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# Colorado



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The  
Northwest Plateau

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# FOREWORD

The Colorado State Board of Immigration was established by an act of the Legislature in 1909 for the purpose of advancing, through legitimate publicity and in other ways, the development of agriculture, mining, manufacturing and other industries in Colorado. Its field has expanded year by year until at the present time it is the recognized authority of the state on all questions within its scope.

The contour, climatic conditions and industries of the state vary widely because of the natural boundaries established by the Rocky mountains, and in order that each district may be treated with reference to conditions peculiar to it because of altitude and climate, the state has been divided into seven districts, each of which includes counties where conditions are approximately uniform. The districts are known as the South Platte Valley, the Great Plains, the Arkansas Valley, the San Luis Valley, the San Juan Basin, the Western Slope and the Northwest Plateau, each being treated in a separate booklet.

Every effort is made to secure information of an authoritative character and to avoid the optimistic predictions of the enthusiast. It is the purpose of this department to furnish to the prospective citizen of Colorado authentic information concerning conditions in any part of the state. The department has no land to sell, nor does it represent, directly or indirectly, anyone having land to sell.

The department invites correspondence from anyone who is thinking of making Colorado his home. No state in the Union offers better opportunities for those of limited means if they possess energy, industry and intelligence. The truth about Colorado needs no exaggeration.

EDWARD D. FOSTER, *Commissioner of Immigration.*

TOLBERT R. INGRAM, *Deputy and Statistician.*

## STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION

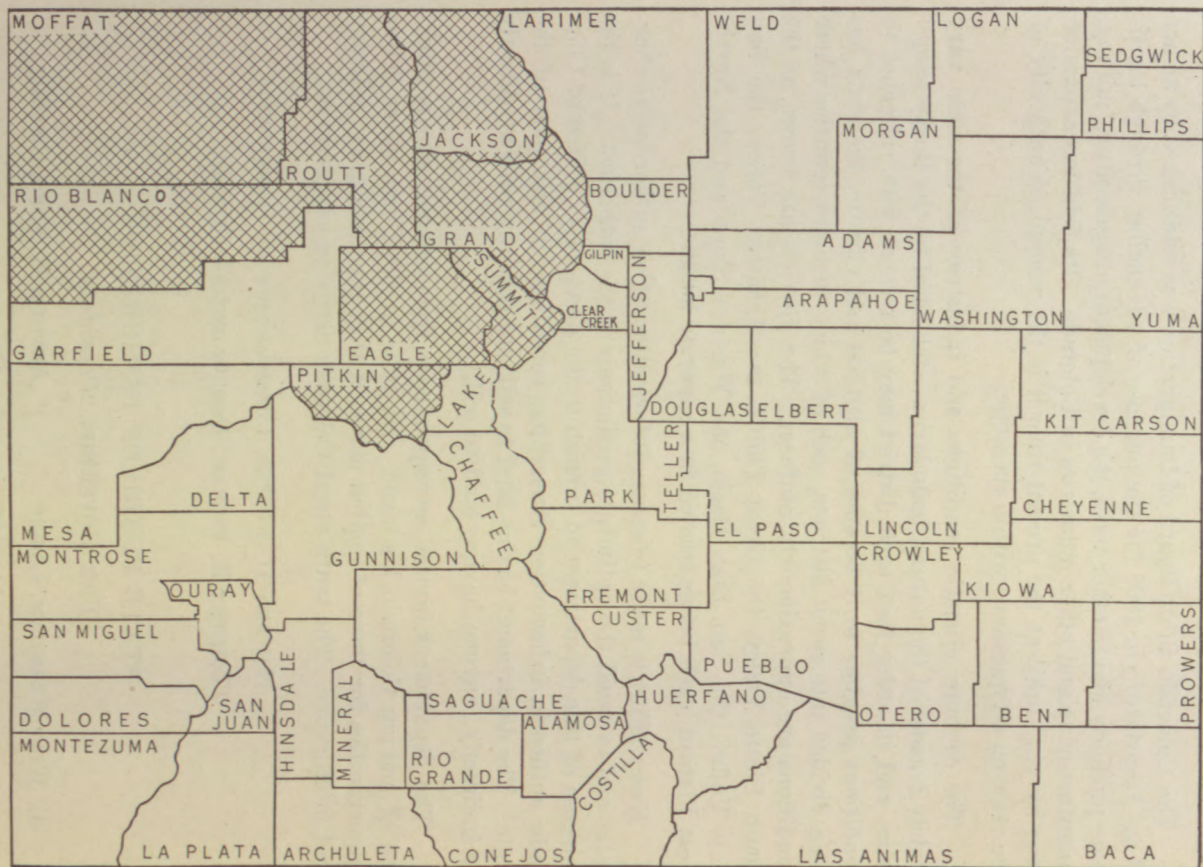
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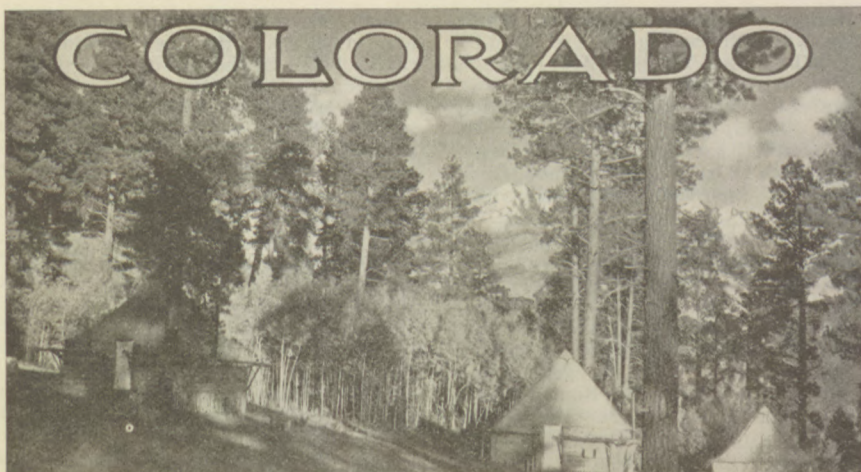
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Map Showing Counties Included in the Northwest Plateau District.





**C**OLORADO lies in the east-central part of the Rocky Mountain region and contains the most elevated portions of the Rocky mountains in the United States, though there are higher altitudes in both California and Washington, in the Cascade mountains, than are found in Colorado. The United States geological survey in its latest published reports assigns to two peaks in Lake county the honor of being the highest points in the state. These are Mount Elbert and Mount Massive, each with an altitude of 14,402 feet. The United States coast and geodetic survey, however, fixed the altitude of Mount Elbert at 14,420 feet and that of Mount Massive at 14,404 feet. The highest point in the United States is Mount Whitney, California, 14,501 feet. Colorado has the highest mean altitude of any state, only about one-fourth of its area being below 5,000 feet, while approximately two-thirds of it ranges from 6,000 to 14,000 feet. It has at least 43 peaks that tower 14,000 feet or higher above sea level, and approximately 600 having altitudes of more than 10,000 feet. The eastern two-fifths of the state lies in the Great Plains, and is a level or broken prairie, crossed by the valleys of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers and their numerous tributaries, and rising gradually from the state line westward to the foothills of the Rockies. The main range of the Rocky mountains passes north and south through the central part of the state, with numerous secondary ranges and spurs running in all directions, giving Colorado the greatest extent and widest variety of mountain scenery found in any state. The western part lies in the Pacific water-shed and contains the largest streams in the state. Its sur-

face is much more broken than that of the eastern part, embracing numerous high mesas and fertile, narrow agricultural valleys, and rising to the rugged and wonderfully picturesque San Juan mountains in the southwest. In outline the state is almost a perfect rectangle, having the most regular form of any state in the Union. It ranks seventh in size, with a land area of 66,341,120 acres or 103,658 square miles. Its water area is 290 square miles, making the total area 103,948 square miles. It is more than twelve times as large as the state of Massachusetts, nearly twice as large as Iowa and about the same size as New York, Ohio, Connecticut and New Hampshire combined. Its extreme length east and west is about 387 miles, or 37 miles more than the distance from New York City to Portland, Maine, and its width approximately 276 miles, about the same as the distance from Chicago to St. Louis.

**Natural Divisions**—As a result of its large size and the extreme irregularity of its surface the state is divided into a number of districts that show considerable variation in topography, soil, climatic conditions, industries and products. The most important of these are the following: The non-irrigated prairie section in the eastern part of the state, popularly referred to as "Eastern Colorado"; the South Platte valley, in the north and northeast; the Arkansas valley, extending through the southern part of the eastern half of the state; the San Luis valley, a vast basin, the bed of an ancient lake, lying in the south-central part of the state, almost wholly surrounded by mountain ranges; the San Juan basin, in the southwest; the valleys of the Colorado river and numerous tributary



streams in the central-western part; the rugged plateau districts drained by the White and Yampa (Bear) rivers, in the northwest; the mountainous, mineral-bearing districts, extending in a broad, irregular belt across the central part of the state from Wyoming to the New Mexico line; and the mountain park districts, chief of which are North park, in Jackson county; Middle park in Grand county; and South park, in Park county. These last are very similar to the San Luis valley, but all have higher average altitudes and consequently enjoy less intensive agricultural development. In topography and climatic conditions the South Platte and Arkansas valleys are very similar to the non-irrigated sections of eastern Colorado, but by reason of the fact that a large supply of water is available in these valleys for irrigation they enjoy the most extensive agricultural development found in the state and produce a wider range and greater yield of crops than the non-irrigated districts. The San Luis valley has very light rainfall, but an abundant water supply for irrigation is derived from the Rio Grande del Norte and its tributaries. The average altitude is more than 7,500 feet, which limits the range of crops grown, but the fertile soil, abundant water supply and good climate make this valley one of the finest general farming and stockraising districts in the state. The San Juan basin is a region of from moderate to heavy rainfall, having a considerable area of irrigated land in the river valleys and much good non-irrigated agricultural land on the higher mesas. This is also an excellent stock-raising district. The valleys of the Colorado, Gunnison, Uncompahgre and other rivers and smaller streams of the Colorado river basin contain the principal fruit-growing areas of the state, as well as a large amount of the fine general agricultural land. The rainfall in this area is generally inadequate for farming without irrigation, but the water supply is adequate for all land that can be irrigated, and recently farming without irrigation has been undertaken successfully on some of the higher mesa lands, where rainfall is somewhat heavier than in the valleys. The northwest part of the state is less developed than any other district, chiefly because of lack of transportation facilities, but it contains some of the best agricultural and grazing land in Colorado. The mineral area is very extensive, but the principal producing areas are somewhat restricted and are outlined in tables published elsewhere in this volume.

**Early History**—That part of Colorado lying east of the Rocky mountains was included in the territory acquired by purchase from France in 1803, usually referred to as the Louisiana Purchase. All the southeastern part of the state, lying south of the Arkansas river, and a narrow strip extending north through the mountain district into Wyoming, was claimed by the state of Texas and became a part of the United States when Texas was annexed in 1845. This included a considerable amount of the territory belonging to the Louisiana Purchase, but the controversy regarding the northern boundary of Texas was settled long before Colorado became a state. The western part of what is now Colorado and an additional strip lying west and south of the Rio Grande del Norte was ceded to the United States by Mexico in 1848, following the war with Mexico. The actual settlement of Colorado began with the discovery of gold in the summer of 1858, at which time most of the eastern half of the state was included in Kansas territory under the name of Arapahoe county. The boundaries of the county were very imperfectly defined, and the settlers in the new gold camps, moreover, objected to being governed by a set of territorial officials 400 miles away. They appealed to the federal government for the organization of a new state or territorial government, and finally, in February, 1861, the territory of Colorado was organized, about a month after statehood had been conferred upon the territory of Kansas. The boundaries of the territory were substantially the same as are those of the state at present. In 1876 Colorado was admitted to the Union as the thirty-eighth state.

