long. Yet, this is only three per cent of the total amount of ore which has to be mined and treated to produce the above amount of metal. The value of this output varies from \$65,000,000 to \$100,000,000, depending upon market prices of the metals.

DISTANCES FROM BUTTE

TOWN	MILES	TOWN	MILES
Alhambra	56	Logan	72
Anaconda	25	Lombard	93
Basin	30	Los Angeles.....	1,219
Belgrade	86	Melrose	36
Boise	526	Miles City	383
Big Timber.....	155	Minneapolis	1,105
Billings	236	Missoula	126
Blackfoot	239	New York	2,538
Bonner	119	Norris	71
Boulder	38	Ogden	394
Bozeman	96	Paris, France.....	5,868
Cardwell	40	Philipsburg	65
Cascade	142	Piedmont	39
Clancy	57	Pocatello	260
Deer Lodge.....	40	Pony	67
Dillon	69	Portland	924
Divide	24	Red Lodge	265
Drummond	74	Roundup	258
Forsythe	338	Sheridan	68
Fort Benton.....	216	Stevensville	154
Gardiner	175	St. Paul	1,115
Garrison	53	Salt Lake	434
Glendive	462	Seattle	783
Gregson	18	Spokane	383
Great Falls.....	172	San Francisco.....	1,167
Hamilton	173	Tacoma	779
Harlowtown	188	Three Forks	74
Havre	295	Townsend	113
Helena	73	Twin Bridges	59
Idaho Falls	210	Virginia City	88
Kalispell	431	Whitehall	33
Lewistown	250	Warm Springs.....	25
Livingston	121	Wallace	261



New Hotel Finlen, Butte, Montana.

Depth of Some of the Butte Mines.

Steward	3,633	Mountain View.....	2,455
Granite Mtn.....	3,624	Never Sweat.....	2,400
Diamond	3,608	Pittsmtont	2,400
Original	3,574	East Colusa	2,284
High Ore.....	3,400	Leonard	2,260
Speculator	3,000	West Colusa.....	2,200
Badger State.....	2,977	Main Range.....	2,200
Colorado	2,860	Butte-A. Scott.....	2,198
Mountain Con.....	2,847	W. Gray Rock.....	1,828
Anaconda	2,800	Poulin	1,749
St. Lawrence	2,800	Moonlight	1,741
Pilot-Butte	2,726	Balaklava	1,600
Belmont	2,615	Alice	1,484
Black Rock	2,600	Lexington	1,465
Tuolumne	2,600	Colusa-Leonard.....	1,200
Tramway	2,539	Orphan Girl	1,036
Berkeley	2,538	Silver Bow	1,033
Davis-Daly	2,500	Emma	962
Pennsylvania	2,480	Tropic	800

Butte is the business, financial and social center of a territory larger than New England.

The city of Butte derived its name from the old Indian word "Butte," designating a rounded hill. The correct pronunciation gives it the same sound as the first syllable of the word "beaut-y." From the lowly little western mining camp with its huddled shacks and tents, its cowpaths and population of a few hundred adventurers at the time of ore discovery on the hill, Butte has grown until today it stands the largest city between Minneapolis and Spokane, and the leading business and railroad center of the Rocky Mountain northwest.

