

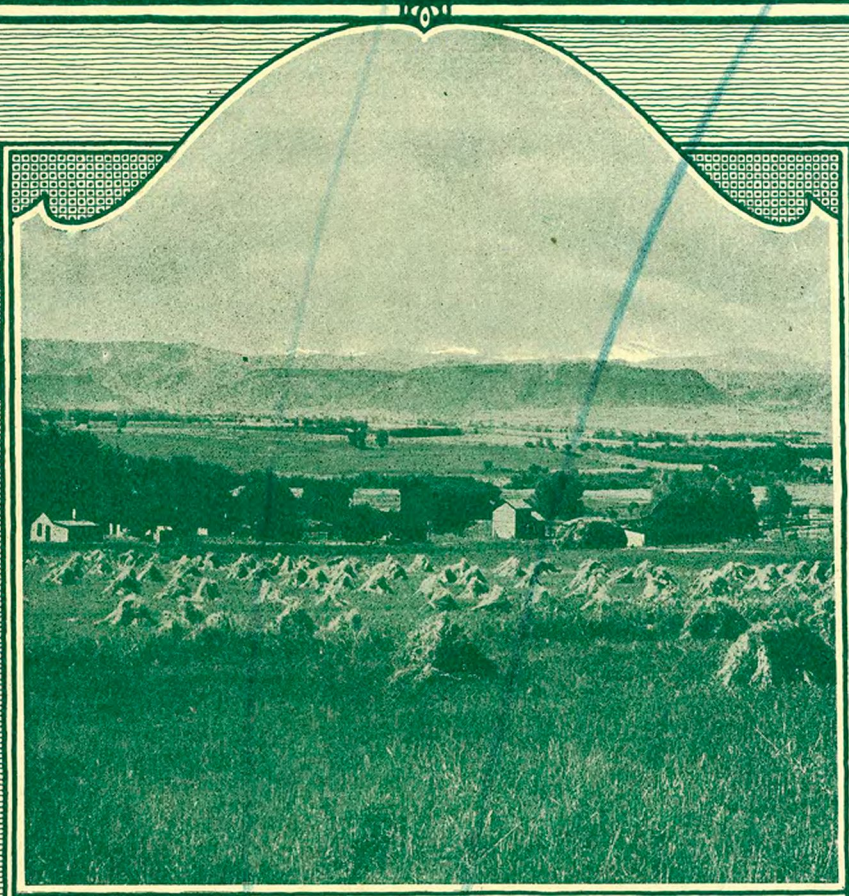
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*Ans. L. Diffney*

# Colorado



## The South Platte Valley

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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.*

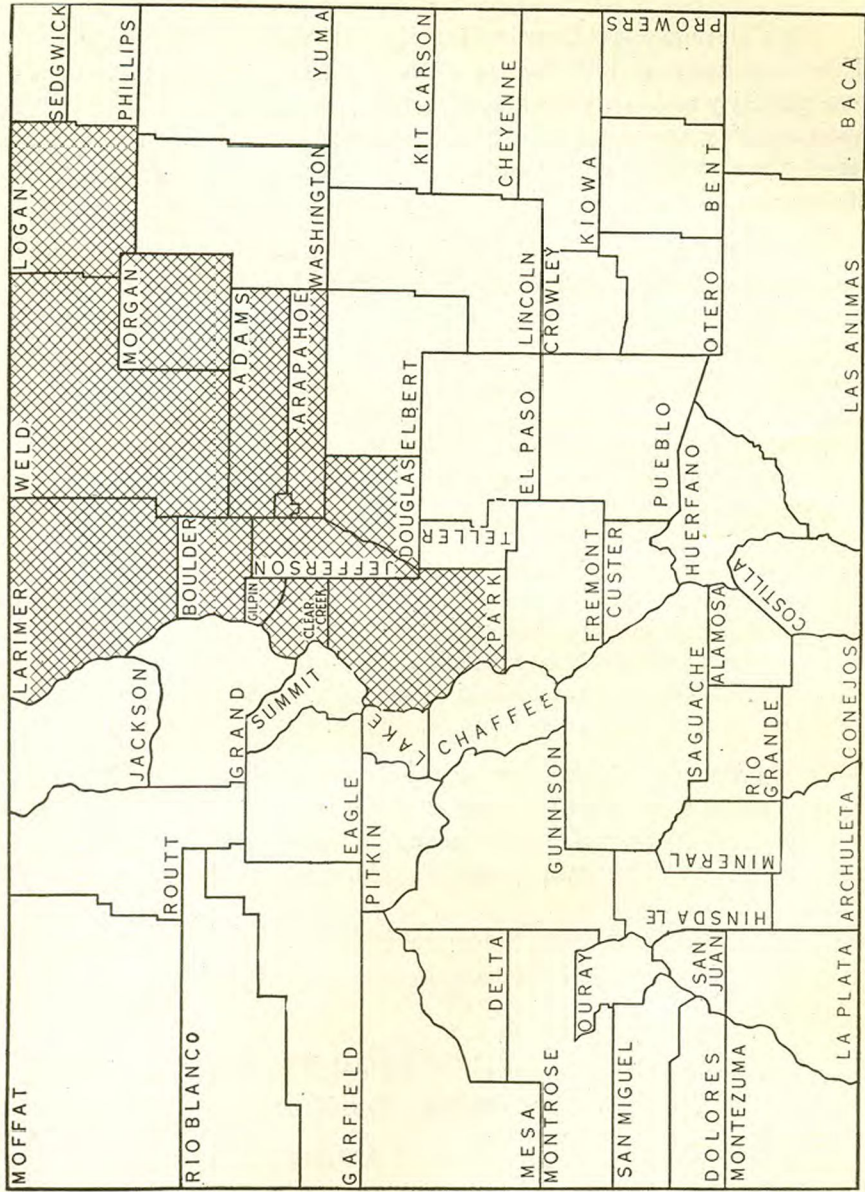
STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION

THE GOVERNOR, *President*

L. WIRT MARKHAM, Lamar

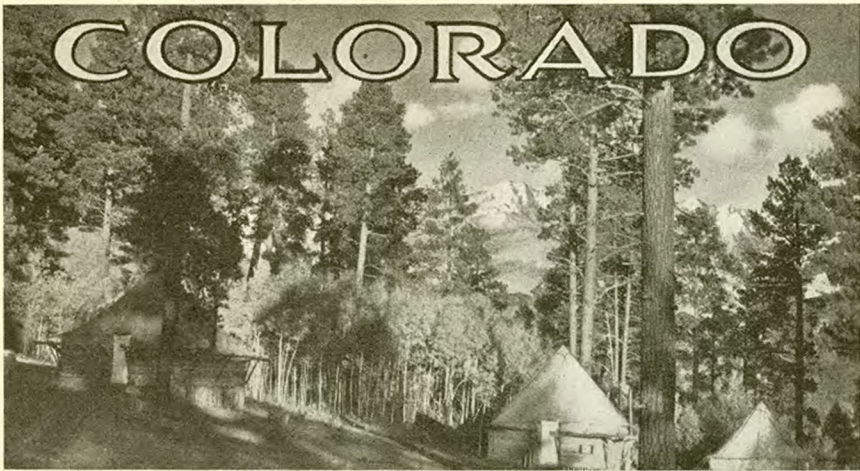
ARTHUR H. KING, Sterling

ALLISON STOCKER, Denver



Map Showing Counties included in the South Platte District

# COLORADO



**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 stockraising 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 by this department.

**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 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 3,077,760 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 monuments, 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.

**Railroads, 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, particularly 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 northeastern part of the state, extending north to the state line and east to Phillips and Sedgwick counties. It lies almost exclusively in the South Platte watershed and contains the most extensive contiguous area cultivated under irrigation in the state.

The irrigated areas in this district are principally in the valleys and plains just east of the foothills, the main body lying in the valley of the South Platte and some of its tributa-

ries directly north of Denver. There are several small irrigated mountain valleys and one large one, in Park county, popularly known as South park. The district includes much mountainous territory on the eastern slope of the Continental divide and has some of the most picturesque scenery in the state. Rich mineral deposits are found in Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Park counties and tungsten, gold, silver and associated metals have been mined here for more than 60 years. The first important gold dis-



coveries in Colorado were made in these counties, as were some of the recent discoveries of oil and gas.

The area of the thirteen counties here described is 10,945,280 acres, a little less than the combined areas of the states of Maryland and Massachusetts. According to the reports of the several county assessors there was 7,032,793 acres of patented land in the district at the beginning of 1924, including town and city lots. On July 1, 1923, there was 128,184 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. At the beginning of 1924 there was 592,049 acres of unappropriated state land and at the same time the national forest area was 1,829,807 acres.

The reports of the several county assessors place the irrigated area in this district at 881,825 acres. The area actually under irrigation, however, is considerably greater, being placed by the census bureau in 1920 at approximately 1,155,000 acres. This district is perhaps nearer its maximum development in irrigation than any other in the state. The non-irrigated farm area in the district is placed by county assessors at 2,718,111 acres, which is somewhat greater than the area actually being farmed but considerably below the area capable of being farmed. Assessors classify 3,463,431 acres in the district as grazing land, much of which will ultimately be farmed. In addition to this there is a small acreage of land capable of being cultivated that is not yet on the tax rolls, being state land not yet fully paid for and homestead land not yet patented. There is possibly 2,000,000 acres of land in the district suitable for cultivation that has never been broken.

This is Colorado's banner sugar beet district. It has eleven beet sugar factories, located at Loveland, Greeley, Eaton, Fort Collins, Windsor, Longmont, Sterling, Brush, Fort Morgan, Brighton and Fort Lupton, all except the last named being the property of the Great Western Sugar company. The average annual value of the sugar beet crop is greater than that of any other crop grown in the district and under favorable conditions production might be increased substantially. Beet pulp, beet molasses and beet tops make excellent stock feed, and stock-feeding has become an important industry throughout the district, as other stock feeds are grown in abundance. This district turns out more fat cattle and lambs annually than any other district of the same area in the state.