**Population** — The population of Colorado has increased steadily and rapidly since its actual settlement began immediately following the discovery of gold in 1858. The following table shows its growth from 1860 to the present time, as compared with the growth for the entire country, all figures being taken from census reports:

Year	Population	Pct. of Increase Over Previous Census	Pct. of Increase For United States
1860.....	34,277	....	....
1870.....	39,864	16.3	22.6
1880.....	194,327	387.5	30.1
1890.....	413,249	112.7	25.5
1900.....	539,700	30.6	20.7
1910.....	799,024	48.0	21.0
1920.....	939,629	17.6	14.9



During the two decades following 1860 the population was confined largely to the mining districts and to the city of Denver. The cities of Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Trinidad did not make their appearance in the census population statistics until 1880, when the three had a combined population of less than 10,000. During the early 80's the period of agricultural development began and the decade ending with 1890 was in many ways the most important in the history of the state. During that period 24 new counties were organized and scores of new towns were laid out in the agricultural districts. The percentage of increase in population dropped off materially in the succeeding decades, but remained considerably greater than the percentage of increase for the country at large. In 1910 the density of population for the state was 7.7 per square mile, as compared with 30.9 for the United States. Denver county ranked first in this respect, with 3,679, and Dolores and Jackson counties were tied for last place, with 0.6. The 1920 census showed the density of population for the state to be 9.06 per square mile. Denver still holds first place in this respect, with 4,422.26, and Jackson county ranks last, with 0.81. The rural population in 1910, including all people except those living in incorporated places of 2,500 population or more each, was 394,184, or 49.3 per cent of the total. The rural population as shown by the 1920 census was 486,370, or 51.76 per cent of the total. In 1910 the foreign-born white population was 15.9 per cent of the total, the principal foreign nationalities then being, in the order named, as follows: German, Italian, Russian, Austrian, English, Swedish, Canadian, Irish and Scotch. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 12.4 per cent of the total, the principal foreign nationalities being Russian, Italian, German, Mexican and Swedish.

**Land Classification**—Colorado is the seventh state in the Union in size, with a land area of 66,341,120 acres. It is divided into 63 counties, of which Denver county is the smallest, with an area of 37,120 acres, and Las Animas county the largest, with 3,077,769 acres. The records of the several county assessors showed a total of 33,347,491 acres of patented land on the tax rolls at the beginning of 1924, including railroad rights of way and town and city lots. The records of the federal and state governments at the same time showed a total of 24,021,945 acres of non-patented land, including national forests, homestead areas, national parks and monu-

ments, Indian lands and state land. This leaves 8,971,684 acres of land not definitely classified as to ownership, but none of which is on the tax rolls. Included in this is about 750,000 acres of state land that has been sold but not yet fully paid for and for that reason not yet patented. There is also approximately 1,400,000 acres of government land temporarily withdrawn from homestead entry. The balance is principally homestead land that has been filed upon but not yet proved up and for that reason not yet on the tax rolls. The area of patented land in the state is increasing at the rate of more than 1,000,000 acres annually, principally through the patenting of homestead land. In the mining counties there is considerable mineral land that has been filed upon but not yet patented, all of which comes in the unclassified list. In three counties, Archuleta, Hinsdale and Lake, the amount of land shown in the various classifications is slightly greater than the area of the counties, as shown by available government surveys. These discrepancies are no doubt due to inaccuracies in surveys, as considerable portions of the mountainous areas of the state have not yet been accurately surveyed, and each of these counties contains mountainous areas. Of the privately owned land in the state, 2,286,592 acres is classed by county assessors as irrigated farm land, 30,129 acres as bearing orchards, 271,988 acres as natural hay land, 11,166,930 acres as non-irrigated farm land and 18,008,349 acres as grazing land. The remainder is chiefly producing and non-producing mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—Containing, as it does, the most elevated portions of the Rocky mountains, Colorado is quite naturally the source of many of the important streams in the west. The Continental divide crosses the west-central part of the state, and the streams in the western part flow to the Pacific, while those in the east find their way to the Gulf of Mexico. The streams of the western slope are all tributaries of the Colorado river, from which the state derives its name. The Colorado (Grand) river, the largest stream in the state, has its source in Grand county. The Green river, which was regarded as one of the two streams forming the Colorado when the upper course of the Colorado was called the Grand river, flows through the northwestern corner of Moffat county. The northwestern corner of the state is drained by tributaries of the Green river, chief of which are



the Yampa (Bear) and White rivers. The principal tributary of the Colorado river is the Gunnison, which has its source in Gunnison county and enters the Colorado at the city of Grand Junction. The southwestern corner of the state is drained by the San Juan and Dolores rivers, both tributaries of the Colorado. The south-central part of the state, including the San Luis valley, is drained by the Rio Grande del Norte. The southeastern part is drained by the Arkansas river and its tributaries, and the northeastern part by the South Platte river. The North Platte river has its headwaters in Jackson county and unites with the South Platte in Nebraska to form the Platte river. The Republican river, a tributary of the Kansas, drains a considerable area in the eastern part of the state. These streams have hundreds of small tributaries, most of which have their sources in the mountains where the snowfall is heavy. They furnish the principal water supply for irrigation and for the development of hydro-electric power. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from these streams, but in most agricultural sections wells are utilized as a secondary source of domestic water supply. Most of these wells are pumped, but there is a well-defined artesian belt in the San Luis valley and artesian water is found in numerous other places. There are more than 8,000 artesian wells in the state, fully two-thirds of which are in the San Luis valley.

#### **National Parks and Monuments—**

There are two national parks and three national monuments in Colorado. Rocky Mountain national park, with an approximate area of 254,327 acres, lies in Larimer, Boulder and Grand counties, and includes some of the most picturesque portions of the Rocky mountains. It is one of the newest of the national parks, having been created by an act of congress, approved January 26, 1915. Its highest point is Longs peak, 14,225 feet, and there are within its boundaries thirteen other mountain peaks more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is the most accessible of the large western parks and this fact, together with the wide range of picturesque mountain scenery and its delightful climate, has made it the most popular of the nation's great public playgrounds. The report of the secretary of the interior places the number of visitors to this park in 1915 at 31,000. The following year the number had increased to 51,000, and in 1917 it was 117,186. The nearest approach to this was recorded at the Mount Ranier national park,

which had 35,568 visitors in 1917. In 1922 the number of visitors in the Rocky Mountain national park was 219,164. Mesa Verde national park is located in Montezuma county and is especially noted for the ruins of homes and villages of the ancient Cliff Dwellers, supposed to have been the earliest inhabitants of this part of the continent. Travel to this park has increased very materially in the past few years as the result of the construction of good highways leading to it. It was established by an act of congress June 29, 1906. Its area is 48,966 acres. The Colorado national monument in Mesa county, near Grand Junction, was established by presidential proclamation on May 24, 1911. Its area is 13,883 acres. The site is in a picturesque canon which has been a popular scenic feature of that part of Colorado. The formation is similar to that of the Garden of the Gods at Colorado Springs, but it is generally conceded to be much more picturesque. There are many caverns in the monument, several of which have not yet been explored. Wheeler national monument, located in Mineral county, northwest of Creede, was established by presidential proclamation on December 7, 1908. Its area is approximately 490 acres. It is especially noted for its weird and very picturesque rock formation, unlike anything found elsewhere in Colorado. "Hovenweep", an Indian name meaning "Deserted Valley", is the third of the national monuments. It is situated on the Colorado-Utah line in western Montezuma county and contains within its area of 285 acres four remarkable groups of ruins similar to those in Mesa Verde national park.

**Industries—**The principal industries of the state are agriculture, stock-raising in its various branches, dairying, bee-keeping, manufacturing, mining, quarrying, lumbering and commerce. The production of oil and gas is also becoming a leading industry.

**Climatological Data—**As a result of its great size and the extreme irregularity of its surface, the climate of Colorado is wonderfully varied and cannot be described in detail here. The mean annual temperature for the entire state is 44.6 degrees, but it varies from about 31 degrees in some of the higher mountain districts to 54 degrees in parts of the Arkansas valley. The average annual precipitation for the state is 17.54 inches, but there is also a very wide range here in the different sections of the state. The lowest average precipitation is about 6.5 inches, in the San Luis valley, and



the highest above 30 inches in the San Juan mountains. The delightful and wonderfully healthful qualities of Colorado's climate are well known throughout the country. Rainfall is comparatively light in all sections of the state and the percentage of sunshine is very high. The range of temperature is wide. The amount of moisture in the air is always low and as a result the unpleasant effects of extremely low or high temperatures are greatly modified. The relative annual humidity ranges from 45 to 60 per cent, being lower than in any other state except Arizona and Nevada. The high altitude is another important factor in governing climatic conditions in the state. As a result of this high altitude and the correspondingly low atmospheric pressure, impurities in the air are quickly dissipated and the depressing effects common at low altitudes, especially during periods of warm, damp weather, are entirely foreign to this state.

**Railroad, Telegraph and Telephone Facilities**—There are 31 railroad companies represented in Colorado, operating an aggregate of 5,088.69 miles of main line track. Every county in the state except Baca county has some railroad mileage, though the railroad facilities of some other counties, par-

ticularly in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the state, are inadequate. The total value of railroad property in the state as returned by the state tax commission for the year 1923 was \$160,693,730.

Ninety-seven telephone companies operate in the state, owning an aggregate total of 371,700.52 miles of telephone line. This is an increase of more than 35,000 miles over the amount reported to the tax commission in 1922. The valuation of all property owned by these companies, as returned by the state tax commission for purposes of taxation in 1923, was \$13,544,500. Most of these companies are small and operate in but one or two counties. The Colorado & Eastern Telephone & Telegraph company operates in 15 counties in the eastern part of the state, and the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph company operates its own lines in all but two counties in the state, Baca and Dolores, and has a total of 361,330 miles of line in Colorado. Four telegraph companies operate a total of 27,723.59 miles of line in the state. Five counties, Baca, Hinsdale, Jackson, Moffat and Rio Blanco, had no commercial telegraph lines in operation when reports were made to the tax commission for 1923.



**T**HE district described in this booklet lies in the northwestern part of the state, being principally an irregular plateau, broken by several mountain ranges and containing several beautiful mountain parks of varying size. It all lies in the Colorado river watershed except Jackson county, which contains the headwaters of the North Platte river and lies in the Missouri river watershed. It includes eight counties, whose areas total 10,864,640 acres, or about the same as the combined areas of the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Moffat county alone, the largest county in

the district and second largest county in Colorado, has an area of 2,981,120 acres, or only a little less than the area of the state of Connecticut. The eight counties make up a little less than one-sixth the area of Colorado.

Reports of county assessors showed 2,065,445 acres of patented land in the district at the beginning of 1924, including mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. This is approximately 19 per cent of the total area, being the smallest percentage of patented land found in any district of similar area in the state. The unpatented land is principally national forests and unappropriated



homestead land, with a very considerable acreage of homestead land that has been filed upon but not yet patented. The patented land includes 226,351 acres of irrigated land, 211,616 acres of "dry farming" land and 1,414,674 acres of grazing land. There is water available for irrigating much more land than is now under irrigation in this district, but irrigation development as well as development along other lines has been retarded here by lack of transportation facilities. It is the least developed district in the state, though it ranks exceptionally high in variety and extent of natural resources. Moffat and Rio Blanco counties have suffered most from lack of railroads, there being but 7.5 miles of railroad in Moffat county and 7.8 miles in Rio Blanco county. The completion of the James Peak tunnel on the line of the Denver & Salt Lake railroad will greatly improve railway facilities for the entire district and will eventually be followed by a further extension of the Denver & Salt Lake road to the west and by other railway construction in the district. The area of homestead land in the eight counties is 3,120,078 acres, or more than one-third of the open homestead land in the state. The national forest area is 3,252,673 acres and there is approximately 400,000 acres of unappropriated state land. The comparatively small area of patented land in this district is not so highly improved as is the patented land in most other sections, one result of which is a very low assessed valuation in proportion to the area of the district. This naturally has retarded public improvements, particularly highways and schools, but highways now are being built rapidly, with much aid from the federal government and the state because of the large amount of public land in the district. School structures generally are modern and ample for present needs. There is approximately 4,500,000 acres of land in this district yet to be placed on the tax rolls and maximum development can not be expected until a very considerable amount of this is patented and begins to bear its share of the expense of public improvements. While the district has up to this time produced little but livestock and coal, it has enjoyed sufficient agricultural development to show that it is one of the best small grain areas in Colorado and under favorable conditions will produce a wide variety and large volume of agricultural products, in addition to grass and hay, which are now its principal products. The construction of adequate railroads will increase rather than diminish the live-

stock output of the district, while it will greatly increase crop production and will make northwest Colorado the most important coal producing area in the West.

