

PREFACE HEREIN readers with imagination HEREIN readers with imagination men. 20 to 45 and averaging 30 years of age. A few forty-niners from Californis, but more from other and later districts, and as many more without mining experience.

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Skilled laborers and common laborers from towns and cultur: farmers and the extra strate of the strate of the state educated; unnoises and confederates; artians, tradesmen. metchants, lawyers, doctors, engineers; the health seeker and the boliday ercursionist; gamblers and thieves. Missouri river steamboats, teams, mules and horses, wagons and pack trains, Long tedious, expensive journeys to the new El Dorado; resiless goings hither and yon, threading devious mountain passes, trudging over divides, down slopes, across tiny, secluded parks; pushing on the heads of creeks, coulees and guiches; prospocing aand and gravel bars for float

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To David Higer and Mrs. Anne McDonnell, librarian and assistant librarian of the Historical Society of Montana; to the staff of the Helena public library, for many sourcesies extended, to Judge L. L. Callaway for valuable suggestions, and to the public libraries of Chicago, Denver and Balt Lake City, where newspaper files were examined, the writer expresses bis sincere thanks. CLYDE MCLEMORE,

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T WAS May, 1862. The military wagon road from Walla walla to port Benton was all but finished. Its builder. Capt. John Mullan, U. S. A. broke winter camp at the mouth of Big Blacktoot river and, with a party of soldiers and civilians, started to the eastern terminus. Sixty miles from the Blacktoot he came to the crossing of the American fork, near its mouth, where were two or three cabins. occupied by the Stuart brothers, Granville and James; Reein Anderson, and Thomas Adams. Five miles above the settlement and near the foot of the mountaing, on a tribulary of the fork, the Stuarts, Ander er miling operations, arting on place ming operations, arting on place ming operations, B. S. Higgins, Dr. Munroe Atkinson and Henry (Gold Tom) Thomas.

captering adulan stopped to visit and to make observations of the mining activities. On the 26th and 27th, ht free gold from their suice boxes a Stuart party was not doing so well for the two days their boxes yieldes only 44.25.

Intess were the Deer Lodge mines. Gold had been discovered here ild Gold had been discovered here ild Bootch-French-Indian. Four yes re later a small group of traders had casually prospected the creek, when they, too, found gold. In 1885 the Stuarts and Anderson verified reports of the earlier prospectors and since the fall of 1860 had been residing continuously at their settlement, trading with the Flathead Indians, farming on a small scale, and mining intermittenity. Optimistic about the the settlement, trading with the Jiathead Indians, gesting that he join them. A short time prior to Mullans visit, Blake Higgins, McAdow and Atkinson had come over from Fort Owen. Henry Thomas had been panning sand in the vicinity since the summer of 1860 Mulian thought the American fort ought to be named Gold creek and

Their Neighbors For neighbors the folks at the Deet Lodge mines had, in the Bitter Root valley, Maj. John Oven, sgent for the Pintheads and proprietor of Fort Owen, established as St. Mary's missoin by Fr. Pierre J. DeSmet in 1841, soid to Major Owen nine years laket and by him converted into a trading post. Contiguous to the fort lived a few metiters. In the valley of the Flathead river was St. Ignatius mission established by Fr. Adrain Roeken in 1854, Six or eight miles north of the Michael Ogden was in to harge of For Promise of Gold Draws Miners to New Lands; Commonwealth Born In Montana Gulches By Clyde McLemore

Connah, a trading post of the Hudson's Bay company, established in 1887, On Jocko river was the Fisthead senory. The brohers, O'Keefg. Orlican pass. Bis miles below Gold creek, on Hell Gate river, was Robert Dempsey's cabin, dignifed by the name, Dublin, Farther west and just beyond Hell Gate, Frank L. Worden and O. P. Higgins were conducting a store, the place being called Hell Gate, or Wordenville. Some 15 miles father wast ived Baytise Ducharme, Louis

Eastward, at the mouth of Little Blacktock, was Grantville, where lived John P. Grank, a person of some affluence, with two or three cabins and 600 catile. South of Grantville, at the confluence of the Coticowood and the Deer Lodge, Thomas Lawatta and Jos Hill had cabine, the place and Jos Hill had cabine, the place Such were the settlements in the extreme eastern part of Washington territory as of June 1, 1863.

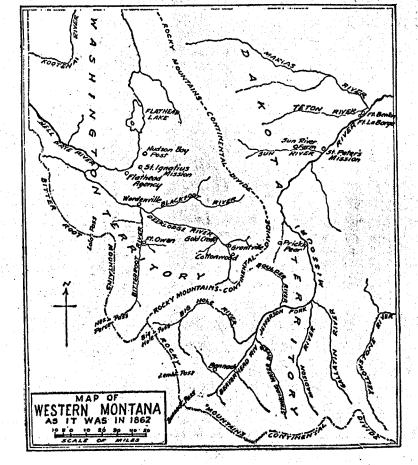
Other neighbors, but less numerous, lived on the eastern side of the Rocky mountains, in Dakota territory, Where the Mullan road crossed Sun iver, the Blacktet Indian agency and government form were tempt was being mide to teach agriculture to the natives. In the Missourt valley, a fay miles below the mouth of Sun river, was the mission of st. Peter, established in Pebruary by Fathers Joseph Glorda, Camillia Imoda and Joseph Menetry. One due to the statistic statistic statistic was Fort Senton, a trading post of the American Fur company, established in 1646, where Andrew Dawson was in charge. Further esstward along the Missouri, between Fort Benton and the older and larger Fort Union near the mouth of the Fallow separated outposts, temposity, migrabors of the miners on Gold creek. Coincidently with the building of the Mulian road things had been

ountry, west of the Bitter Root optumising. In the summer of 1880 mpt. B. D. Pierce and five companmediacovered gold on the northern ributaries of the Clearwater riverhat fail a small quantity valued at 800 was carried out by packers on nowhores and shipped to Fortland, here, and also at Walls Walls, the them traveling by steamer to Por land, 642 milles from San Francisco and thence up the Columbia an Snake rivers to the inlues. Other Hocked in from Oregon and Nevad Discover the the mountains an streams were being overrun by pee haps as many as 3.000 gold hunter Discoveries were soon made on the South fork of the Clearwater, befor Elk City was started. In the fail ric pin the started in the fail ric south fork of the Souther tributary where the less importan Warren's, or Warren's Diggings, wi located. Those at Hormore and Warren were known as the Salmon riv mines.

Early in the spring of 62 began a great immigration from the east and particularly from Colorado, or Pikes Peak, as that entire region was commonly called. The gold strike in the vicinity of the present Denver occurred in 1868 and the area had become populous. It was believed that all the dentable locations had that all the dentable locations had disappointed and the newcomers constantly arriving from the states were moving or preparing to move-on to the much heraided mines on the

Here is a descriptive letter: "Elk City, Washington Territory, "August —, 1862. "S. S. Curtis, Esq. "Dear Sam:

back, and I will drop you a few line in hasts, we arrived here the 15t of July, asis and well. Trip out gen arguly pleasant. Encoursed consider able high water. Snake river on bender. Croussed in our wagon bed bender. Croussed in our wagon bed we came in by the old Mormon for on the head of Saimon river. Led our wagons there and packed 35 miles here, and arg still about 10



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