Dairying is also an important industry and is expanding steadily. Denver, the capital of the state and its largest city, is located in the district and affords an excellent market for milk and butterfat. Local creameries, cheese factories and condensed milk factories take a considerable percentage of the milk supply and until very recently the demand has been much in excess of production.

This is the most densely populated and most extensively developed section of Colorado, chiefly because of the fact that it has a large supply of water for irrigation and contains Denver, with more than one-fourth the total population of the state. It is well supplied with railway lines for transportation of its products. Its highways are generally well improved and are kept in good repair. The territory in the immediate vicinity of Denver and north of the city, in Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Boulder, Weld, Larimer, Morgan and Logan counties, is well developed agriculturally and has cities of considerable size, which afford good local markets. The cities include Littleton, Golden, Boulder, Greeley, Fort Collins, Longmont, Loveland, Fort Morgan and Sterling. These and the smaller towns in the district are generally growing rapidly and offer good opportunities for the investment of capital in new manufacturing and mercantile enterprises.

Opportunities for metal mining are offered in the mountain counties in the western part of the district and coal mining is an important industry in the territory immediately north of Denver, in Boulder and Weld counties. The production of the metal mines has fallen off materially in the past few years, largely on account of unfavorable conditions and low prices for metals. Opportunities for further mining development in this district, particularly in the field of deep mining, are promising and rather extensive. The production of oil and gas on a commercial scale became practically a certainty when on November 11, 1923, the Union Oil Company of California brought in a great gas well in northern Larimer county, its daily flow being rated at 82,000,000 cubic feet. Immediately following this discovery an extensive drilling program in Larimer and adjoining counties was commenced by the discovering company and many others. Up to the end of 1924 only one additional well had been successfully completed, that being on the Fort Collins dome, south of the original discovery well. This well, located only a short distance north of Fort Collins, was known at

once to be a good oil well in every sense, as it commenced leaking several hundred barrels of oil daily from between casings, but its real possibilities were unknown late in 1924, as company officials had made no test of its capacity. The drilling program, however, has progressed far enough to show that northern Colorado is reasonably certain to be a large contributor to the oil supply of the country in the near future.

Special opportunities are offered here for manufacturing. Steam coal is available in the district and may be had at low cost. Electric power also is obtainable at reasonable rates. Raw materials, especially certain minerals and a wide variety of agricultural products, are available. The territory is increasing rapidly in population and offers a good home market for manufactured goods. Excellent railroad facilities are available and aggressive commercial organizations will aid in obtaining advantageous rates where such rates do not already exist.

**Homestead and State Lands.**—The latest available records show 128,184 acres of homestead land and 592,049 acres of state land in this district, or a total of 720,233 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 fees and complying with existing homestead laws. It should be understood by all who are interested, however, that there is little or no homestead land in this district worth the time and expense necessary to prove up on it. The amount left is very small when it is remembered that it is distributed through

an area of more than 10,000,000 acres. Most of it is in the rough and semi-mountainous parts of Park, Clear Creek, Boulder, Gilpin and Larimer counties and is of no value except for grazing purposes. The very small areas of homestead land to be found in the plains counties of the district are made up of tracts ranging in size from ten or fifteen acres down to as low as one acre. It is doubtful if a single homestead worth the expense of proving it up could be found in the entire district.

Much of the state land, however, is good farming land, convenient to railroads and markets. This land is administered by the State Board of Land Commissioners, Capitol Building, Denver. It may be purchased or leased. Any state land which is not under lease for a definite period of time may be purchased after proper application has been made and other necessary steps taken. When proper application is made to purchase any tract of state land the land is at once appraised, and if the applicant agrees to pay the appraised price the land is advertised and offered for sale at public auction. The terms of payment are 10 per cent of the purchase price in cash on the day of sale and the balance in 18 equal annual payments with interest at 6 per cent. No state land may be sold for less than \$3.50 an acre. State land may also be leased for grazing purposes or for cultivation. Minimum rates have been fixed for leases, but rates higher than the minimum are paid in many cases. Full particulars regarding purchase or lease of state lands may be obtained from the State Board of Land Commissioners.

**GENERAL Description—**Adams county lies in the north-central part of the state, the city of Denver forming a part of the western boundary. It is an irregular rectangle, with an extreme length, east and west, of 72 miles, and a width of 18 miles. Its area is 807,680 acres, or about 125,000 acres more than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is generally level prairie with narrow valleys crossing it north and south. The altitude varies from about 4,500 feet in the east, to 5,300 feet in the extreme west.



**Early History**—Adams county was organized in 1902 from a part of Arapahoe county. Parts of it were annexed to Washington and Yuma counties in 1903, and in 1909 a part of Denver county was added. Long's expedition crossed the northwestern corner of what is now Adams county in 1820. Numerous other exploring

and prospecting expeditions followed this same route along the South Platte river previous to the discovery of gold in 1859. The early gold seekers wasted comparatively little time in Adams county, though some prospecting was done for placer gold in the sands of the Platte river north of the present location of Denver. A few temporary camps were established by gold seekers south of the present site of the city of Brighton in the early 60's but no permanent settlements were made. The agricultural development of the western part of the county began in the late 80's. The prairie lands in the east were utilized for grazing purposes and agricultural development here was slower than in districts further east, because the rainfall here is somewhat lighter than it is in the extreme eastern part of the state.

**Surface and Soil**—The Platte river flows across the extreme western end of the county and most of the irrigated land lies in this district. The broad valley of the river here is very fertile, the soil being principally a sandy loam of great depth. In the eastern part the surface is generally level, with numerous creek valleys extending across it north and south. The soil is principally a sandy loam with occasional patches of adobe and gumbo. In a few sections there is too much sand for successful farming operations. The creek valleys, before referred to, are very fertile, and in recent years have proved to be wonderfully productive agricultural areas, chief of them being the Kiowa and Bijou valleys. There is no detailed soil survey of this area available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 14,430, compared with 8,892 in 1910, the increase being 62.3 per cent. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 15 per cent of the total, compared with 22.7 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Italian, Russian, German and Swedish. Most of the foreign-born population is found in the western end of the county, being employed in the city of Denver or on irrigated farms or market gardens near the city.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies wholly in the South Platte watershed. The South Platte river crosses the western end and its principal tributaries are Box Elder creek, Kiowa creek, Bijou creek, and Badger creek, all of which rise near the Arkansas divide further south, and flow almost due north. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths varying from 15 feet to 150 feet, with an average of about 75 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are general farming, market gardening, stockraising, dairying, stockfeeding and manufacturing. Dairying is carried on extensively in the western part of the county near Denver and along the line of the Union Pacific railroad as far east as Strasburg. Market gardening is followed principally in the territory immediately surrounding the city of Denver. The irrigated area is confined to the western end of the county. Development of farming without irrigation in the eastern part of the county has been rapid in the past decade, especially in the valleys of the various creeks mentioned before. Stockraising is also an important industry in this section of the county. The principal manufacturing enterprise in the county is a beet sugar factory located at Brighton. There are two large canning and pickle factories located here, also a cheese factory, an alfalfa meal mill and other small manufacturing establishments. Following the discovery of oil in Larimer county a well was started in the south-central part of Adams county, but it had not been completed late in 1924 and the possibilities of the county in this direction are unknown, although it possesses several apparently favorable structures.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, sugar beets, wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, pinto beans, cucumbers and like crops grown for canning and pickling.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, rather extensively used for the manufacture of brick; coal, building sand, gravel and building stone.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 746,457 acres of privately owned land in the county, or approximately 95 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 99,677 acres of this was irrigated, 488,782 acres was dry farming land, 152,000 acres was grazing land and the remainder town and city lots and railroad rights of way. Irrigated land in the county sells at from \$100 to \$500 an acre, and non-irrigated land at from \$15 to \$50 an acre. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 23,786 acres of state land in the county, most of which is suitable for cultivation or for grazing purposes and may be purchased through the State Land Board on favorable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was only 40 acres of government land open to homestead entry, consisting of several small isolated tracts of little value for farming purposes.

**Transportation**—The Kansas City branch of the Union Pacific railroad runs along the south boundary of the county from Denver east to Strasburg, thence south and east through Arapahoe, Elbert, Lincoln and Cheyenne counties into Kansas. The Union Pacific runs north along the Platte river by way of Brighton, the county seat, and the Burlington railroad runs northeast only a few miles east of the Union Pacific. A branch of the Union Pacific railroad runs directly north from Denver through the irrigated district in the western part of the county. The Denver, Laramie & North-western railroad, recently acquired by the Great Western Sugar company, runs north along the west bank of the Platte river from Elm to Brighton and north into Weld county. The Colorado & Southern road to Boulder passes through the southwestern part of the county.

**Highways**—Many important state highways leading into the city of Denver pass through the county. Among these are the Union Pacific highway, which connects with the Pike's Peak highway at Limon, and the Denver-Greeley-Cheyenne road, which follows the Platte river north from Denver through the county. There are numerous county roads in all parts of the county which are being improved rapidly, giving Adams county one of the best county road systems in the state. The highway from Bennett on the Union Pacific road, directly north to the Omaha-Lincoln-Denver road has been made a state highway. The north and south road through the county is paved with cement from Denver to Greeley.

**Educational**—There are 81 public district schools in the county, employing 153 teachers. There are five schools in the county giving a full high school course, located at Brighton, East Lake, Adams City, Aurora and Bennett. The schools at Pleasant View and Pleasant Valley each give one year of high school work. A sectarian school is located at Westminster, a few miles north of Denver.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is very similar to that of the city of Denver, which is well known throughout the country. It is generally mild and equable and not subject to extreme temperatures either in winter or summer. The average temperature in the eastern part is somewhat higher than that in the west. The summers are moderately long and the percentage of sunshine is considerably higher than that of the country

as a whole. The average annual rainfall varies from 13 to 15 inches, being heaviest in the extreme western part. It is usually heaviest in the spring and early summer and about three-fourths of it comes between April 1 and October 1.