Coal is found in every county in the district, but the most extensive and valuable deposits are in Routt, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties. Exceptionally high grade bituminous coal is found in these three counties and some anthracite coal is found in Routt county. In Moffat and Rio Blanco counties veins of bituminous coal of exceptional thickness are found, some of the veins being as much as 20 feet thick, with but little slate or waste. In some localities as high as ten veins are found in the same formation, with aggregate thickness of from 50 to 100 feet. There are good coal deposits in Jackson county, which have been worked to a limited extent, but inadequate transportation facilities have retarded development. Pitkin county has rather extensive coal deposits but they have been developed only to a very limited extent. Routt county has produced far more coal than any other county in the district and at present holds fourth place among the counties of the state in coal production. The output of this county, however, would be greatly increased by better transportation facilities.

With the discovery of oil in commercial quantities on March 3, 1924, in Moffat county, a great program of exploration was put under way with the result that before the end of that year 14 wells were either completed or under way. The discovery well, located in southeastern Moffat county, has a settled production of about 1,200 barrels daily, but the true extent of the oil reservoirs will not be known until a more comprehensive drilling program is completed.

Eagle, Summit and Pitkin counties have been the chief producers of metals. Aspen, in Pitkin county, was at one time one of the leading silver camps in the state and is still producing the white metal in limited quantities. Eagle county also has been an important producer of silver and zinc. The mines of Pitkin county have produced metals to the value of more than \$100,000,000 since 1880, of which \$73,500,000 was silver. Eagle county has produced nearly \$30,000,000 since 1879, of which about one-half was zinc. Summit county has produced a total of nearly \$51,000,000, gold, silver and zinc being its principal metals.

The principal streams in the district are the Colorado and some of its tributaries, including the Yampa (Bear) and White, and the North Platte river,



with several small tributaries. The North Platte belongs to the Missouri river system, while all other streams in the district belong to the Colorado river system. Practically all streams here have their sources in regions of high precipitation and carry a good supply of water for irrigation and for the development of water power. There is water here for the irrigation of much more land than is now being irrigated, and water power resources are almost wholly undeveloped.

Railroads serving this district are the Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern, which runs south from the main line of the Union Pacific at Laramie, Wyo., into Jackson county; the Denver & Salt Lake railroad, serving Grand, Routt and parts of Eagle and Moffat counties; the Denver & Rio Grande Western, which serves Eagle, Summit and Pitkin counties and most of Rio Blanco county, though it does not touch the last named county; the Colorado & Southern, which runs from Como in Park county to Breckenridge and thence to Leadville, and the Uinta railroad, which passes through the extreme southwest corner of Rio Blanco county. Better railway facilities is admittedly the primary need of the district.

**Homestead and State Lands**—Latest available records show 399,400 acres of unappropriated state land and 3,120,078 acres of homestead land in the district, or a total of 3,519,478 acres of public land available for settlers. State land is subject to purchase or lease and homestead land may be had by paying the necessary filing and other fees and complying with existing homestead laws relating to resi-

dence and improvements. There is more homestead land here than in any other district of similar area in the state and perhaps the best opportunities for homesteaders are to be found in these counties. The homestead lands in Grand, Summit and Jackson counties and parts of those in Eagle and Routt counties are in the Denver land district and the remainder of the homestead land is in the Glenwood Springs district. The prospective homesteader should not permit himself to believe that he will find good agricultural land near a railroad in this district, for there is no such homestead land remaining open to entry anywhere in Colorado. Most of that remaining in this district is from 25 to 80 miles from a railroad and much of it is better suited for grazing purposes than for general farming. The state land in the district includes some good farming land and a considerable amount of good grazing land. Unlike homestead land, some of it may be found near to railroads. It may be purchased outright or leased. Applications for purchase or lease should be made to the State Board of Land Commissioners, Capitol Building, Denver. State land is sold at public auction, after it has been properly advertised, sales being held at the offices of the Board of Land Commissioners. Leases are made in much the same manner. One-tenth the purchase price of state land must be paid on the day of sale and the remainder may be paid in eighteen equal annual installments, with interest at 6 per cent. All inquiries about state land should be made in person or by letter to the State Board of Land Commissioners.

## GENERAL Description —

Eagle county lies in the west-central part of the state and includes a large part of the mineralized area known as the sulphide belt. The surface is principally mountainous and the eastern boundary is formed by the Gore range of mountains. Its area is 1,036,800 acres, or about 200,000 acres less than that of the state of Delaware. It is of a rectangular outline with an extreme length east and west of 48 miles and an extreme width of 38 miles. The altitude ranges from about 6,150 feet, where the Colorado river crosses



the western boundary, to over 13,000 feet at the summits of the mountain peaks in the east and southeast.

**Early History**—The territory now included in Eagle county was first visited by explorers and prospectors in the early 50's, but no permanent settlement as made until 1879. At that time prospectors from Lake



county entered the valley of the upper Eagle river and made discoveries of gold and silver near the present site of the town of Redcliff. The county was organized in 1883 from a part of Summit county.

**Surface and Soil**—There is considerable agricultural land in the northwestern part of the county, in the valleys of the Colorado and Eagle rivers and on the bench lands lying just above these valleys. The soil here is formed principally by the weathering of neighboring rocks and is very fertile, being especially rich in the mineral foods necessary for the production of crops. These valleys are very narrow, but the bench lands above them are usually broad and contain thousands of acres of good pasture land. The eastern and southeastern parts are mountainous, with considerable good grazing land in the small mountain valleys and along the upper courses of some of the streams. There is no soil survey of this area available.

**Population**—The population of this county has shown considerable variation, due principally to mining activity. In 1920 it was 3,385, compared with 2,985 in 1910, the increase being 13.4 per cent. The maximum population was 3,725 in 1890, when mining in this county was at its height. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 473, or 14 per cent of the total, compared with 19.3 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, Canadian, Austrian and English.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Colorado river flows through the northwestern corner of the county. The Eagle river has its source in the southeastern corner and flows north and west to a junction with the Colorado near the western boundary. These streams, with their numerous tributaries, furnish the drainage and supply an abundance of water for all necessary purposes. There is some irrigated land along these streams, especially along the Eagle river, and there is water available for much more land than is now being irrigated in the western part. Water for domestic purposes is in some cases obtained from wells and is found at depths varying from 10 to 75 feet.

**Industries**—Agriculture is rapidly replacing mining as the principal industry, although mining is still followed to a large extent. Farming is followed principally along the lower valley of the Eagle river and along the valleys of various tributary streams. Stockraising is followed extensively in connection with general farming. Lumbering and tie-making have been important industries in the eastern

part. There has been some quarrying of stone, principally for local uses.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and native hay, small grain, potatoes and head lettuce.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are carnotite, copper, gold, gypsum, lead, manganese, iron, silver, zinc, turquoise and other gem stones, granite and various other building stones.

**Timber**—There is considerable heavy timber in the eastern and southern parts, principally pine and spruce.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 116,800 acres of patented land in the county, or nearly 10 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 23,159 acres of this is irrigated land, 85,811 acres is grazing land and the remainder producing and non-producing mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land sells here at from \$40 to \$200 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$30 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 18,100 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some non-irrigated farming land and considerable grazing land. On July 1, 1923, there was 250,618 acres of government land open to homestead entry, principally valuable for grazing purposes. Since that time a considerable amount of unsurveyed government land has been restored to entry. The national forest area is 592,239 acres, or 57.13 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad passes through the county, following in a general way the course of the Eagle river. The Aspen branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad passes through the southwestern corner, and the Denver & Salt Lake railroad enters the county for a few miles in the north.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway, which follows in general the valley of the Eagle river through the county. A state highway runs north from the Ocean to Ocean road at Wolcott to Kremmling, in Grand county, where it connects with another primary state highway running by way of Berthoud pass to Denver and west over Rabbit Ears pass into Routt and Moffat counties. There are numerous other county roads and trails, developed principally for the mining camps.

**Educational**—There are 34 public district schools in the county, employing 55 teachers. Four years of high



school work are given at the schools at Redcliff, Eagle, Gypsum, Basalt and Minturn and one year of high school work in the Gilman school. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall in the northwest is comparatively light, ranging from 13 to 15 inches annually. It increases rapidly toward the east and southeast, being above 25 inches annually in the extreme southeastern corner. The climate is comparatively mild in the lower Eagle river valley, but it is much more severe in the high altitudes in the east and southeast. The snowfall is extremely heavy in the southeastern corner.

**Tourist Attractions**—Some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in Colorado is found in Eagle county. The Mount of the Holy Cross, one of the most impressive mountain peaks in Colorado, with an altitude of 13,978 feet, is in the southwestern part. A cluster of sandstone cliffs near the town of Basalt, known as the Seven Castles, is admired annually by thousands of tourists. There is a large bed of black lava of considerable interest to tourists near the town of Dotsero. There is excellent trout fishing in most of the mountain streams and in the numerous mountain lakes.

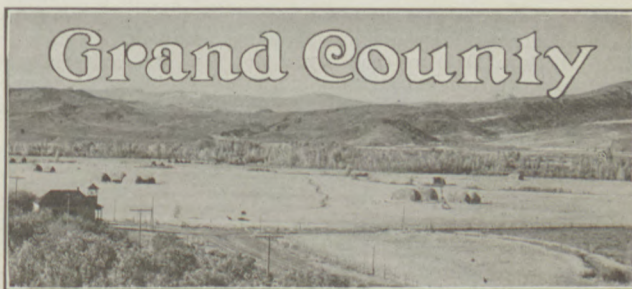
**Cities and Towns**—Eagle, the principal town, is now the countyseat,

having succeeded Redcliff in that capacity as a result of an election held in 1920. It is located on the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad in the principal agricultural and stock-raising section of the county. Its population in 1920 was 358, compared with 186 in 1910. Redcliff, formerly the countyseat, is the most important mining town in the county. It is located on the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad east of Eagle. Its population in 1920 was 347, compared with 383 in 1910. Other towns are Wolcott, Gypsum and Dotsero on the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad, and Orestod and State Bridge on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad.

**Special Opportunities**—Opportunities are offered here both in mining and agricultural development. Although mining has been followed extensively for more than 40 years, there is still considerable mineralized territory that has enjoyed but little development. Agriculture has been carried on to a limited extent for a good many years but has recently become a much more important industry with the development of potato and head lettuce culture in high mountain altitudes where formerly little farming was done. Stockraising has always been followed along with farming and the annual value of the livestock output is fully equal to that of all crops grown.

## GENERAL Description

Grand county lies in the north-central part of the state, the eastern boundary being formed by the Continental divide, the northern boundary by the Rabbit Ears mountain range, and part of the southern boundary by the Williams Fork mountains. It is made up principally of a mountain park known as Middle park, surrounded by mountain ranges. Its outline is irregular. The greatest length, north and south, is about 55 miles, and the greatest width is about 52 miles. Its area is 1,194,240 acres, or about 50,000 acres less than that of the state of Delaware. The altitude varies from about 7,800 feet in the extreme southwest to more than 13,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks on the eastern boundary.



**Early History**—The county takes its name from the largest river in Colorado, formerly called the Grand river, but now officially known as the Colorado river, which has its headwaters here. It was originally a part of the domain claimed by the Northern Ute Indians and was one of their most popular hunting grounds. It was frequently visited by prospectors in the early 60's, but no gold discoveries of importance were made. The early settlers were principally stockmen. The county was organized in 1874 from a part of Summit county.



**Surface and Soil**—The central part of the county is a beautiful mountain park with a rolling surface and alluvial soil of wonderful richness. It is largely covered by natural grass and is one of the best grazing sections of Colorado. On the north, east and south the surface rises rather abruptly to the mountain ranges which form the boundary of the county on these sides. On the southeast the Colorado river cuts its way through the rim rocks surrounding this park and forms the famous Gore canon. No detailed soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 2,659, compared with 1,862 in 1910, the increase being 42.8 per cent. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 13.7 per cent of the total, compared with 15.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, Canadian, Swiss and Mexican.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Colorado river has its headwaters in this county and with its tributaries furnishes the principal water supply for irrigation and other purposes. These streams all have their sources in the mountains which surround Middle park and carry a good supply of water the year around. A considerable amount of land is now being irrigated in Middle park, but there is water available for perhaps twice as much land as is now being farmed under irrigation. Water for domestic purposes in some sections is obtained from wells.

**Industries**—The principal industry is general farming, including stockraising and dairying. Mining has been followed to a limited extent and lumbering to supply local needs.

**Crops**—The principal crops are natural hay, timothy, alsike, potatoes, head lettuce, small grain raised principally for forage, and root crops for stock feed.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are antimony, asphaltic rock, bituminous rock, gold, molybdenum, silver and building stone.

**Timber**—There is good timber in considerable amounts on the mountain slopes surrounding the valley, principally white pine and spruce.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 248,270 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 20 per cent of the total area. Records of the county assessor show that 31,220 acres of this is irrigated land, 165,070 acres is grazing land, 48,009 acres is timber land and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land sells here at from \$40 to \$150 an

acre and non-irrigated land, including grazing land, at from \$5 to \$25 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 62,360 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some excellent natural hay land. On July 1, 1923, there was 119,060 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area is 535,506 acres, or 45 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The Denver & Salt Lake railroad enters this county in the southeastern part, crossing the divide at the town of Corona. It runs north and west through Middle park by way of Hot Sulphur Springs and Kremmling, and southwest from Kremmling into Eagle county by way of Gore canon.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Victory highway, which crosses Berthoud pass and follows in a general way the course of the Colorado river to Kremmling. Here it turns north and passes into Routt county over Rabbit Ears pass. A state highway leaves this road at Granby and runs north to Grand Lake and over Fall River pass through Rocky Mountain national park to Estes park. Another state highway leaves at the same place and runs north over Willow pass into Jackson county. At Kremmling one state highway runs southeast along the Blue river to Breckenridge and Leadville and another runs southwest to a connection with the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway at Wolcott. There are numerous county roads and trails, usually for the convenience of farmers and stockmen.

**Educational**—There are 25 public district schools in the county, employing 30 teachers. The Union high school at Kremmling gives a four year high school course. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall in this county varies widely. A narrow strip along the Colorado river in the western part has an average annual rainfall of from 13 to 15 inches. Immediately north and east and south of this is an area comprising the principal parts of Middle park, where the rainfall varies from 15 to 20 inches. Directly east of this the precipitation increases rapidly, being above 25 inches annually near the summit of the Continental divide. The climate is much more mild than might be expected at the prevailing altitudes in this county. The park is shielded from winds by mountain ranges which surround it on all sides, and though



very low temperatures prevail during the winter, the cold is not felt so keenly as in other sections more subject to wind and to greater extremes of moisture in the atmosphere. The snowfall is heavy, especially in the eastern part of the county.

**Tourist Attractions**—The Rocky Mountain national park extends into the northeastern part of this county. This is the most popular national park in the United States and one of the most popular tourist centers in Colorado. Just west of the border of the park is Grand lake, the largest natural lake in Colorado, lying at an altitude of 8,369 feet. It is a popular summer resort and is noted as the home of the only yacht club in Colorado. Hot Sulphur Springs is a health resort of some importance, the waters of the hot springs located here having recognized medicinal qualities. A sanitarium is located here. The territory known as Middle park is one of the most attractive mountain park districts in Colorado and is being visited by increasing numbers of automobile tourists every year. The streams here are all well stocked with trout and are very popular with local as well as visiting fishermen.

**Cities and Towns**—Hot Sulphur Springs, the countyseat, is located on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad near the central part of the county. It is a tourist and health resort famous for its thermal springs. Its population in 1920 was 123, compared with 182 in 1910. Kremmling, the principal town, is located on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad 18 miles west of Hot Sulphur Springs. It is the center of the principal agricultural and stockraising district. Its population in 1920 was 254, compared with 141 in 1910. Other towns are Granby, Troublesome, Fraser, Tabernash and Grand Lake, the latter an inland point noted principally as a tourist resort.

**Special Opportunities**—The special opportunities here are along the line of agricultural development. This county is especially suitable for stock-raising and dairying. There is water available for at least twice as much land as is now being irrigated and the agricultural land is capable of supporting perhaps twice as large a rural population as it now maintains. The mountainous areas surrounding the valley on all sides are presumably mineralized and offer opportunities for prospectors.

## GENERAL Description —

Jackson county lies in the north-central part of the state and includes the mountain valley known as North park. The state of Wyoming forms the northern boundary. Mountain ranges bound it on the other sides—the Medicine Bow range on the east, the Rabbit Ears range on the south, and the Park range on the west. It is very irregular in outline, with an extreme length, north and south, of about 45 miles, and an extreme width of 42 miles. Its area is 1,044,480 acres, or about 200,000 acres less than that of the state of Delaware. The surface is principally rolling or level mountain valley, rising gradually to mountain ranges on all sides except the north. The altitude ranges from about 7,800 feet, at the point where the North Platte crosses the north boundary, to more than 12,000 feet at the summits of the peaks in the bordering ranges.



**Early History**—The area now included in Jackson county was visited by John C. Fremont and described by him in 1844. It was visited by numerous early hunters and trappers, and gold seekers did considerable prospecting in the surrounding mountain ranges in the 60's and 70's. The first permanent white settler was J. O. Pinkham, who erected a log house on Pinkham creek toward the north boundary of the county in 1874. The town of Pinkhampton, named in honor of this pioneer settler, is located near the site of the first log cabin. The county was organized in 1909 from a part of Larimer county and named in honor of President Andrew Jackson.



**Surface and Soil**—The surface of North park, which comprises more than half the area of the county, is level or slightly rolling, traversed by numerous streams, tributaries of the North Platte, which have their sources in the surrounding mountains. The soil is principally a sandy loam or an alluvial loam of wonderful fertility. Although the seasons are comparatively short because of the high altitudes, this mountainous valley is wonderfully productive and is one of the best natural hay sections in Colorado. There is no detailed soil survey available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 1,340, compared with 1,013 in 1910, the increase being 23.3 per cent. In 1910 Jackson county was the most sparsely settled county in Colorado with the exception of Dolores county. At the present time it still ranks second in this respect, being next to Hinsdale county. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 10.1 per cent of the total, compared with 12.6 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, English, Canadian and Scotch.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The North Platte river has its source in this county, and is fed by a large number of small streams, rising near the snow-capped peaks of the surrounding mountain ranges and flowing into the North Platte river from the south, east and west. These streams all carry a good supply of water the year round, there being perhaps no county in Colorado where the water supply for all necessary purposes is more abundant. Water for domestic purposes in some sections is obtained from wells and is reached at depths varying from 10 feet to 60 feet.

**Industries**—Stockraising, with some general farming, including some dairying, is the principal industry. North park, because of its abundant supply of natural grasses, is one of the best stockraising districts in the state. Coal mining is followed to a limited extent. There has been some metal mining in the county, but most of the mines have been abandoned because of their remoteness from railroads. Lumbering has been followed rather extensively in the past.

**Crops**—The principal crops are natural hay, timothy, alsike, alfalfa, small grains, potatoes, head lettuce, garden vegetables and root crops, grown principally for stock feed.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, copper, coal, fluorspar, gold, silver and building stone. Efforts are being made to secure a deep test

in the county, in the belief that it contains valuable oil and gas deposits.

**Timber**—Heavy timber is abundant in the mountains surrounding the valley, being principally yellow pine and white and yellow spruce.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 242,207 acres of patented land in the county, or approximately 23 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 71,645 acres of this is irrigated land, 160,542 acres is grazing land, 5,195 acres is timber land and the remainder producing and nonproducing coal land, metaliferous mining claims, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land, which consists principally of natural meadows, sells at from \$35 to \$100 an acre and non-irrigated land, principally grazing land, at from \$5 to \$15 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 45,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some good natural hay land. On July 1, 1923, there was 171,400 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is valuable only for grazing purposes. The natural forest area in this county is 395,493 acres, or 37.9 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern railroad runs south and west from the Union Pacific railroad at Laramie, Wyoming, into this county by way of Walden to its southern terminus at the coal camp of Coalmont. This is the only railroad in the county.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is that entering the county from Wolcott and Laramie, Wyoming, on the north and running south through the central part of North park by way of Walden. It is joined here by a state highway which crosses the Medicine Bow range at Cameron pass and runs east to Fort Collins. It branches south of Laramie, one branch going southeast to a connection with the Victory highway at Granby and another southwest to a connection with the same road near Rabbit Ears pass. There are a few county roads and trails generally imperfectly improved, but sufficient to take care of the present livestock interests.

**Educational**—There are 11 public schools in the county, employing 14 teachers. The school at Walden gives four years of high school work and those at Rand and Coalmont one year. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is very similar to that of Middle park and South park. The summers



are short and warm and the winters, although long, are not nearly so severe as might be expected at this altitude. The valley here is protected from cold winds by high mountain ranges on three sides. The rainfall is extremely varied. In the central part of the park, about the town of Walden, is a narrow belt having an average annual rainfall of about 10 inches, or less. Surrounding this is a large belt having a rainfall varying from 10 to 15 inches. The mountainous districts in the eastern and western parts have a rainfall varying from 15 to 25 inches. The snowfall in the mountainous sections is extremely heavy and furnishes the water supply for a considerable amount of land, both in Colorado and Wyoming.

**Tourist Attractions**—There are no better hunting and fishing districts in Colorado than those of North park. The numerous streams here are well stocked with trout and are not fished out early in the seasons as they are in many other sections of the state. Hunters from all parts of the country have visited the park in search of big game. During the early history of Colorado this park was known as the "Buffalo Pasture" because of the large herds of bison that formerly grazed here. Surrounded as it is by snow-capped mountain peaks on three sides, there is no more picturesque mountain valley in the west than North park. It has not been visited by nearly so

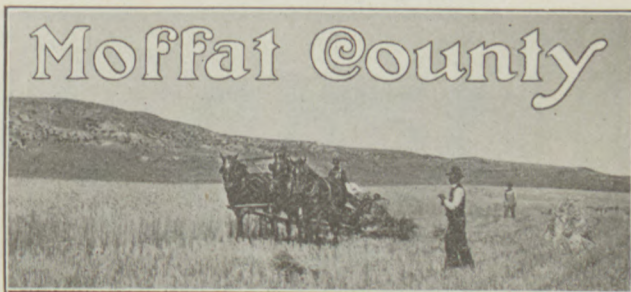
many tourists as its scenic attractions would justify because of lack of adequate transportation facilities. The further improvement of automobile highways leading into this county should make it one of the most popular resorts of the state.

**Cities and Towns**—Walden, the countyseat and principal town, is located near the center of North park on the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern railroad. It is the principal trading center for an important stockraising district. Its population in 1920 was 260, compared with 162 in 1910. Other towns are Coalmont, Rand, Cowdrey and Pinkhampton.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are along the line of agricultural development. This county would support perhaps three times as large an agricultural population as it has at present. Its lack of development has been due largely to inadequate transportation facilities. The only railway outlet is into Wyoming. The county can be reached by automobile from Denver by crossing one mountain range, over roads not yet well improved, though they are usually in excellent condition during summer months. There are extensive deposits of coal in the county, but their development has been retarded by lack of transportation. The same is true of the mineral deposits which are found in the surrounding mountain ranges.