**Tourist Attractions**—Thousands of automobile tourists travel annually over the automobile roads leading through this county into Denver. There is comparatively little natural scenery here of interest to the tourist, but the county derives considerable benefit from the heavy automobile travel to the mountainous districts further west.

**Cities and Towns**—Brighton, the county seat and principal city, is located in the Platte valley on the Union Pacific railroad, near the northwest corner of the county. It is a prosperous agricultural center and is growing rapidly. Within the past few years a large sugar beet factory and a large canning and pickle factory have been put in operation here. Few cities in Colorado have grown more rapidly in the past five years than Brighton. Other important towns in the irrigated districts are Henderson, Hazeltine, Derby, Celeryvale, Welby, Westminster and Eastlake, located on the various railroads immediately north of Denver. The principal towns in the non-irrigated districts in the eastern part of the county are Bennett and Watkins, located on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Special Opportunities**—There has been rapid and moderately successful development of non-irrigated farming in the eastern part of the county in the past half dozen years. There is perhaps 200,000 acres of arable land in the county not yet broken, all of which has good soil and offers much the same opportunity for development as the non-irrigated land now in cultivation offered a few years ago. The proximity of the county to Denver offers splendid market facilities for those desiring to engage in the production of garden crops, and the same situation offers encouragement to those desiring to establish manufacturing industries close to a large city but not actually in the city, as Denver offers a constant labor supply and transportation facilities are adequate in every respect. Many people permanently employed in Denver make their homes in or near Brighton.

# Arapahoe County



**GENERAL Description**—Arapahoe county lies in the north-central part of the state, a portion of its western boundary being formed by the city of Denver. It is an irregular rectangle, 72 miles long and 12 miles wide. Its area is 538,880 acres, or about 140,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is principally a level plateau and the altitude varies from 4,600 feet in the northeast to about 5,600 feet in the extreme southwest.

**Early History**—Early visitors to Colorado frequently crossed the western corner of what is now Arapahoe county, along the Platte river valley. The Long expedition traveled this way in 1820. Trappers and hunters frequently crossed this area but no settlements were made until late in the 50's. In 1858 Green Russell, with a party of prospectors, began the search for gold along the various streams in this territory and in July James H. Pierce, a member of this party, panned out \$100 worth of gold dust from a sandbar near the mouth of Cherry creek. This was the first important discovery of gold in Colorado. The news of the find spread rapidly and within a year thousands of fortune hunters had crossed "The Great American Desert" for the gold fields of what was then known as the Pikes Peak region. Arapahoe county has never found a permanent place in the statistics of gold production, for Green Russell and his party evidently collected all there was in the sands of the Platte river and its tributary streams. The prairies of this county were the pasture grounds for large herds of cattle during the 70's and early 80's. Within the past decade farming without irrigation has been developing rapidly in this territory and grazing of large herds of cattle has become a thing of the past. The county was one of the original 17 counties in Colorado territory as organized in 1861. It was originally much larger than it is now, having extended at one time to the Kansas

line. Parts of it were taken to form Adams and Denver counties in 1902 and Washington and Yuma counties in 1903.

**Surface and Soil**—The surface is a rolling prairie except in the extreme southwest, where there is a small area

of broken, hilly land. It is crossed by the narrow valleys of numerous streams flowing north to the Platte river. The soil is principally a sandy loam with occasional patches of adobe and gumbo. In some sections there is too much sand for successful farming, although such areas are generally very small. The soil is generally very fertile and yields readily to cultivation. No soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 13,766, compared with 10,263 in 1910, the increase being 34.1 per cent of the total population. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 11.2 per cent of the total, compared with 16.4 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are German, Swedish, English and Canadian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies in the South Platte watershed, the South Platte river crossing the extreme western end. Numerous creeks have their sources near the Arkansas divide to the south and flow north across the county to the Platte river. Chief among these are the Box Elder, Kiowa, Bijou, Badger and Big Beaver creeks. None of these creeks carries any reliable supply of water for irrigation. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths ranging from 12 to 40 feet in the eastern end of the county, and from 40 to 800 feet in the western part. Wells 350 feet deep or more usually are artesian.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, dairying, stockraising and manufacturing. There is considerable irrigated land in the western end of the county and farming has long been followed here successfully. In the eastern part the creek valleys have been farmed for a good many years, but it is only recently that the higher lands lying between these creeks have been broken and placed under cultivation. Agricultural operations here have been generally successful. Dairying has been followed rather exten-

sively in the territory immediately tributary to Denver for a great many years. More recently it has been extended into the western section of the county, especially along the line of the Union Pacific railroad. Manufacturing is confined principally to Englewood, Littleton and points immediately about the city of Denver.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, milo, kafir and other forages, pinto beans and garden vegetables.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, utilized to a considerable extent for the manufacturing of brick; building sand, gravel and building stone.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 498,607 acres of privately owned land in the county, or about 93 per cent of the total area. Of this amount, according to the records of the county assessor, 30,680 acres was irrigated land, 379,940 acres was dry farming land, 83,210 acres was grazing land and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$150 to \$400 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$15 to \$50 an acre. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 13,700 acres of state land in the county, most of which is suitable for farming and may be purchased or leased through the State Board of Land Commissioners on reasonable terms. There is little homestead land in the county.

**Transportation**—The Kansas City branch of the Union Pacific railway runs along the northern boundary of the county from Denver to Strasburg, thence southeast across the county into Elbert county. A branch of the Colorado & Southern railway runs southeast from Denver into Douglas and Elbert counties. The main lines of the Denver & Rio Grande Western, Colorado & Southern and Santa Fe railways between Denver and Pueblo cross the extreme western end of the county.

**Highways**—The principal state highways are those leading into the city of Denver from the east and south, including the Union Pacific highway and the main North and South highway. In the eastern part of the county there are numerous county roads fairly well improved and easily capable of caring for the present agricultural development.

**Educational**—There are 52 public district schools in the county, employing 141 teachers. There are three

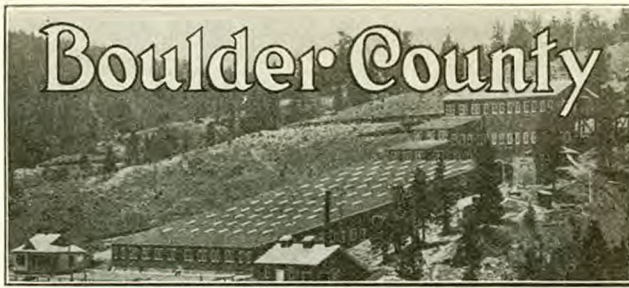
schools in the county giving a complete high school course, located at Englewood, Littleton and Deertrail. The school at Byers gives three years of high school work and the Melville school near Denver, the Castlewood school near Englewood and the Wolf Creek school at Strasburg each give two years of high school work. There is a consolidated school at Deertrail. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is very similar to that of the county of Denver, which is well known throughout the country. It is comparatively dry, with a high percentage of sunshine, and is extremely healthful. The rainfall varies from 13 inches to 16 inches, being heaviest in the extreme southwest corner. It varies considerably from year to year, but is almost always ample for the production of crops best suited for this territory.

**Tourist Attractions**—There is heavy automobile tourist travel during the summer season, principally bound for the city of Denver and for the mountainous areas further west. There are few points of scenic interest within the county, but considerable local benefit is derived from the heavy travel to points beyond.

**Cities and Towns**—Littleton, the countyseat, is located on the Santa Fe, Colorado & Southern and Denver & Rio Grande railways, in the southwestern part of the county. It is the center of the principal irrigated farming district. Englewood, just south of the city of Denver, is the principal town. Other towns are Sullivan and Melvin on the Colorado & Southern railway; Deertrail, Byers, Strasburg and Peoria, on the Union Pacific.

**Special Opportunities**—There is possibly 250,000 acres of arable land in this county that has never been broken. Although it lies close to the city of Denver, agricultural development has been slow here for the reason that the rainfall has been slightly less than in sections further east, and it was formerly thought that crops could not be successfully grown without irrigation. Experience of the past 10 years has shown, however, that the adoption of proper methods of farming and the selection of crops adapted to the soil and climate insure at least moderately profitable returns from the cultivation of the soil. Dairying is usually carried on in connection with general farming and is made the basis of operations for the reason that forage crops suitable for feeding to dairy cattle make the best yields here from one year to another.



**GENERAL Description**—Boulder county lies in the north-central part of the state, the Continental divide forming the western boundary. It is of a somewhat rectangular outline, 33 miles long, east and west, and 24 miles wide. Its area is 488,960 acres, or about 194,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is extremely varied, being a rolling or broken valley in the east and rising to the summit of the Continental divide on the western boundary. The altitude ranges from about 4,950 feet, in the eastern part, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the western part and along the western boundary.

**Early History**—Boulder county was one of the original 17 counties included in Colorado territory when it was organized in 1861. Its boundaries have never been changed. It was visited by numerous early explorers and settlers previous to the advent of the early gold seekers. Long's peak, named in honor of the leader of the Long expedition, which visited Colorado in 1820, is in the northwestern corner of the county. Although the first descriptions of this mountain were made by members of Long's party, these explorers never approached the mountain itself. Green Russell and his party of gold seekers prospected Boulder creek in 1858, but found nothing to pay for their trouble. Late in the same year a small party of gold hunters from Nebraska arrived at the mouth of Boulder canon and pitched their tents near the present site of the city of Boulder. They had faith in the territory in spite of the failure of Russell to find gold there. Game was abundant and they decided to remain over winter and begin prospecting in the spring. They built some log cabins for shelter, thus laying the foundation of the city of Boulder. The winter was mild and they began prospecting in January. On the 15th day of the month they discovered pay sand in the gulch about 12 miles from the entrance of the canon, this being the first important discovery of gold in

vicinity of the mouth of the canon. The first public school in Colorado was opened in Boulder in the fall of 1860, and the same year a movement was started which resulted later in the establishment of the state university there.