## GENERAL Description —

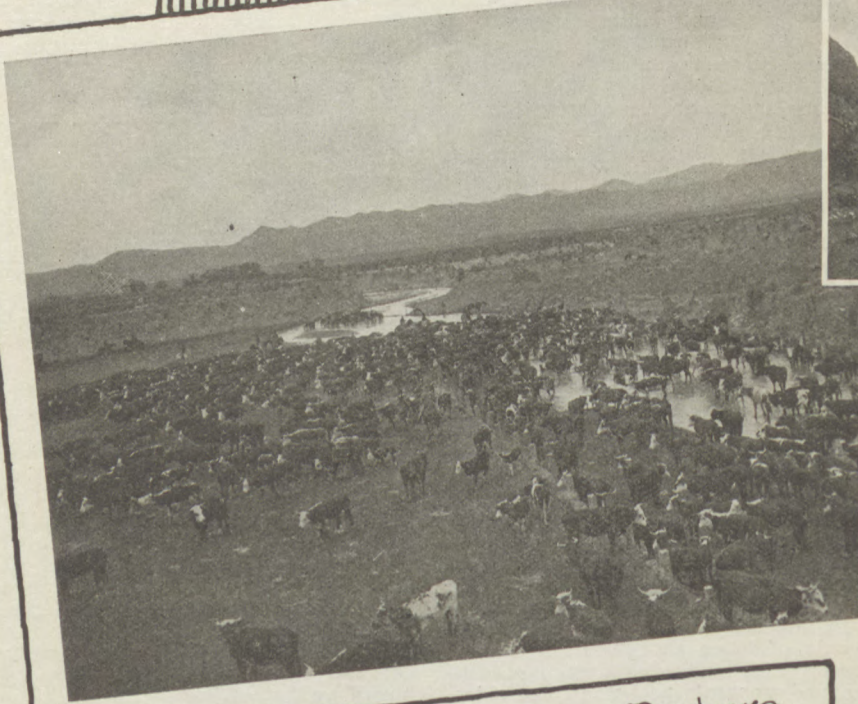
Moffat county is in the extreme northwestern corner of the state, the northern boundary being formed by the state of Wyoming and the western boundary by the state of Utah. It is a perfect rectangle in shape, with the exception of slight irregularities on the eastern boundary. Its extreme length, east and west, is about 91 miles and its width is about 55 miles. Its area is 2,981,120 acres, or about 100,000 acres less than that of the state of Connecticut. It is the second county in size in Colorado, being surpassed only by Las Animas county. In surface it is a broken plateau, becoming slightly mountainous in the northeast and in the extreme northwest. The altitude



varies from about 5,400 feet at the point where the Yampa river crosses the western boundary, to about 7,600 feet in the extreme northeastern part.

**Early History**—The territory now included in Moffat county was visited by many early prospectors and trappers. The first known white settler was Jim Baker, who built a log cabin in the Snake river valley near the Wyoming line in the early 40's, and lived there for a great many years. About 1864 prospectors discovered





Range Cattle on Pasture



Maroon Peaks  
near Aspen



Metal Mine Eagle County



Skiing in Routt County



Branding a maverick



Hay Ranch in the Foothills



Sheep Range in  
National Forest



gold in the vicinity of Hahn's peak, in Routt county, and some of them wandered west into what is now Moffat county. No discoveries of gold were made in this county until a good many years later. The county was organized in 1911 from the western part of Routt county, and named in honor of David H. Moffat, builder of the "Moffat" railroad and one of the best known of Colorado's pioneers.

**Surface and Soil**—The county is a portion of a vast plateau, across which numerous streams have cut deep valleys and in some cases narrow, precipitous canons. The valleys are level and fertile and between them are numerous mesas, most of which contain considerable good agricultural land. The surface becomes mountainous in the northeast and very rugged and hilly in the northwest. The soil is principally sandy loam, with a very wide range of color and texture. It is usually very deep and well suited for the raising of most crops grown in this altitude. No detailed soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 5,129. Since this county was organized in 1911 no comparison can be made between the present population and that of 1910, although the increase has been very large. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 4.9 per cent of the total, the principal foreign nationalities being German, Canadian and Austrian.

**Dainage and Water Supply**—The Yampa or Bear river has its source in Routt county and flows west through the center of Moffat county, emptying into the Green river near the western boundary. It is fed by numerous tributaries, most of which carry only a limited supply of water during the drier parts of the year. Some of the southern part of the county is drained by tributaries of the White river. The Yampa river and the Little Snake river—principal tributary of the Yampa in Moffat county—both carry an abundant supply of water the year round. These and other smaller streams contain water for many times as much land as is now being irrigated. Water for domestic purposes in most sections is obtained from wells and is reached at depths varying from 40 to 65 feet.

**Industries**—Farming and stock-raising are the principal industries. There is some coal mining, but the vast coal deposits of the county are almost wholly undeveloped because of lack of transportation facilities. There has been some metal mining, but the mineralized areas are remote

from transportation and their development at present is not profitable. Agriculture and stockraising in the past have been carried on principally along the Yampa and Little Snake rivers, but in the past two or three years considerable agricultural development has taken place on the high land northeast of Craig.

In March, 1924, the Texas company and the Transcontinental Oil company completed a deep test on an oil structure now known as the Moffat dome, with the result that a good flow of oil was struck at 3,820 feet. The well started with an initial production of 5,460 barrels of 41 gravity oil per day, and has now settled down to about 1,200 barrels steady production. As the result of that experiment seven additional wells are now under way in the county on as many different structures, and it is confidently believed that northwestern Colorado is destined to prove a great oil producing territory.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa, timothy, alsike, wild hay, small grains, forages, potatoes and garden vegetables.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are carnotite, asphaltum and kindred bituminous products, clays, copper, zinc, coal, gold, oil shale, silver, sandstone and other building stones. Vast deposits of oil shale, asphaltum and elaterite are among the county's richest resources.

**Timber**—There is some timber on the high lands in most sections of the county. It is heaviest in the northeastern portion, being principally pine and spruce in this region. Elsewhere cedar is about the only timber found.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 592,286 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 20 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 14,036 acres of this is irrigated land, 3,137 acres is natural hay land, 145,724 acres is dry farming land, 421,182 acres is grazing land and the remainder principally coal land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land sells here at from \$35 to \$125 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$35 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 202,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some good farming land. On July 1, 1923, there was 1,303,235 acres of government land open to homestead entry, this being the largest acreage of homestead land found in any county in Colorado. A small



amount of it is agricultural land, but most of it is suitable only for grazing purposes. The national forest area is 42,408 acres or 1.4 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The only railroad in this county is the Denver & Salt Lake railway, which extends west as far as Craig, the countyseat, or a distance of only about six miles into the county. The route of the proposed extension of this road follows in a general way the Yampa river westward through the county into Utah.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Victory highway, which follows in a general way the valley of the Yampa river west to Sunbeam, thence south and west across Wolf creek to the "K" ranch, thence into Utah and on to Salt Lake City. A good state road runs south from Craig to Meeker in Rio Blanco county, where it joins the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway. Another road runs north from Craig to Wamsutter, Wyoming. Although this is a new county with a comparatively small acreage of patented land, a comprehensive road program is being carried out and county and neighborhood roads are being rapidly improved.

**Educational**—There are 67 public district schools in the county, employing 80 teachers. The school at Craig gives a full high school course, while that at Maybell gives three years of high school work. Some high school branches are taught in a few of the rural schools. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The scenery in this county is rich and varied, but is comparatively little known, for the reason that transportation facilities have been so imperfect as to make it almost impossible for tourists to visit this section of the state. The completion of the Victory highway has

greatly increased motor tourist travel, and this section of Colorado is rapidly increasing in popularity among summer visitors. There is good fishing in most of the mountain streams and considerable game is to be found in most sections of the county.

**Cities and Towns**—Craig, the countyseat, is the principal town and is at present the terminus of the Denver & Salt Lake railroad. Its population in 1920 was 1,297, compared with 392 in 1910. Few towns in the state have grown more rapidly in the last decade than Craig. Other towns are Lay, Maybell and Sunbeam on the Yampa highway, Great Divide on the Iron Springs divide, and Mt. Streeter in the Axial basin.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are along the line of agricultural development. There is perhaps more undeveloped agricultural land in this county than in any other county in the state. No county has so much government land open to homestead entry, including so large a percentage of farm land. There is also a considerable amount of state land in the county, almost wholly undeveloped. Land prices here are very low on account of the fact that the government land may be obtained practically without cost. The coal deposits in this county are among the richest in Colorado. There are also valuable mineral deposits and a considerable area of mineralized land that has been very imperfectly prospected. Development of this county, however, has been retarded by lack of transportation facilities. The construction of the James Peak tunnel on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad will improve transportation facilities materially, and the extension of this railroad west from Craig is expected to follow soon after the completion of the tunnel.

#### AREA AND WEALTH OF COUNTIES IN NORTHWEST PLATEAU DISTRICT

	Eagle	Grand	Jackson	Moffat	Pitkin	Rio Blanco	Routt	Summit
Area, acres.....	1,036,800	1,194,240	1,044,480	2,981,120	652,160	2,062,720	1,477,760	415,360
Ag. land, ac.....	108,970	196,290	232,187	584,079	60,810	234,009	412,756	30,308
Irr. land ac.....	23,159	31,229	71,645	17,173	15,937	22,188	45,664	6,133
Dry farms, ac.....				145,724	300	16,475	49,117	
Grazing land, ac.....	85,811	165,070	160,542	421,182	44,573	195,346	317,975	24,175
Homestead land, ac.....	250,619	119,060	171,400	1,303,235	32,430	1,103,757	128,822	10,755
State land, ac.....	18,111	62,360	45,320	202,129	850	1,385	68,919	321
Nat'l forests, ac.....	592,299	535,506	398,493	42,408	489,104	346,638	564,740	286,485
Population, 1924.....	3,550	2,820	1,385	5,480	2,650	3,150	9,100	1,715
Pop. per sq. mile.....	2.19	1.51	.84	1.17	2.6	.97	3.94	2.64
Bank dep. per cap...\$	128	99	227	98	165	227	172	124
As. val. per cap...\$	1,845	1,658	3,060	1,128	1,745	1,631	1,639	3,055
Rank in area.....	29	21	27	2	43	4	15	55
Rank in population	49	53	60	41	52	50	25	57





**GENERAL Description** — Pitkin county is located in the central part of the state just west of the main range of the Rockies, and includes a portion of the highly mineralized area that first introduced Colorado to the world. It is of extremely irregular outline, about 54 miles in length along the north boundary and about 30 miles in width north and south through the central part. Its area is 652,160 acres, or about 30,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface varies from rugged mountains resplendent with natural grandeur to broad valleys in which agriculture is practiced profitably. Several mesas scattered through the county provide a considerable area of level, fertile and productive farm land. The altitude varies from about 6,625 feet in the northwestern part to more than 14,200 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the east and south.

**Early History**—The first white settlers in this area were prospectors who were attracted to the Leadville district, but found it overcrowded and pushed out into the unknown country farther west. In 1879 these fortune hunters made discoveries of rich silver ore on the upper Roaring Fork and one or two cabins were erected on the present site of the town of Aspen. The following year the town itself was laid out and soon became one of the leading mining camps of the West. The principal metal value found here was silver, and for a good many years Pitkin county was one of the leading producers of white metal. A branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad was completed to Aspen in 1887 and the Midland line was finished to the town the following year. In 1900 the county had a population of 8,929, this being the crest of the boom. The county was organized in 1881 from a part of Gunnison county.

**Surface and Soil**—The surface of the county is extremely rugged and picturesque along the Continental divide and the other ranges which form the natural topographic boundaries between Pitkin and its neighboring

counties. There is a large area of level land in the valleys of the Fry-ing Pan, Roaring Fork and Crystal rivers, as well as along all of the tributaries of these main drainage streams of the county. These valleys compare favorably with

the best farming land in the state as to soil fertility, climate and the production of diversified crops. The soil is deep, fertile and exceptionally free from rock, while the growing season is sufficiently long to allow the usual farm crops to mature.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 2,707, compared with 4,566 in 1910, the decrease being 40.7 per cent. There has been a steady decrease in the population of this county since 1890, when the maximum population of 8,929 was reached. This decrease has been due partly to change of boundaries but principally to the rapid decrease in the production of silver. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 22.1 per cent of the total, compared with 27.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Italian, Swedish and English.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The territory included in this county lies in the Colorado river watershed. The principal streams are the Fry-ing Pan, Roaring Fork and Crystal rivers, all tributaries of the Colorado river. These rivers have their sources in regions of extremely high precipitation and carry plenty of water the year round.