**Surface and Soil**—No county in the state has so wide a range in altitude within so small an area as Boulder county. The eastern part lies in the Platte valley and contains extensions of the valleys of numerous tributary streams. It is generally level and rolling and contains some of the best agricultural land in the state. The soil is principally a sandy loam with a wide variety of color and texture. There are occasional patches of adobe and gumbo and in some small areas there is too much shale and slate for profitable cultivation. Westward the surface rises rapidly to a series of mountain peaks and high plateaus containing good non-irrigated farm land and excellent pasture land. In the extreme western part the surface is very rugged, containing little good farming land, but a considerable amount of excellent pasture. No soil survey of this county is available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 31,861, compared with 30,330 in 1910, the increase being 5 per cent. In 1920 the foreign-born population was 12 per cent of the total, compared with 15.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are English, Swedish, Italian and Russian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—This county lies in the South Platte watershed and is crossed by numerous small streams, tributaries of the Platte river, which have their sources in the mountainous areas in the western part. The principal streams are St. Vrain creek, Boulder creek and Left Hand creek. These streams carry most of the water used for the irrigation of land in the eastern part of this country, and some of the water supply for land in southern Weld county. Water for domestic purposes in the eastern part of the county is obtained largely from wells and is reached at depths varying from 12 to 40 feet.

Boulder county. Prospectors came to the new territory in great numbers and Boulder City, as it was then called, grew very rapidly. The city and county both were so named because of the large number of immense boulders found in the

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, dairying, market gardening, metal mining and manufacturing. Farming, dairying and stockfeeding are carried on principally in the eastern part of the county. There is an immense production of feed crops in this section and thousands of cattle and sheep are shipped in annually to be fattened for market. Coal mining is confined to a comparatively small area near the eastern boundary. The largest manufacturing enterprise is a beet sugar factory belonging to the Great Western Sugar company, located at Longmont, and this city is one of the most important grain milling centers in the state. There is also a large canning factory located here. Numerous small manufacturing enterprises are located at Longmont, Louisville and Boulder. Metal mining is carried on most extensively in the southwestern part of the county. Boulder county has been producing gold steadily since 1860. It is the principal tungsten producing county in the state and perhaps the most important tungsten area in the United States. Following the discovery of both gas and oil in Larimer county, a fairly extensive drilling program was put under way in Boulder county, which was an extensive gas producer many years ago. Late in 1924 drilling operations were under way in four wells but no discoveries had been made. The county possesses several encouraging structures.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, including native hay; sugar beets, wheat, oats, corn, rye, barley, potatoes, beans, forages, garden vegetables, including peas, snap beans and other vegetables raised for canning purposes; raspberries, blackberries, loganberries and other small fruits. Apples and other tree fruits are produced on a limited scale.

**Mineral Resources**—Few counties in the state have a wider variety of mineral resources than Boulder. The known minerals are amber, antimony, asbestos, barium, bismuth, cement material, cerium and yttrium (allanite), clays of many varieties, including kaolin, and fire clay; coal, copper, fluor-spar, natural gas, gold, gravel, lead, marble, mercury, molybdenum, petroleum, pyrite, several varieties of shale; silver, titanium, tungsten, uranium, granite, sandstone, limestone and other valuable building stone.

**Timber**—There is considerable good timber in the western part of the county, principally pine, spruce and aspen.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 275,919 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or 56 per cent of the total area. The report of the county assessor shows that 83,251 acres of this was irrigated land, 23,307 acres was dry farming land, 149,588 acres was grazing land and the remainder waste land, coal land and other mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 6,900 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some excellent agricultural land and some grazing land. Any part of this may be leased or purchased through the State Board of Land Commissioners on reasonable terms. In July, 1923, there was only 880 acres of homestead land in the county, none of which is of any particular value for agricultural purposes. The national forest area is 127,822 acres. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$100 to \$300 an acre, depending principally upon the water rights and character of improvements. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$15 to \$50 an acre.

**Transportation**—The eastern and southern parts of this county are well supplied with railroad facilities. The railroads serving the county are the Burlington, Colorado & Southern, Union Pacific, Great Western and Denver & Salt Lake.

**Highways**—The eastern part of this county is served by an excellent system of surfaced highways, including a part of the North and South road between Denver and Fort Collins and portions of various roads to the Rocky Mountain national park. The western part of the county is mountainous and is served principally by unimportant highways and trails.

**Educational**—There are 64 public district schools in the county, employing 289 teachers. A full high school course is provided in the high schools at Boulder, Longmont, Louisville and Lafayette, while the school at Hygiene gives three years of high school work, those at Nederland, Lyons and Niwot two years, and that at Superior one year. There is a consolidated school at Lafayette. The Colorado State University is located at Boulder, having been established here in 1879.

**Climatological Data**—The climate in this county shows a wide variation as a result of the variations in altitude. In the eastern part it is mild and very healthful, with comparatively light rainfall, moderate variations in temperature and a high percentage of sunshine. The city of Boulder and other towns in the eastern part of the county are famous for their healthful climate.



The Boulder-Colorado sanitarium, a branch of the sanitarium at Battle Creek, Mich., is located at Boulder, the site having been chosen because of the favorable climate. In the western part, in the high altitudes, the climate is more severe, subject to low winter temperatures and extremely heavy snowfall. The average annual precipitation in the extreme eastern part is about 14 inches. Further west it increases rapidly, ranging from 15 to 20 inches over a narrow strip including the city of Boulder, and west of there from 20 inches to as high as 30 inches along the slopes of the Continental divide.

**Tourist Attractions**—Tourist travel to the city of Boulder and the picturesque foothills and mountain districts directly west has been very heavy for a great many years. This territory has always been one of the most popular sections of the state with tourists and vacationists. In recent years tourist travel to the northern part of the county has been greatly increased through the establishment of the Rocky Mountain national park, which is reached by excellent automobile highways passing through this county. Eldorado Springs, on a branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad, in the southern part of the county, is famous for its mineral springs and its large open air bathing pool, as well as for the beauty of its surrounding foothill territory. It is visited by thousands of vacationists and sightseers annually. The main route from Denver to the Rocky Mountain national park passes through the agricultural districts of eastern Boulder county and during the summer months is perhaps as heavily traveled as any automobile tourist highway in the state.

**Cities and Towns**—Boulder, the county seat, is located near the mouth of Boulder canon in the southeastern part of the county. It is one of the most beautiful foothill cities in the state and is the principal supply point for an extensive agricultural and mining territory. It is a delightful residence city and is the home of the Colorado State university. The famous summer Chautauqua is held here on a picturesque site overlooking the city and agricultural valley below. Longmont, in the northeastern part of the county, is the center of a very prosperous agricultural district, and is one of the most thriving cities in northern Colorado. In addition to the sugar factory and canning factory mentioned above, it has two flour mills, one planing mill, two brick yards, two silo manufacturing plants, building tile factory, iron foundry, and bottling works. Lafayette and Louisville, in the south-

eastern part of the county, are important coal mining centers and are surrounded by good agricultural land. Lafayette has a cheese factory and Louisville a meat packing plant. Lyons, in the northern part of the county, is the center of a prosperous agricultural and stockraising district and is an important tourist station, being the point where many railroad tourists transfer to automobiles for the trip to the Rocky Mountain national park. Among the other towns are Nederland, Ward and Eldora, mining communities in the western part of the county, and Niwot, a prosperous farming community on the railroad between Boulder and Longmont.

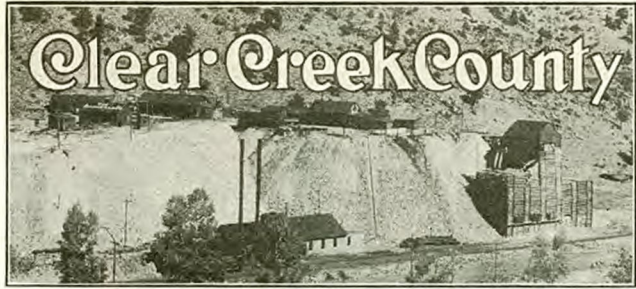
**Special Opportunities**—A wide variety of opportunities for investment in the development of natural resources is offered in this county. There is still a limited amount of uncultivated agricultural land. Especially favorable opportunities are offered for the development of the dairying industry in nearly all parts of the agricultural district. There are extensive deposits of good clay and kaolin in the neighborhood of Boulder, for the development of which capital is needed. Opportunities are offered at Longmont and other towns for the erection of factories to utilize agricultural products. There is much mineral land in the western part of the county, where a very wide variety of mineral deposits is found. Although mining has been carried on extensively here for more than 50 years there are still good opportunities offered for development in this direction. In various parts of the county, principally north, east and south of the city of Boulder, and in the Longmont district, are areas which are generally believed to offer profitable investment for those interested in the production of oil and gas. A large part of the territory is now under lease to prospecting companies, and indications are that the country will be thoroughly tested. The proximity of the territory to Denver, as well as to other large communities in northern Colorado, affords a splendid market for natural gas in large quantities. East of Boulder the Public Service Company of Colorado is now completing the construction of a great plant for the production of electric current, to be used in connection with its other production and distribution systems, which reach into many communities in the northern part of the state. The production of natural gas or oil in commercial quantities will inevitably result in an era of industrial development from which all the communities in Boulder county will profit.

## GENERAL Description —

Clear Creek county lies in the north-central part of the state, the western boundary being formed by the Continental divide. It is an irregular outline, with an extreme length east to west, of about 25

miles, near the central part, and an extreme width of about 20 miles. Its area is 249,600 acres, or a little more than one-third that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is principally mountainous and the altitude varies from 6,880 feet, at the north-eastern corner, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the western part.