**Industries**—Metal mining is one of the principal industries and the Aspen district has attained world-wide fame as a steady producer of silver and lead ores. Stockraising, however, has now increased to a point where it challenges the superiority of the mining industry. Stock produced from the Pitkin county ranges commands usually higher prices on the market than stock from the lower sections of the state. The raising of purebred Hereford and Shorthorn cattle is becoming common in the valleys. Raising of general farm crops is also an industry that is gradually on the increase and is destined to become a potent factor in the development of the county.

**Crops**—The principal crops are hay, small grain, potatoes and head lettuce.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are antimony, arsenic, ba-



rium, clays, coal, copper, gold, iron, lead, silver, zinc, and a wide variety of building stones.

**Timber**—There is plenty of heavy timber on the mountain slopes, principally pine, spruce and cedar.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 88,486 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 13 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 15,937 acres of this is irrigated land, 300 acres is dry farming land, 44,573 acres grazing land and the remainder principally coal or other mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land sells here at from \$35 to \$125 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$25 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was 850 acres of unappropriated state land in the county. Most of this county was included in the Ute Indian reservation at the time lands were segregated in Colorado. On July 1, 1923, there was 32,430 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area in the county is 489,104 acres, or 74.99 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—A branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad extends south along the Roaring Fork river to Aspen. The Crystal River railroad runs south along Crystal river from Carbondale to the town of Marble, in Gunnison county.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is that running south from the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean road at Glenwood Springs, following the course of the Frying Pan river to the Pitkin county line, and then running southwest by way of Aspen over Independence pass to a connection with the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway in Lake county. Another state highway runs south from this road at Bryant to a connection with State Highway No. 63 near Somerset, in Gunnison county. There are a few mountain trails and county highways principally unimproved, laid out many years ago for the convenience of metal miners.

**Educational**—There are 16 public district schools in the county, employing 35 teachers. A full high school course is given at the schools at Aspen and Basalt. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall is heavy in all sections of the county. In the southern part along the mountain range it averages above 25 inches annually. The lowest average annual precipitation along the north boundary

is perhaps about 20 inches. In the winter the snowfall is ordinarily heavy, generally supplying ample moisture to provide water for power and irrigation purposes. This county is not subject to extremely low temperatures except in the high altitudes in the southern part. The weather bureau records indicate that in some years the ground is practically devoid of snow up to the first of the year in the farming communities; and as a rule the snow has disappeared in time to allow early plowing and cultivation.

**Tourist Attractions**—Pitkin county enjoys the distinction of having within its borders some of the most picturesque mountain scenery to be found in the Rocky mountains. Its eastern boundary lies upon the Continental divide, with Grizzly peak, 14,020 feet, its highest point. From Grizzly peak there juts out to the west the Elk Mountain range, a spur of the Rockies, which culminates in Castle peak, 14,259 feet high. This great mountain uplift is broken by long spurs running north to the valley floor, with clear mountain streams running between. These streams are all well stocked with trout and have many delightful camping spots along their courses. Better highway facilities are the principal need for the development of this scenic region.

**Cities and Towns**—Aspen, the countyseat and principal city, is located on a branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad in the principal mining district of the county. Its population in 1920 was 1,265, compared with 1,834 in 1910. Among the other towns are Norrie, Thomasville and Rathbone.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the direction of mining development. Although this county has been producing metals steadily for more than 35 years, there are still wide areas that have been only inadequately prospected and possible mineral deposits fully as rich as those now being worked yet lie hidden beneath the mountain sides. There are rich coal deposits in the county which have been but little developed. The stone and other mineral resources will probably wait development until the tributary Rocky Mountain territory is more thickly settled. Opportunities are open for the settler and prospective purchaser of ranch property for stockraising and for the production of general farm crops. There is no better farming land in the entire state than is found in the garden spots of this county, along the broad expanses of fertile soil in the valleys.



Jackson County  
Residence



Marvin Lodge  
Rio Blanco  
County



Raising Head Lettuce



Lake in  
National Forest



Crossing  
the  
Divide





## GENERAL Description —

**Rio Blanco** county lies in the northwestern part of the state, the western boundary being formed by the state of Utah. It is of irregular rectangular shape, forming the north portion of the old Uinta Indian reservation. Its area is 2,062,720 acres, or about two-thirds that of the state of Connecticut. It is the fourth county in Colorado in size, being surpassed only by Las Animas, Moffat and Weld counties. Its extreme length, east and west, is about 110 miles and the extreme width along the western boundary is about 40 miles. The surface in the west is a high broken plateau, rising rather abruptly in the east to the mountainous district known as the White river plateau. The altitude varies from about 5,800 feet at the western boundary to more than 12,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the eastern part.

**Early History**—This territory has played a prominent part in the early history of Colorado as a result of encounters here with the Ute Indians, which finally led to the removal of all Colorado members of this tribe to western Utah. In the spring of 1878, Nathan C. Meeker, for whom the town of Meeker, the countyseat of Rio Blanco county, was named, was appointed Indian agent in this territory. He had trouble with the Indians from the first and in the fall of 1879 he asked for troops to protect him and his associates. Major T. T. Thornburgh, with a company of 160 men, was commissioned to assist Meeker, and started for the White River agency in September of 1879. On the morning of September 29 Major Thornburgh and his men were ambushed in Red canon, a narrow ravine in the north part of Rio Blanco county, and 15 soldiers were killed and 35 wounded. Major Thornburgh himself was killed and scalped. Meanwhile a party of Utes attacked Meeker and the employees at the Indian agency, killed most of them and took the women prisoners. Immediately following these outrages there was a general demand for the removal of the Indians from this territory and in 1881 about 17,000 of them were placed in the Uinta reservation in Utah. Rio Blanco county was organized in 1889 from the northern portion of Garfield county.



**Surface and Soil**—The principal agricultural land is found in the valley of the White river and on the high plateau south of this stream. The surface of this plateau is broken by numerous streams, most of which flow through deep ravines. The mesas between these streams contain large areas of fertile agricultural and grazing land. The soil is principally sandy loam or alluvial deposits of great depth and is very fertile. The eastern part of the county is mountainous. No soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 3,135, compared with 2,332 in 1910, the increase being 34.4 per cent. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 4.1 per cent of the total, compared with 8.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are English, Swedish and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The White river and its tributaries drain most all of the county and furnish water for irrigation and other purposes. While there is comparatively little land being cultivated under irrigation, there is water available for practically all of the arable land which does not lie too high to be watered. Domestic water in most sections is obtained from wells and is found at depths ranging from 15 to 75 feet.

**Industries**—General farming, including stockraising and dairying, is the principal industry. The area included in this county has long been one of the principal open range sections of Colorado and great herds of beef cattle graze on the plateaus and along the streams. There are valuable coal deposits, but they have been worked only to supply fuel for local use. Rich mineral beds are found in the western part of the county, especially oil shale and carnotite, but they are almost wholly undeveloped. Lumbering has been followed to a limited extent only to supply the local demand. As the result of the discovery of oil in Moffat, the adjoining county, two wells were started in Rio



Blanco county during 1924. The first well was lost, and the second, located on Section 20-1N-93, was drilling late in 1924. The county contains many promising structures and is believed to be capable of developing oil production on a large scale.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa, natural hay, potatoes and small grains.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are asphaltic rock, asphaltic sand, carnotite, coal, petroleum, oil shale, sandstone, limestone, granite, and other valuable stone.

**Timber**—In the eastern part there is an abundance of heavy timber, principally pine and spruce. On the high lands in the western part there is small timber, principally cedar.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 250,988 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 12 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 21,311 acres of this is irrigated land, 877 acres is natural hay land, 16,475 acres is dry farming land, 195,346 acres is grazing land and the remainder principally coal and other mineral land, oil land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$35 to \$100 per acre and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$25 an acre. Practically all of this county was included in the Ute Indian reservation when state land was selected, so there is now only approximately 1,300 acres of unappropriated state land in the county. On July 1, 1923, there was 1,103,757 acres of government land open to homestead entry, this being more than 56 per cent of the total area of the county. This county has a larger amount of homestead land open to entry than any other county in Colorado, except Moffat county. It includes a small amount of agricultural land but most of it is of little value except for grazing purposes and is open for entry under the stockraising homestead act. The national forest area is 346,638 acres, or 16.8 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The only railroad entering this county is the Uinta railroad, which leaves the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad at Mack, in Mesa county, runs north through Garfield county and across the southwestern corner of Rio Blanco county to Dragon, Utah. Regular stage service is maintained between Rifle, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western, in Garfield county, and Meeker, the countyseat of this county. Stage service is also maintained between Meeker

and Craig, the western terminus of the Denver & Salt Lake railroad.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is that extending south from Meeker to a connection with the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway at Rifle and north from Meeker to a connection with the Liberty highway at Craig. Another highway runs west from Meeker, following the course of the White river, to Rangely and then running northwest to a connection with the Liberty highway near the Colorado line in Moffat county. There are numerous county roads and trails, generally imperfectly developed because of lack of population. The fact that a very small percentage of the county's area is on the tax rolls makes it somewhat difficult to develop a comprehensive program of highway construction.

**Educational**—There are 34 public district schools in the county, employing 41 teachers. The county high school at Meeker offers a full high school course. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall is extremely varied. On the White river plateau, in the eastern part of the county, it averages about 25 inches annually. North and west of this there is a belt having an average rainfall of from 15 inches to 20 inches. In the western part of the county there is an average rainfall of from 13 to 15 inches. The climate in the White river valley and on the plateaus to the south is comparatively mild and very favorable to general agriculture. In the eastern part, where the altitude is much higher, the summers are short and the winters are long, subject to low temperatures and very heavy snowfalls.

**Tourist Attractions**—Some of the finest fishing and hunting grounds in Colorado are found in this county. There is a considerable amount of big game to be found here, including deer, elk, wildcat and an occasional bear. The streams are all fairly well stocked with trout and are not fished out early in the season, as they are in the sections of the state near to railroads. Some of the most picturesque mountain scenery in the state is to be found in the eastern part of the county, in the neighborhood of Marvin lodge. The completion of a good transcontinental highway across the county by way of Meeker has greatly increased tourist travel, but further extension of highways is necessary to make it possible for tourists to visit the most attractive scenic regions of the county.



**Cities and Towns**—Meeker, the land within the county is being cultivated in the beautiful upper valley of the White river and is one of the most picturesque towns in western Colorado. The population in 1920 was 935, compared with 807 in 1910. Other towns are Whiteriver, Delaney and Rangely, all in the White river valley.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities for development here are in the line of agricultural extension and mining.

At the present time less than 5 per cent of the agricultural countyseat and principal town, is located and there is range available for a great many more head of stock than are now being pastured. The mineral deposits of the county, particularly coal, oil shale and carnotite, have hardly been touched. Development along these lines, however, must be deferred until further transportation facilities are provided for marketing the output.

## GENERAL Description —

Routt county lies in the northwestern part of the state, the north boundary being formed by the state of Wyoming and a part of the eastern boundary by the Continental Divide. It is of

an extremely irregular rectangular shape, 75 miles long, north and south, and about 42 miles wide. Its area is 1,477,760 acres, or about 168,000 acres less than that of the state of Delaware. The surface is generally rough or mountainous, except in the valleys of the Yampa river and its tributaries. The altitude varies from about 6,230 feet, at the point where the Yampa river crosses the western boundary, to approximately 12,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks on the eastern boundary.

**Early History**—This section of Colorado was frequently visited by trappers, explorers and prospectors previous to 1860, but no settlement was made until about 1866. In 1864 a prospector named Way discovered placer gold at the base of Hahn's peak while returning to Clear Creek county, from which place he had started on his prospecting tour. He told the story of his discovery to Joseph Hahn, for whom the peak was later named. The two organized a party of miners and went to the territory in 1866, establishing a small settlement near the present site of the town of Hahn's Peak. They encountered many hardships in the severe winter that followed and finally gave up further efforts to develop their discovery. The county was organized in 1877 from a portion of Grand county and was named in honor of John L. Routt, twice governor of Colorado.