**Early History** — This county has played a very important part in the history of Colorado. In January, 1859, the first important discovery of placer gold in Colorado was made by George A. Jackson, in the sands of Chicago creek, near the present site of Idaho Springs. Green Russell and others had found traces of gold a few months before in the sands of the Platte river, but their discoveries were of little importance, as the deposits there were far from their source and were very small. In one week Jackson and his associates washed out \$1,900 of gold dust from the bar where his first discovery was made. The news of this find spread rapidly and experienced miners at once began their search for the veins from which this float gold originated. The result was the discoveries made by John Gregory and Green Russell in Gilpin county. From these discoveries dates the beginning of lode mining in Colorado. In 1860 the first discovery of silver in Colorado was made by a party of prospectors near the present site of Georgetown, in Clear Creek county. Other discoveries of both gold and silver soon followed and the population of this district grew rapidly. The county was organized in 1861, soon after Colorado territory had been formed. It was named for the stream along the course of which most of the early prospecting was done. The Georgetown district developed rapidly, being principally a silver producing area. In the vicinity of Idaho Springs the principal value in the compound ores found in the fissure veins was gold. The total mineral output of the county to date has



been nearly \$100,000,000, most of which has been gold and silver.

**Surface and Soil**—There is very little level land except in the narrow valleys of the numerous streams which flow through the eastern part of the county. The soil is fertile, but the altitude is so high that farming can be carried on only on a very limited scale. In the western part there are some of the most majestic mountain peaks in the state, most of which are visible from the city of Denver; among them are Mount Evans and Lincoln peak, and on the western boundary Mount McClelland, Grays peak and Torreys peak. There is no soil survey of the county available.

**Population**—There has been a steady decrease in population in this county for a good many years, due to declining activity in metal mining. The population in 1920 was 2,891, compared with 5,001 in 1910, the decrease amounting to 42.2 per cent. The largest population found in any census period was 7,823 in 1880, when metal mining was at its height. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 19.5 per cent of the total, compared with 25.1 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, English, Canadian and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies in the South Platte watershed and numerous small streams have their sources here, flowing east to the Platte. The principal stream is Clear creek. The precipitation in the western part of the county, where these streams have their sources, is extremely heavy and they carry a substantial supply of water the year round. A considerable part of the water used for the irrigation of lands in the vicinity of Denver has its origin in Clear Creek county.

**Industries** — The principal industry is metal mining. Farming is carried on to a limited extent in the lower valleys. Stockraising is also followed here, the stock being grazed on the fine grass lands within the national forest. There has been some lumber

ing, principally to supply local demands. Excellent building stone is found in the county and much of it has been quarried for local and general uses, Silver Plume granite having a wide reputation. In 1922 the county produced 1,789 ounces of gold, worth \$36,892; 196,222 ounces of silver, worth \$196,222 in the market prevailing at that time; 14,000 pounds of copper, 957,000 pounds of lead and 800,000 pounds of zinc, its aggregate production of the five principal metals having been \$333,329. Its total production of metals to the end of 1922, since the beginning of the mining industry in that district, was \$88,863,923, of which gold accounted for nearly \$23,000,000, silver nearly \$53,000,000, lead \$8,450,000, copper \$2,107,000, and zinc \$2,521,000.

**Crops**—The principal crop is natural hay. Small amounts of potatoes and other root crops and hardy garden vegetables are grown.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are antimony, bluestone, clays, copper, corundum, fluorspar, gold, mica, pitchblende, platinum, silver, tungsten, zinc, and a wide variety of building stone. A molybdenum deposit of great importance occurs at Camp Urad, west of Empire, where some production has been made.

**Timber**—There is considerable timber in all parts of the county, principally pine, spruce and aspen.

**Land Classification**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 59,915 acres of patented land in the county, this being approximately 24 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 34,280 acres of this was grazing land, 23,789 acres was mining land and the remainder principally railroad rights of way and town and city lots. At the beginning of 1924 there was a little more than 2,900 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, most of which is valuable principally for grazing purposes. On July 1, 1923, there was 13,950 acres of government land, of which 2,350 acres is surveyed and open to immediate homestead entry, the remainder being unsurveyed and not open to entry until surveys are completed. This land is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area is 168,177 acres, or approximately 67 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation**—A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad extends from Denver up Clear Creek canon to Georgetown and Silver Plume.

**Highways**—Clear Creek county contains much beautiful scenery and is

served by numerous well improved highways and imperfect wagon roads and trails. The principal highway is that leading westward from Denver through the Denver mountain parks by way of Idaho Springs and Berthoud pass. Another road has been completed to the summit of Mount Evans in the southeastern part of the county. This is regarded as one of the most attractive scenic routes in the state.

**Educational**—There are 12 public district schools in the county, employing 29 teachers. A full high school course is given at the schools of Idaho Springs and Georgetown. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is somewhat severe. The winters are long, with heavy snowfall and extremely low temperatures at the higher altitudes. The rainfall in the southern part varies from 13 to 15 inches, and in the north and west it increases very rapidly, being about 20 inches along the Continental divide.

**Tourist Attractions**—Tourist travel to Idaho Springs, Georgetown and Silver Plume has always been heavy. Before automobile highways were constructed into this section of the state, there was much summer tourist travel over the Colorado & Southern railroad. This route contains the famous "Georgetown Loop," which has been a popular attraction for tourists during the past 20 years.

**Cities and Towns**—Georgetown, the county seat, is located near the central part of the county on the Colorado & Southern railroad. It is the center of one of the most active mining districts in the state. Idaho Springs, the principal city, is located on the Colorado & Southern railroad, in the northern part of the county. Among the other towns are Silver Plume, Dumont, Lawson, Freeland, Alice, Lamartine, Waldorf, Empire and Daily, mining camps.

**Special Opportunities**—There are large areas of government land in this county, which presumably contain mineral deposits. Though mining has been followed extensively here for more than 60 years, the ore values have not nearly played out and new discoveries are being made very frequently. Deep mining here is profitable and rich deposits are opened up at great depths, from which there are no surface outcroppings. It is generally conceded that the future success of mining operations in this county depends upon the extent of deep mining enterprises.

**G**ENERAL Description—Denver county is identical as to boundaries with the city of Denver. It lies near the foothills on the eastern side of the Rockies, in the north-central part of the state. It is the smallest county in Colorado,

having an area of 37,120 acres. The South Platte river flows north through the central part of the county, and Cherry creek, coming in from the southeast, enters the Platte near the center of the business section of the city. The valleys of these streams contain the lowest altitudes in the county and the surface rises gradually to the east and west of these streams, being generally level or gently sloping. The altitude varies from 5,180 feet to about 5,350 feet.

**Early History**—There is a tradition that a wandering trader washed out some gold from the sands of Cherry creek near where the stream enters the Platte river more than seventy years ago, and that the story of his discovery was what brought Green Russell and other gold hunters to this particular section of Colorado. At any rate Russell and his party did find gold in the sands of Cherry creek, near the present site of the city of Denver, in the summer of 1858, and Denver had its birth in a rough village of tents, cabins and shacks built by gold seekers and small tradesmen in the latter part of that year. The first settlement was in reality two villages. That on the west bank of the stream was called Auraria, while that on the east bank received the name "Denver" in honor of James W. Denver, then governor of Kansas territory, which at that time extended west to the Rocky mountains. For a few years these two villages remained separate and a certain amount of rivalry existed between them. The jealousies that at first developed between the two pioneer villages were soon forgotten, however, and the settlements, influenced largely by a stronger rivalry with other pioneer settlements, united into a single village, which was proudly called Denver City. It was originally in Arapahoe county, and Denver county was not organized until 1902. Arapahoe county was then much larger than it is at present,



including all of what is now Adams county and extending east to the Kansas line. Denver county was larger when first created than at present. In 1909 a part of its original territory was added to Adams county, leaving the boundaries of Denver county as they are at present.

**Population**—Denver has enjoyed almost phenomenal growth, reaching the proportions of a city soon after its establishment and increasing its population more rapidly than any other city in the new Rocky Mountain empire. This growth is shown in the following table, which gives the population at each census period beginning with 1860:

Year	Population
1860	2,500
1870	4,759
1880	35,629
1890	106,713
1900	133,859
1910	213,381
1920	256,491

The census report of 1910 was compiled after the boundaries of Denver county had been reduced to their present limits. Previous to that time the figures were only for the city of Denver, which was located in Arapahoe county. The boundaries of the city were extended between 1900 and 1910, so that the increase in population for the decade ending with 1910 is partly accounted for by additions to the suburbs of the city. In 1900 the population of all the territory now included in the city of Denver was 140,472, making the increase for the decade ending with 1910 approximately 62 per cent, as compared with an increase of 48 per cent for the state as a whole. No change was made in the boundaries of the city during the decade ending with 1920. The 1920 census showed the foreign-born white population of the city to be 14.7 per cent of the total, compared with 18.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign-born

nationalities are Russian, German, Swedish, English, Irish, Canadian, Italian and Mexican.

**Government** — Under an amendment to the state constitution the Denver county and city governments have been consolidated, the functions originally assigned by the constitution to county officials being in this case performed by city officials with but few exceptions. The official style of the joint political corporation is The City and County of Denver. The city of Denver has had several forms of government. Until the adoption of the amendment to the state constitution before referred to its government was separate from that of the county. Litigation for several years after this amendment was adopted prevented the actual consolidation of the functions of like city and county officials and both city and county governments were independently maintained in some departments. A decision of the state supreme court finally upheld the act in all particulars, so that the consolidation at the present time is practically complete. The so-called "mayor form" of government, with bi-cameral legislative council, was abolished in 1913 and a type of commission government was adopted. This proved unpopular and in 1916 a modified "mayor form" of government, nonpartisan and having some of the features of the so-called "manager form," was adopted and remains in effect.