**Surface and Soil**—Much of the central and western part of the county is an extension of the great plateau that makes all of Moffat county. This is traversed by the Yampa, or Bear river, which has its source in the southern part of the county. This is the principal agricultural district and also includes the home ranches of most of the stockmen. The soil here is extremely fertile and in spite of the short seasons produces some of the best agricultural crops grown in Colorado. In the eastern part the surface becomes much more broken and rises rapidly to the summit of the Continental divide, which forms the eastern boundary. The southern end of the county contains the headwaters of the Colorado river. No soil survey of this county is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 8,948, compared with 7,561 in 1910, the increase being 18.3 per cent of the total. The actual increase, however, is larger than these figures indicate, since Moffat county, which had a population of 5,129 in 1920, was created from a portion of Routt county in 1911. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 12.5 per cent of the total, compared with 9.28 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Mexican, English and Austrian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Yampa, or Bear river rises in the southeastern part of the county, and,



with its tributaries, furnishes the principal drainage and most of the water for irrigation purposes. The numerous small tributaries of the Colorado river have their sources in the southeastern corner. In the agricultural sections of the county water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from springs and running streams. The county is well watered.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, dairying, coal mining, lumbering and metal mining. Farming operations in the past have been confined largely to stock-raising, but general agriculture is being followed more extensively since the completion of the Denver & Salt Lake railroad through the county. Coal mining has developed very rapidly in the past five years, and Routt county now ranks fourth in the annual coal output. Following the discovery of oil in Moffat county, near the Routt county line, in March, 1923, a comprehensive drilling program started in western Routt county, with some of the largest oil producing companies in the country participating. Four wells were under way late in 1924, and it is believed that the county is destined to become a large producer of commercial oil and gas, although no discoveries had been made at the close of the active campaign in 1924.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa, timothy, alsike, wild hay, small grain, potatoes, head lettuce, garden vegetables, strawberries and other small fruits.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are asphaltic rock, clays, coal, corundum, copper, gold, lead, silver, oil shale, sand, onyx, and a variety of building stone.

**Timber**—There is much heavy timber in the northern and eastern parts of the county, principally pine and spruce. In other sections there is lighter timber, principally cedar with some pine.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 492,962 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 33 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 43,110 acres of this is irrigated land, 49,117 acres is dry farming land, 317,975 acres is grazing land and the remainder principally coal and other mineral land, oil land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$35 to \$125 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$25 an acre. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 68,800 acres of unap-

propriated state land in the county, including some farming land and a considerable amount of good grazing land. On July 1, 1923, there was 128,823 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area is 564,740 acres, or 38 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—The Denver & Salt Lake railroad enters the county in the southeast, runs northwest to Steamboat Springs and west along the valley of the Yampa river to Craig, in Moffat county. A number of small branch lines serve the coal mines located near the main railway line.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Victory highway, which traverses the county on the east by way of Rabbit Ears pass and follows in a general way the course of the Yampa river through the county. Another state highway leaves this road at Sidney and runs south to a connection with the Pikes Peak or Ocean to Ocean highway at Wolcott. Another state highway extends north from Steamboat Springs by way of Hahn's Peak to Wamsutter, Wyoming. There are numerous county roads and trails, generally imperfectly improved and originally intended for the convenience of stockmen and miners.

**Educational**—There are 77 public district schools in the county, employing 118 teachers. The schools at Steamboat Springs and Yampa each give a full high school course, while two years of high school work is given in the schools at Mt. Harris and Phippsburg. There is a consolidated school at Hayden. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The precipitation in this county is extremely varied. A small section of the southwestern corner has an average annual rainfall of from 13 to 15 inches. In the western part the rainfall varies from 18 to 20 inches. In the eastern and northern parts it varies from 20 to 25 inches, being about 21 inches at Steamboat Springs. The climate is somewhat severe. The winters are long, but in the valleys conditions are favorable for general farming. In the northern part the snowfall is extremely heavy and the winters are long and severe.

**Tourist Attractions**—Steamboat Springs has long been a popular tourist resort and is being visited by increasing numbers of vacationists and health seekers every year. The town was given this name because of the peculiar puffing sounds emitted by some of the mineral springs here, the



noise being somewhat similar to that of a river steamboat in action. The group of springs here is perhaps the largest in the world. They are about 100 in number and include almost every variety of mineral and medicinal spring known. The water varies greatly in temperature, in some of the springs being almost at boiling point. There is a large open-air bathing pool fed by some of these springs, which is growing in popularity every year and promises in time to become a rival of Glenwood Springs in popularity. The mountain scenery in the vicinity of Steamboat Springs and the northern part of the county is widely varied and wonderfully attractive. For several years ski carnivals and other winter sports have been held at Steamboat Springs, the ski course there being one of the finest in the world. The streams are well stocked with trout and big game is abundant in the mountains.

**Cities and Towns**—Steamboat Springs, the countyseat and principal town, is located on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad in the upper Yampa valley. It is the center of a good agricultural and stockraising district. Its population in 1920 was 1,249, compared with 1,227 in 1910. Oak Creek, south of Steamboat Springs, on the

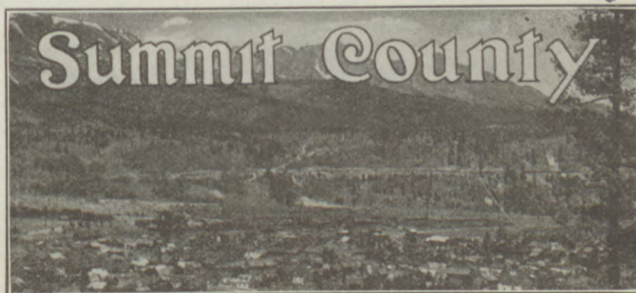
Denver & Salt Lake railroad, is one of the principal coal camps of the state. Its population in 1920 was 967, compared with 222 in 1910. Mount Harris, west of Steamboat Springs, is also a coal mining town. Other towns are Hayden, in the Yampa valley near the western boundary; Yampa, in the southern part of the county, and Hahn's Peak in the northern part of the county, formerly the countyseat.

**Special Opportunities**—Perhaps the most promising opportunities here for development are in the line of coal and metal mining. The Routt county coal deposits are among the most extensive and valuable in the state. The coal now being produced is bituminous and of excellent quality. There are deposits of anthracite coal in the northern part of the county, as yet undeveloped because of lack of transportation facilities. There are considerable deposits of copper, gold and other metals in the northern part which have been but little developed and there is a large mineralized area in this part of the county which has been only imperfectly prospected. The agricultural area of the county has not been fully developed and would support perhaps twice as large an agricultural population as it now has.

## GENERAL Description—

**S**ummit county is situated in the north-central part of the state and is included in that part of the highly mineralized area of Colorado known as the sulphide belt. The Gore range forms most of the western boundary, and the eastern boundary is formed by the Williams Fork mountains and the Continental divide, here called the Snowy range. It is very irregular in outline, having an extreme length, north and south, of about 48 miles, and an extreme width of 38 miles. Its area is 415,360 acres, or about two-thirds that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is mostly mountainous. The altitude varies from about 8,500 feet, in the north, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks along the eastern and southern boundaries.

**Early History**—The first settlers in this section of Colorado were pros-



pectors and gold miners. A party of 14 men crossed the Snowy range in August, 1859, and made important discoveries of placer gold on sandbars in the bed of the upper Blue river near the present site of the town of Breckenridge. News of their discovery spread rapidly and in 1860 the town of Breckenridge had become one of the most important placer gold camps in Colorado. During the early mining period most of the gold was taken from placer mines, and Summit county now leads the state in the production of placer gold. Rich gold and silver bearing veins were soon discovered, however, and lode mining was carried on rather extensively even in



the early 60's. Summit county is one of the original 17 counties in Colorado territory, as it was organized in 1861. It was much larger then than now, including most of the area now divided into Eagle, Garfield, Grand and Routt counties.

**Surface and Soil**—This is one of the most mountainous counties in Colorado. Its boundaries are formed entirely by mountain ranges with the exception of a short stretch on the north, forming its boundary with Grand county. About the only level land is found in the valley of the Blue river, where agriculture is carried on to a limited extent. The soil here is wonderfully fertile, but the range of crops is limited because of the short seasons. No soil survey of the county is available.

**Population**—The population of Summit county has decreased steadily for a good many years on account of the falling off in mining activity. In 1920 it was 1,724, compared with 2,003 in 1910, the decrease being 13.9 per cent. The largest population shown at any census period was 5,459 in 1880. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 14 per cent of the total, compared with 21.5 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, Canadian, English and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Blue river has its source in the southern part of this county, and, with its tributaries, affords the only drainage and supplies water for the irrigation of such land as can be cultivated.

**Industries**—Mining is the principal industry. Agriculture is carried on to a limited extent in the valley of the Blue river, and stockraising has always been profitable because of the large amount of good natural grass available here for pasture. Lumbering has been followed principally to supply the local demands.

**Crops**—The principal crops are natural hay and potatoes. Some small grain and garden vegetables are also raised.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, copper, gold, iron, lead, manganese, molybdenum, tungsten, sand, silver, zinc and a wide variety of building stone.

**Timber**—There is an abundance of heavy timber on the mountain slopes, principally pine, spruce and aspen.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 33,446 acres of privately-owned land in the county, which is approximately 8 per cent of the total area. The records of the

county assessor show that 5,933 acres of this is irrigated land, 200 acres is natural hay land, 24,175 acres is grazing land, and the remainder mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 300 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, valuable principally for grazing purposes. On July 1, 1923, there was 10,755 acres of homestead land, principally rough or semi-mountainous and valuable only for grazing purposes. The national forest area in this county is 286,485 acres, or approximately 69 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad extends from Como across Boreas pass to Breckenridge, the county seat. A branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad, now operated by the Colorado & Southern, runs from Leadville to Breckenridge. A short branch line extends from this line to the mining camps of Dillon and Keystone.

**Highways**—Tourist travel to Summit county has increased materially in the past few years, encouraged by the construction of good highways into its attractive mountain recesses. The principal state highway is that leading from Fairplay to Breckenridge and thence down the Blue river to a connection with the Liberty highway at Kremmling. Another state highway leaves this road at Dickey and runs southwest to Leadville.

**Educational**—There are ten public schools in the county, employing 19 teachers. The Breckenridge school gives a full high school course. The schools at Kokomo and Dillon give two years of high school work and those at Frisco, Montezuma and Tiger give one year. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The precipitation in this county is extremely heavy; in the northern part it runs from 17 to 20 inches; in the southern part it increases rapidly, varying from 20 to 30 inches annually. The climate is somewhat severe. The summers in the valley of the Blue river are short and pleasant and the winters are long and subject to extremely low temperatures, and the snowfall in the southern part of the county is perhaps as heavy as in any section of Colorado.