**Public Utilities**—There are few cities in the country having better water supply than that of Denver, which is drawn from mountain streams many miles west and south of the city, in a district well safeguarded against pollution of any character. The water system is municipally owned, having been acquired by the city from the Denver Union Water company in 1918, after many years of litigation and bargaining. Electric light is furnished by a private corporation, much of the current being developed from water power on the western slope of the Rocky mountains and brought 200 miles across the mountains by means of high voltage transmission lines. Gas for heating and lighting purposes is supplied by the same corporation. The street railway system is privately owned, operated by a single company, which also operates several traction lines to nearby cities and towns. The telephone company serving Denver operates throughout Colorado and several western states and is a part of a great telephone

organization which serves the entire United States.

**Transportation** — Seven railroad companies have lines entering the city and furnish excellent facilities for bringing the products of the state here for market and distributing the articles manufactured here to other parts of the country. These companies are the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Colorado & Southern; Denver & Rio Grande Western; Denver & Salt Lake; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and Union Pacific. Most of these companies have more than one line entering the city, some of them having as many as four.

**Financial**—Denver has twenty-six banking institutions, including nine national banks. On January 1, 1924, the combined assets of these banks were \$184,986,006.48 and their total deposits were \$164,019,652.40. Denver is the financial center of the Rocky Mountain West and most of the big mining, manufacturing, construction and like concerns operating in Colorado and adjacent states do some or all of their banking business through the banks of this city. Many big oil companies operating in Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma, California and Kansas also have offices located here.

**Public Improvements**—The following tabulation, compiled from the records of the manager of improvements and parks, gives some idea of the extent of street and drainage improvements:

	Miles
All streets .....	1,000
Surfaced .....	290
Paved .....	102
Parked boulevards .....	22
Double parkways .....	10
Paved alleys .....	127
Sidewalks .....	325
Sanitary sewers .....	555
Storm and combination sewers..	192

The city boulevard system comprises more than 125 miles of improved driveways, connecting the principal parks and other points of interest in the city. There are thirty-eight parks with a total area of 1,451.25 acres, and twenty public playgrounds, including those in the parks, with a total area of more than twenty acres. The Civic Center, adjoining the state capitol grounds, contains nine acres. It contains at present the main public library, an outdoor theater, Colonnade of Public Benefactors and Voorhies Memorial. Its improvement is not yet complete, but a comprehensive plan has been worked out under which it is to be

made one of the most attractive civic centers in the world. The municipal auditorium is one of the finest and best arranged in the country, having a seating capacity of about 12,000. A municipal pipe organ has been installed here and free public recitals are given frequently. The main public library is in the Civic Center and seven branch libraries are located in various sections of the city. The Colorado Museum of Natural History, in the largest of the municipal parks, known as City Park, has a distinctive exhibit of stuffed birds and animals. The value of all public properties belonging to the municipality, exclusive of streets, alleys and sewer system, was approximately \$30,000,000 on January 1, 1924.

**Manufacturing**—The city has grown rather rapidly as a manufacturing center in recent years, and during 1917 and 1918 its factories turned out a considerable volume of goods in different lines for the use of the government in the prosecution of the war. In 1919 manufacturing activity here was at a high level, as it was in nearly all sections of the country, due to the extraordinary demand for manufactured products that existed all over the world immediately following the close of the war. There was a sharp drop in prices in 1920, following a sudden halt in the demand for goods of all kinds, and manufacturing activity dropped to a low level in all parts of the country, the factories in Denver sharing in the general depression. Since that time activity has increased considerably, but the value of the city's output still remains below that of 1919. The following tabulation, taken from census reports, shows something of manufacturing activity from 1899 to and including 1919, which is the latest year for which complete data are available:

1899—Number of establishments, 574; number of wage earners, 8,500; wages and salaries, \$6,417,000; value of output, \$37,906,000; capital invested, \$31,271,000.

1904—Number of establishments, 722; number of wage earners, 9,672; wages and salaries, \$8,529,000; value of output, \$36,660,000; capital invested, \$27,434,000.

1909—Number of establishments, 765; number of wage earners, 11,065; wages and salaries, \$11,424,000; value of output, \$46,925,000; capital invested, \$47,534,000.

1914—Number of establishments, 885; number of wage earners, 11,

062; wages and salaries, \$11,326,000; value of output, \$46,982,000; capital invested, \$44,679,000.

1919—Number of establishments, 1,097; number of wage earners, 16,635; wages and salaries, \$26,593,000; value of output, \$125,411,000; capital invested, \$72,147,000.

The number of wage earners shown in the table is the average number employed through the year. In 1919 there were employed in the manufacturing industry in Denver, in addition to those classified as wage earners, the following: Proprietors and firm members, 876; salaried officers, superintendents and managers, 1,086; clerks and other office employes, 2,875. Salaries and wages as given above include the compensation of the employes here listed, including wage earners. The amount paid wage earners in 1919 was \$19,342,000. More than 100 different manufactured lines are produced in Denver. Meat packing took first rank in value of output, with a total product valued at \$37,577,000 in 1919. Foundry and machine products ranked second, with an output valued at \$8,749,000, and bread and other bakery products third, with an output worth \$6,694,000. Since 1919 there has been a drop of considerable proportions in the value of the manufactured output for the city, but accurate figures are not available. The census bureau made a survey of the manufacturing industry for 1924, but its report is not yet complete.

**General Business**—Denver is the principal wholesale and jobbing center of the Rocky Mountain West and its trade territory is constantly expanding. It is also the distributing headquarters for many large manufacturing industries located in other parts of the country. The importance of the city as a distributing center is increasing rapidly because of the fact that the population of its tributary territory is growing steadily.

**Educational Facilities**—Denver's public school system includes sixty-two grade schools, six junior high schools, five high schools, one evening school and one opportunity school. Among the private educational institutions are Denver university, Colorado Woman's college, the Kent School for Girls, Westminster Law school, Regis college, Loretto academy and numerous other private and sectarian schools, academies and colleges and many business and professional schools. The city is recognized as one of the leading educational centers of the West.

**Churches**—There are in the city approximately 270 churches, including nearly all established denominations. Twenty-one of these are Catholic and fourteen Jewish. Methodists lead the Protestant denominations with more than fifty churches. There are six Christian Science churches, one Unitarian, one Universalist and one United Brethren.

**Building Regulations** — Denver's building regulations are rigid, particularly with regard to provisions concerning fire protection and uniformity of building lines and structures. The building code at present requires fireproof construction of some type in all parts of the business districts and forbids the erection of frame structures except in the most remote residence districts. As a result Denver's residences are almost exclusively of brick, stone, cement or some type of fireproof or semi-fireproof construction. Few cities of the size of Denver have so many beautiful small homes, while the number of large and pretentious residences is very considerable. Twelve stories is the limit for the height of buildings in the business district and but few business buildings are that high. Usually they occupy more extensive ground space than do office buildings in cities that permit the construction of buildings of greater height. The city of Denver covers an area of fifty-eight square miles, which is larger than the areas of most cities of about the same population, so that there is little congestion in the business district or in any of the residence districts. There is also ample room for the extension of the business districts as well as for the residence districts. The strict enforcement of the fireproofing regulations in building construction, together with an efficient fire department, have kept the fire loss in the city at a low figure.

**State and Other Public Buildings**—Denver is the capital of Colorado and the capitol building, situated on very attractive grounds adjoining the Civic Center on the east, is one of the most impressive buildings in the West. It is constructed of grey Colorado granite and cost \$2,800,000, exclusive of the site. South of the capitol building, across Fourteenth avenue, is the State Museum, built of Colorado white marble at a cost of about \$250,000. In this building is a fine collection of ores and mineral specimens from Colorado mines and geological specimens of various kinds, together with the State Historical society's collection of inter-

esting articles of historical value and a growing exhibit of utensils and other relics of the prehistoric cliff dwellers of southwestern Colorado. North of the capitol, across Colfax avenue, is the State Office building, which provides working quarters for several departments of the state government. The postoffice building, in the downtown business district, is of Colorado white marble and cost something more than \$2,500,000. This is one of the most impressive structures in the city from the standpoint of architecture, and is the home of the federal courts and numerous other government agencies in addition to the postoffice. The Denver branch of the United States mint is on Colfax avenue just west of the Civic Center. The Denver Civic and Commercial association and the various bureaus connected with it are housed in the association's building on Champa street, half a block from the postoffice. The old postoffice building, now called the customhouse building and occupied by the collector of customs and other government agencies, is on Sixteenth street at Arapahoe street.

**Federal Departments** — All the main departments of the federal government have branches or bureaus in Denver, this city having a larger number of federal offices than any other city in the country except the national capital. From Denver in most cases is directed federal departmental work for a considerable part of the Rocky Mountain West. Among the more important government agencies having branches here are: Reclamation service, forest service, geological survey, general land office, immigration department, Indian service, bureau of public roads, division of markets and crop estimates, secret service, postoffice inspection, interstate commerce commission, and numerous other bureaus of the various cabinet departments.

**Tourist Attractions**—It is beyond the scope of this volume to catalogue the many attractions for tourists to be found in and about Denver. The city's mountain parks, however, are unique and deserve special mention. Under an amendment to the state constitution Denver is authorized to acquire land for park purposes within a radius of thirty miles from the city limits, and the people of the city have voted a special tax levy for the maintenance of parks thus acquired. The city now has more than 3,000 acres of such parks, located in the scenic foothills region directly west

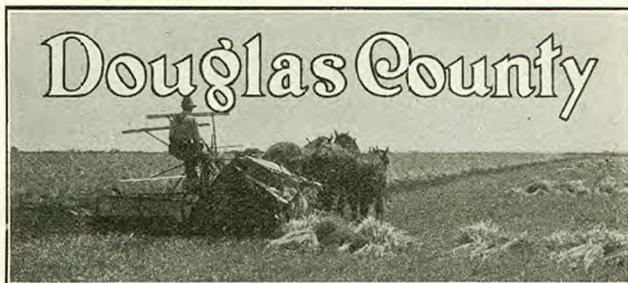
of the city. The city has aided in the construction of excellent highways leading to these parks and more than fifty miles of highways have been constructed within the mountain parks themselves. There are within these parks numerous shelter houses, open air ovens, camp sites and other accommodations for visitors. There are excellent automobile roads leading out of Denver to scenic points in the district to the west, north and south. A well equipped public auto camp is maintained by the city at Overland Park, where thousands of automobile tourists make their headquarters during the summer months and from there visit the various mountain resorts near at hand. Excellent camp sites are also to be found in the mountainous areas of the district, so that tourists desiring to spend several days in the mountains may always find convenient and suitable places for pitching their tents. This feature of automobile travel in the mountains about Denver is becoming well advertised and the number of automobile campers who visit the city is increasing rapidly each year.

**Climatological Data**—The general characteristics of the climate of Denver are fairly well known throughout the country and are becoming better known each year, as the number of tourist visitors increases. Its special advantages can not be adequately stated in figures, for few people are able to appreciate the effects of high altitude, low humidity, moderate air movements and like climatic conditions without actually experiencing

them. General figures published by the weather bureau show the important climatic conditions peculiar to Denver and other cities and towns in the state. A few comparisons are given here, however, as a guide by which those who have enjoyed the climate of Denver and vicinity may explain why Colorado climate is perhaps the best in the United States. The average annual precipitation in Denver is 14.02 inches, as compared with 44.6 inches in New York, 33.3 inches in Chicago, 37.2 inches in St. Louis, 37.3 inches in Kansas City, Missouri; 43.5 inches in Washington, D. C.; 28.7 inches in St. Paul; 49.4 inches in Atlanta; 57.4 inches in New Orleans; 47.1 inches in Galveston; 22.3 inches in San Francisco, and 45.1 inches in Portland, Oregon. The mean annual humidity in Denver is 52 per cent against 72 per cent in New York, 74 per cent in Chicago, 70 per cent in St. Louis; 70 per cent in Kansas City, Missouri; 72 per cent in Washington, D. C.; 72 per cent in St. Paul; 72 per cent in Atlanta; 78 per cent in New Orleans; 81 per cent in Galveston; 80 per cent in San Francisco, and 74 per cent in Portland, Oregon. The altitude of Denver is one mile above sea level, which accounts in a large measure for many of the advantages of its climate. It should be stated here that other cities in Colorado show even more favorable comparisons with the cities named above than does Denver and that in all parts of the state the special climatic advantages peculiar to Denver are present.

## GENERAL Description—

Douglas county lies in the north-central part of the state, the western boundary being formed by the Platte river and the South Fork of the Platte. In outline it is a truncated triangle with the southern boundary forming the base. It is 30 miles long and its width is 30 miles at the southern boundary, and about 20 miles at the northern boundary. Its area is 540,800 acres, or about 142,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface varies from level or gently rolling plains, in



the west and north, to a rugged foothill district in the southwest. The altitude varies from 5,400 feet in the northwest to about 7,600 feet in the extreme southwest.

**Early History**—The Long expedition explored a considerable part of what is now Douglas county in 1820. Dr. Edwin James, the historian of this ex-



HARVESTING  
80-BUSHEL OATS



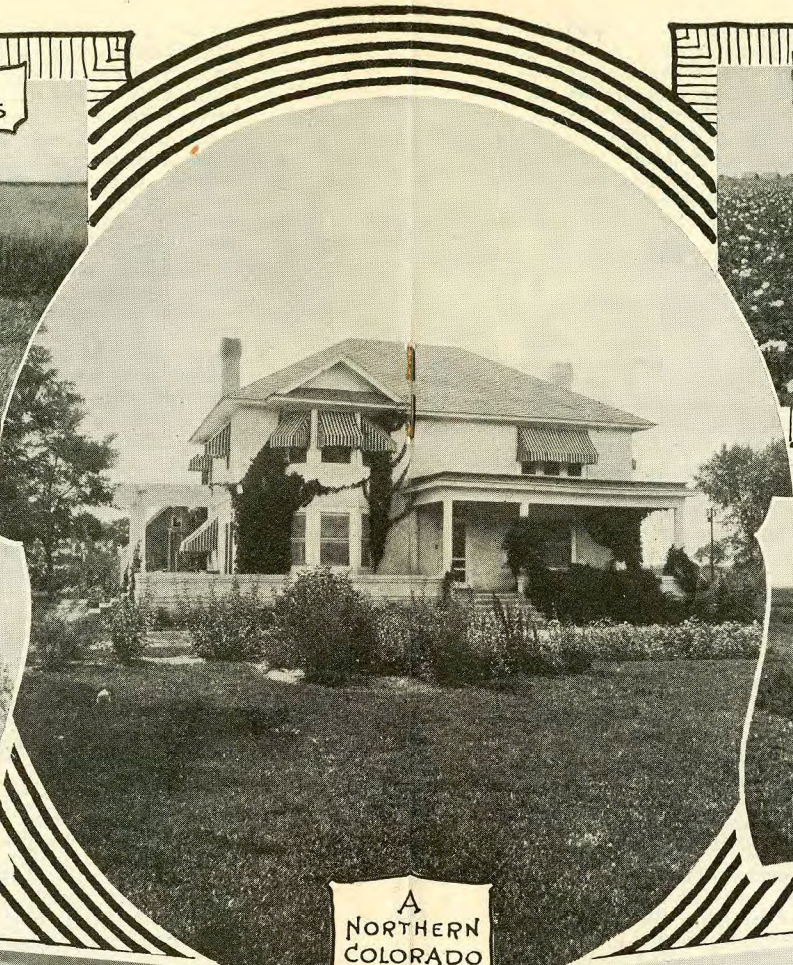
POTATO FIELD  
NEAR FORT MORGAN



A  
WINNING  
COMBINATION



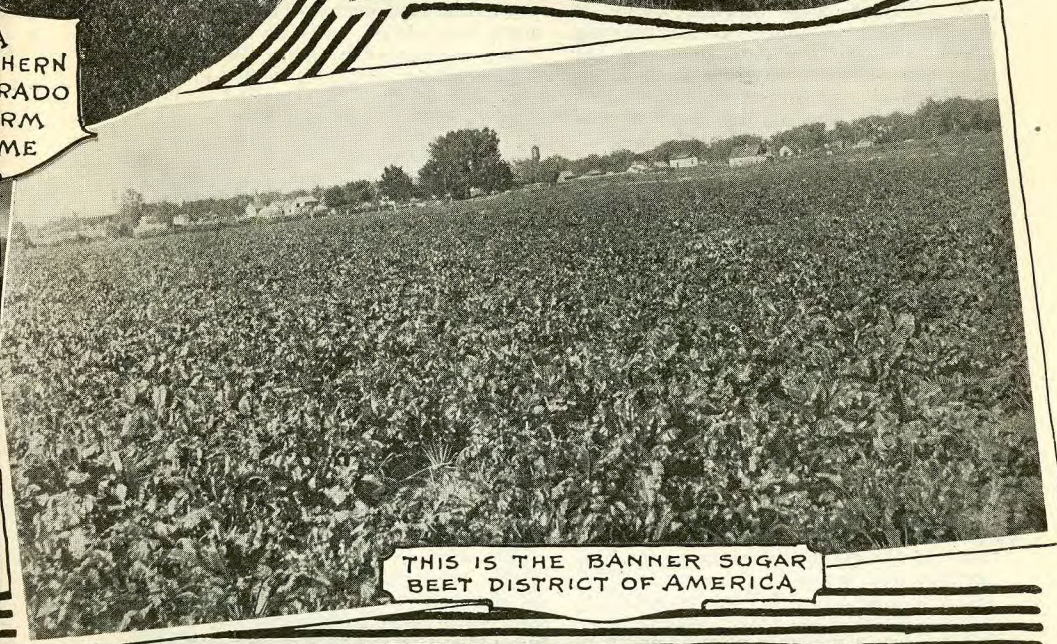
ALFALFA  
IS ONE OF  
THE  
LEADING  
CROPS



A  
NORTHERN  
COLORADO  
FARM  
HOME



THE SNOWS OF THE MOUNTAINS  
SWELL THE HARVEST ON THE PLAINS



THIS IS THE BANNER SUGAR  
BEET DISTRICT OF AMERICA

pedition, explored the colossal rock ruins in the vicinity of the present county seat and gave them the name of Castle Rock because of their resemblance to an ancient castle. They bear that name today and the town established at their base nearly 60 years later is called Castle Rock. Fremont's party traveled through the eastern part of the county in 1843 on the way to the site of Pueblo. In the middle of the last century military expeditions frequently passed back and forth over a well beaten path along Cherry creek, in the eastern part of the county. Green Russell and his historic band of gold seekers passed this way down Cherry creek to its mouth near the present site of the city of Denver in 1858. A few settlements were made in 1859 and 1860. The county was one of the original 17 counties of Colorado territory as it was organized by the act of the first Colorado territorial legislature in 1861. It was named for Stephen A. Douglas. At that time the county extended eastward to the Kansas line. A part of it was taken to form Elbert county in 1874.