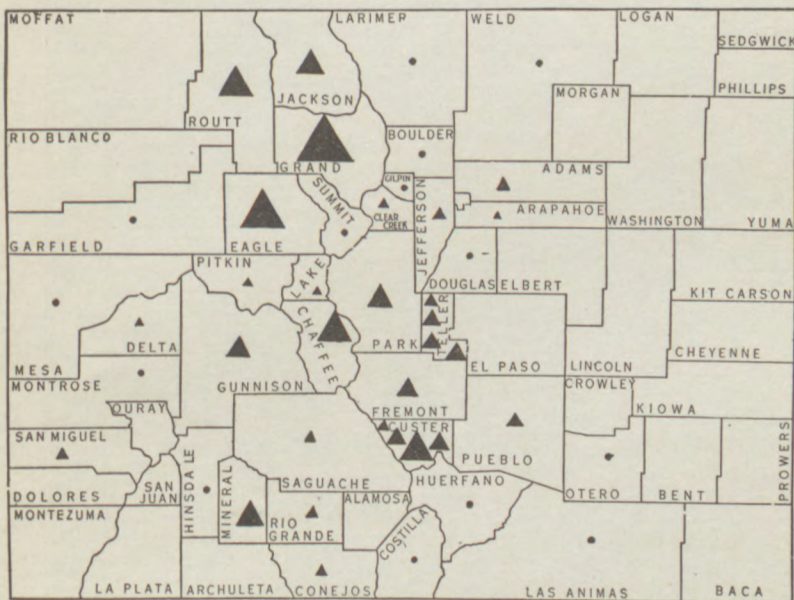
**Tourist Attractions**—Although some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in Colorado is found in this county, it is but little known to tourists and travelers because of the difficulty in reaching it. Breckenridge, in



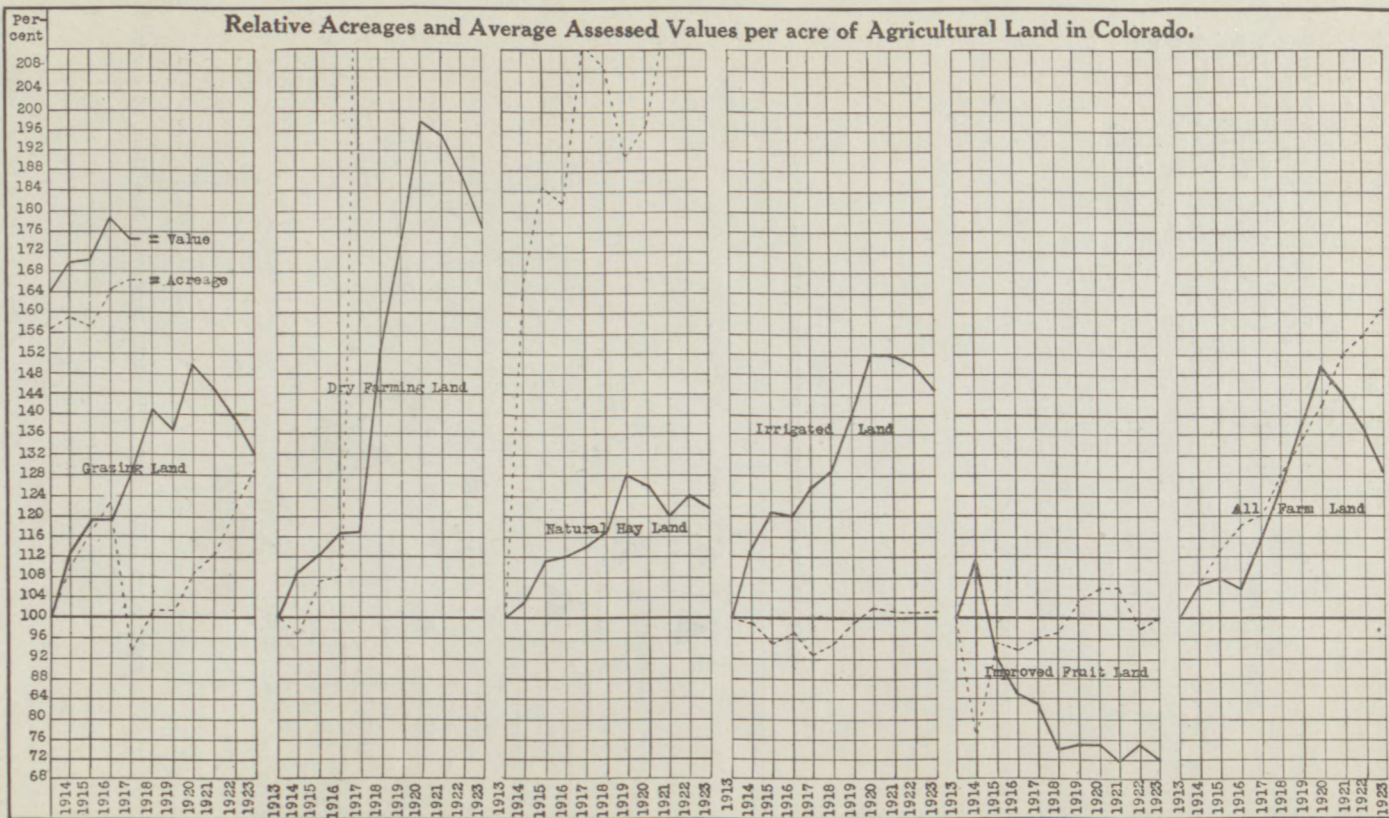
towns are Dillon, Montezuma, Robinson and Kokomo.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are along the line of mineral development. Although mining has been carried on extensively in this county for more than 50 years, there are still large areas of mineralized land that have never been developed. In recent years rich mineral values, especially zinc, have been uncovered at great depths, and the lode mines are now producing more than the placers. Rich deposits of molybdenum have been opened up in the past two or three years and mills have recently been constructed for the reduction of these ores.

**Cities and Towns** — Breckenridge, the county seat, is the principal town and is located in the upper valley of the Blue river, on the Colorado & Southern railroad. It is the center of the most important mining district and is one of the best known mining camps in Colorado. Other mining



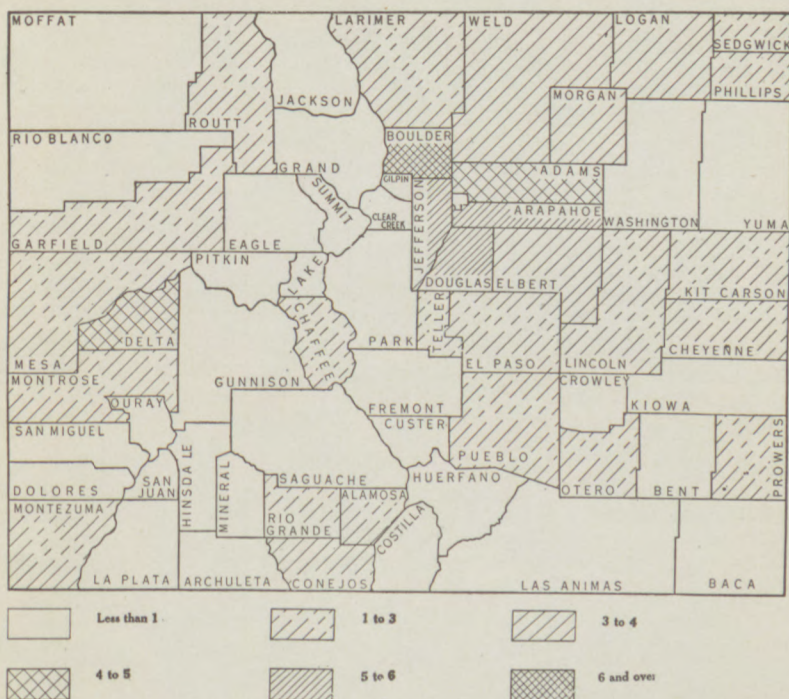




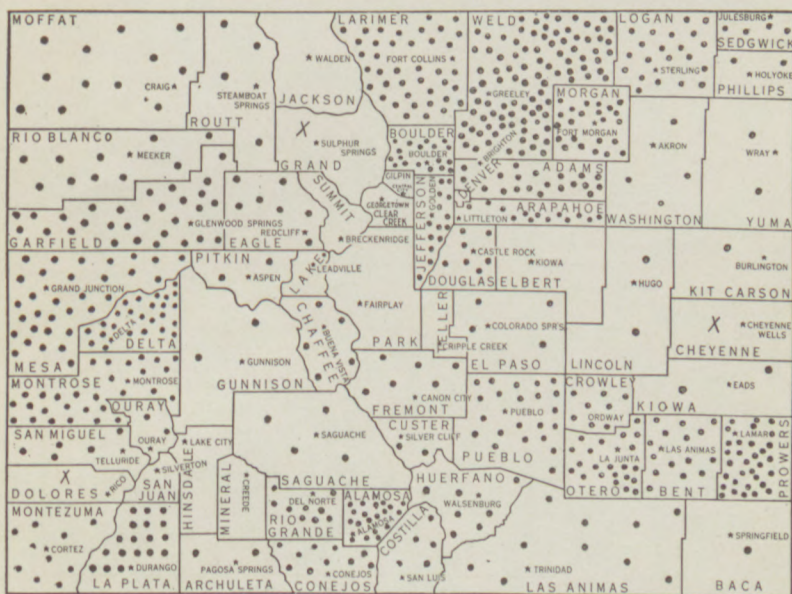
Note—The tabulations showing the acreages of the various classes of farm land reported by the assessors each year from 1913 to 1923 are indicated by the dotted lines in this chart, while the tabulation showing range in average assessed value from year to year for the same period is indicated by the solid lines. It will be noted that the increase in acreage of dry farming and natural hay land was so great that the lines go entirely out of the chart. The values fixed in 1913 and the acreages reported for that year are the basic figures and are indicated by 100.



**NUMBER OF DAIRY CATTLE PER SQUARE MILE OF AREA AS  
REPORTED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1923**



**ACREAGE OF ALFALFA, 1923**



Each dot represents 1000 acres The cross (X) is used in counties  
reporting less than 500 acres.

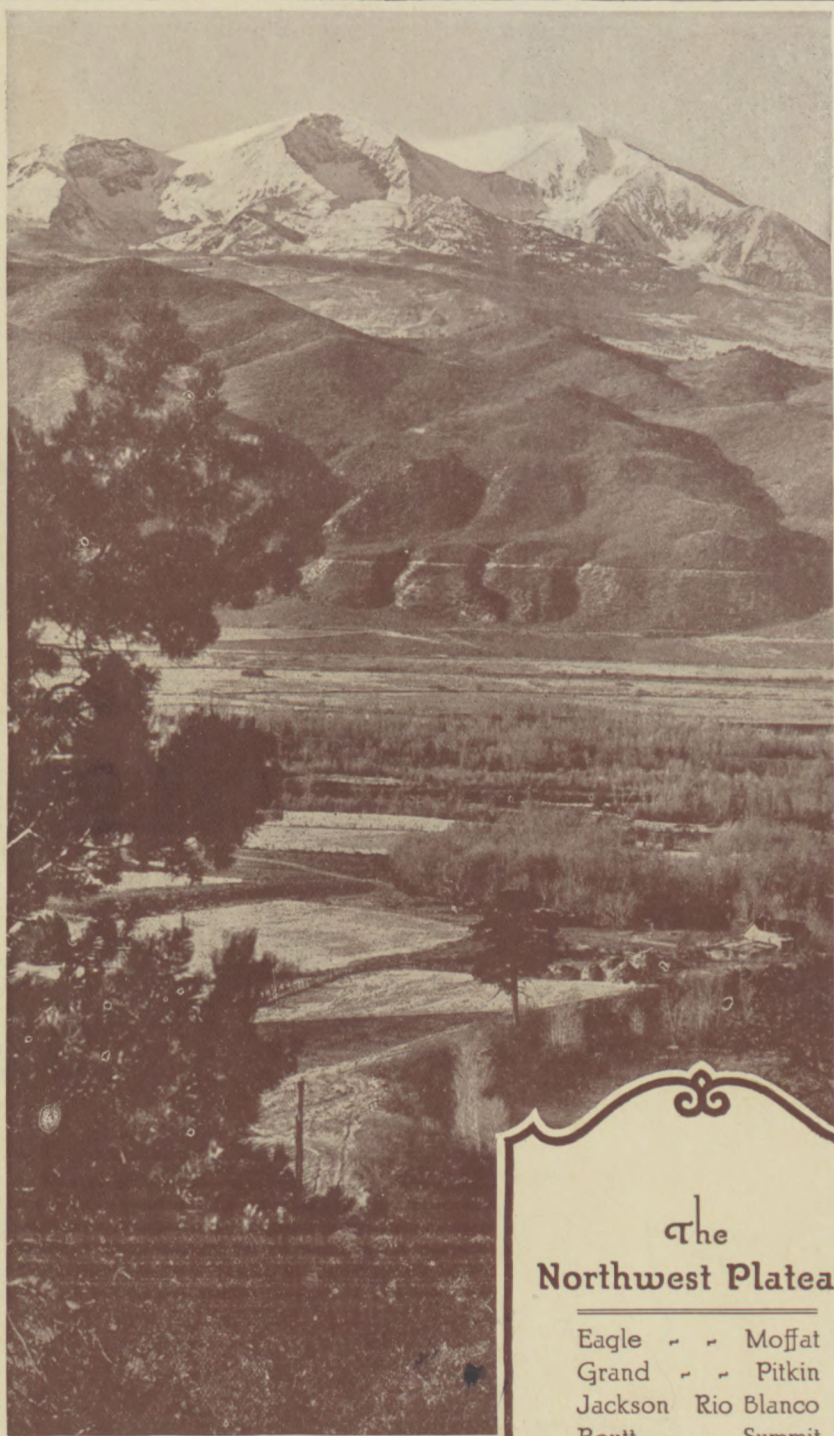


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