**Surface and Soil**—The principal agricultural areas are located in the valleys of the various streams in the northern and central parts of the county. The Platte river forms the western boundary and the principal tributaries flowing through this area are Cherry creek and Plum creek. The soil in the valleys of these streams is principally a rich alluvial loam of great depth. There are numerous small mountain parks, suitable for cultivation, having principally a black or chocolate loam soil of exceptional fertility. In the eastern part of the county there is a considerable area of broken land suitable only for grazing purposes, and the rugged foothill district in the southwest lies in the Pikes Peak national forest. No soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population has grown steadily though not very rapidly. In 1920 it was 3,517, compared with 3,192 in 1910, the increase being 10.2 per cent. The foreign-born population at that time was 10.4 per cent of the total, compared with 16.4 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign-born nationalities are Mexican, English, German and Swedish.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies wholly within the South Platte watershed, the divide between this and the Arkansas river watershed passing just south of the county line. The Platte and South Fork rivers both carry a substantial water supply here and the small streams usually carry a

considerable amount of water the year round. Irrigation is confined largely to the valleys of these streams, the water rights being principally old filings on direct flow from the various streams. Water for domestic purposes and livestock is obtained largely from wells and springs, and is reached at depths varying from 20 feet or less to 75 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, dairying, stockraising, quarrying, lumbering and manufacturing. There is a large amount of good grazing area in the county and stockraising has always been carried on extensively. Dairying is an important industry, but is confined principally to the territory tributary to the branch line of the Colorado & Southern railroad in the northeastern corner, and to the valleys of Cherry creek and its tributaries and Plum creek and its numerous affluents. The first sawmill in Colorado was set up in Plum Creek valley in this county in 1859, and lumbering has been carried on to a limited extent ever since. There is an abundance of good building stone in the county and several quarries have been put in operation, principally in the vicinity of Castle Rock.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hay, including considerable natural hay; corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, forage crops, pinto beans and garden vegetables.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, suitable for pressed brick, earthenware, drain tile and similar products; coal, fluorspar, gold, silver and a wide variety of building stone. There was much prospecting in this territory during the early settlement of Colorado and some production of gold and silver resulted. The coal deposits are considerable, but have not been developed.

**Timber**—There is considerable timber in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the county, principally pine, cedar and spruce.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 381,622 acres of privately owned land in the county, this being approximately 70 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 7,941 acres of this was irrigated land, 5,359 acres was natural hay land, 86,921 acres was dry farming land, 278,258 acres was grazing land and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 8,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some land suitable for farming.

On July 1, 1923, there was 680 acres of government land open to homestead entry, consisting principally of small isolated tracts of little agricultural value. The national forest area in this county is 135,423 acres, or about 25 per cent of the total area. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$50 to \$200 an acre, depending principally upon water rights and character of improvements. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$10 to \$40 an acre.

**Transportation**—The Elbert county branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad passes through the northeastern corner of the county. The main lines of the Denver & Rio Grande Western, Colorado & Southern and Santa Fe railroads between Denver and Pueblo run through the central part of the county. The Platte canon branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad follows the Platte canon along the western boundary of the county to the town of South Platte.

**Highways**—The principal state highway in this county is the North and South road, which follows in a general way the course of the Rio Grande Western and Santa Fe railroads through the county. This is perhaps the most heavily traveled automobile road in the state, being the principal route between Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo. There are numerous secondary state highways and county roads in all parts of the county, usually well improved. The North and South highway is the only surfaced road in the county.

**Educational**—There are 30 public district schools in the county, employing 46 teachers. The Douglas county high school at Castle Rock gives a full high school course, while the consolidated school at Parker gives two years of high school work. There are two consolidated high schools, located at Castle Rock and Parker. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is much the same as that in other counties lying along the eastern foothills of the Rocky mountains. The rainfall in the northeastern corner is about 15 inches annually, but increases gradually toward the southwest, being perhaps 20 inches in the more elevated areas in the southwestern corner. The summers are not unpleasantly hot and the winters are usually comparatively mild. The same dry, healthful atmosphere, with high percentage of sunshine and low percentage of moisture, that characterizes most sections of Colorado is to be found here.

**Tourist Attractions**—This county is being visited by increasing numbers of automobile tourists each year. There is heavy tourist travel over the highways between Denver and Colorado Springs as well as over the main railroads passing through this county. The South Platte canon branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad has been one of the most popular tourist roads in the state for a good many years. There is much attractive mountain scenery in the western and southwestern parts of the county. Decker's Springs is a tourist resort of great popularity, which may be reached over good automobile highways from Denver. The mineral springs located here are noted for their curative waters. Lake Cheesman, one of the principal sources of water supply for the city of Denver, is on the western border of the county, in a picturesque foothill region. Perry Park, in the south-central part of the county, about four miles west of Larkspur, is an attractive resort, now reached over a direct highway between Denver and Colorado Springs. It is much admired for its fantastic rock formation.

**Cities and Towns**—Castle Rock, the county seat, is situated on the Santa Fe, Colorado & Southern and Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads, near the central part of the county. It was incorporated in 1881, but its growth has been only moderate. It is the center of a prosperous farming, stock-raising and dairying district. Louviers, on the Santa Fe railroad near the northern part of the county, is the location of one of the largest munitions manufacturing plants in the Rocky Mountain region. It belongs to E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company. Among the other principal towns are Greenland, Larkspur, Sedalia and Douglas, located on the various railroads running through the central part of the county; Parker, on the Colorado & Southern railroad, in the northeastern part; and Franktown, an inland town east of Castle Rock.

**Special Opportunities**—There is considerable agricultural land in this county not yet under cultivation, though not nearly so much as in the prairie counties further east. Extensive stone deposits have been only partially developed and offer encouraging opportunities for investment of capital in conservative quarrying operations. There is considerable area here that shows indications of being mineralized and the possibilities of developing ore bodies in this county are moderately encouraging.



mountainous area was one of the most populous districts in Colorado when the state was admitted to the union in 1876. The county was one of the original 17 counties included in Colorado territory as organized in 1861. It was named in

honor of William Gilpin, the first governor of the territory.

**GENERAL Description** — Gilpin county lies in the north-central part of the state, a portion of the western boundary being formed by the Continental divide. It is an irregular triangle with an extreme length of about 16 miles near the center, and an extreme width on the eastern boundary of 13 miles. It is the smallest county in Colorado save Denver, which includes only the city of Denver. Its area is 84,480 acres, or about one-eighth that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is almost all mountainous and the altitude varies from 6,880 feet, at the southeastern corner, to approximately 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks on the western boundary.

**Early History** — Gilpin county is often referred to as the birthplace of Colorado. It was here that the first discovery of gold "in place" was made by John Gregory on May 6, 1859. Previous to this Green Russell and others had found placer gold in the sands of the Platte river, Cherry creek, Clear creek and other streams, but these discoveries amounted to little and the gold was all panned out within a few months. Gregory lode is producing ore today. Only a few weeks after Gregory's discovery Green Russell, who first found placer gold in the sands of the Platte river, discovered fissure gold veins in the southwestern part of Gilpin county. These veins, in what is popularly known as Russell Gulch, are being worked at the present time. It was in Gilpin county that the first real metal mining in Colorado was done. Central City, the county seat, was founded in the summer of 1859, and in the early 60's was the rival of Denver as the leading city in Colorado. The first smelter in Colorado was opened at Black Hawk in 1868. During the 20 years following the discovery of gold in this county more than \$28,000,000 in the precious metals, principally gold, was taken from its mines. The total production has been in excess of \$100,000,000. The Colorado Central railway was extended to Black Hawk in 1872 and to Central City in 1878. This small

**Surface and Soil**—The surface is extremely rugged, with a very limited amount of level land in the creek valleys. The soil is fertile, but the seasons are short. Agriculture is carried on to a very limited extent. No soil survey of the territory is available.

**Population**—The population of Gilpin county has shown considerable fluctuation, the peak being reached in 1900. In 1920 the population was 1,364, compared with 4,131 in 1910, the decrease being 67 per cent. This is the largest percentage of decrease shown by any county in the state for the decade ending in 1920. This decrease has been due almost entirely to a falling off in mining activity. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 24.9 per cent of the total, compared with 29.5 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are English, German, Italian and Austrian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—Clear creek and other small tributaries of the Platte river furnish the principal drainage and supply water for domestic purposes and for use in the mines. The streams all have their sources in regions of heavy precipitation and carry plenty of water throughout the year. A considerable amount of water used in irrigation of lands north of Denver has its origin in Gilpin county.

**Industries**—The principal industry is metal mining, which has been carried on extensively here for more than 60 years. Stockraising is followed to a limited extent and there is some farming in the lower creek valleys. Lumbering has been followed to a limited extent to supply material for local consumption. Small amounts of building stone have been quarried.

**Crops**—Native hay is about the only crop grown here. Potatoes and some garden vegetables are grown to a limited extent in the lower creek valleys.

**Mineral Resources** — The known minerals are arsenopyrite, clays, copper, fluor spar, gold, lead, molybdenum, pitchblende, pyrite, silver, tungsten, zinc and a wide variety of building stone.

**Timber**—There is considerable timber in all parts of the county, principally pine, spruce and aspen.

**Land Classification**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 33,932 acres of privately owned land in the county, this being approximately 40 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 19,601 acres of this is grazing land and the remainder mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 1,700 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, suitable principally for grazing purposes and for possible mineral content. On July 1, 1923, there was 4,040 acres of government land open to homestead entry, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area in this county is 40,435 acres, or about 48 per cent of the total area.

**Transportation** — A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad extends from Denver to Central City, the county seat. The Denver & Salt Lake railroad runs through the north edge of the county.

**Highways**—Almost the entire area of Gilpin county is mountainous. This district is of much interest to travelers and tourists particularly because of its magnificent scenery and also because of the fact that it is one of the oldest mining camps in Colorado. It is well served by highways, chief of which are the state highways from Denver to Central City and from Idaho Springs through Central City to Rollinsville. There are many mountain roads and trails used in the past principally for the purpose of carrying supplies to various mining camps, but now used extensively by tourists and sightseers.

**Educational** — There are 10 public district schools in the county, employing 20 teachers. The Gilpin county high school at Central City gives a full high school course. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data** — The climate here is somewhat severe. The altitude is high and as a result the summers are short, with frost in some sections every month in the year. The principal mining districts are at an altitude of above 8,000 feet. The

rainfall in the extreme southern part of the county varies from 16 to 20 inches and in the northern part from 20 to 25 inches.

**Tourist Attractions** — For a great many years there has been considerable tourist travel to this territory. The mountain scenery here is equal to the finest found in other sections of Colorado, and the fact that this county is the birthplace of gold mining in Colorado adds interest for the traveler. There are numerous active mining claims and a good many abandoned workings, all of which are important tourist attractions. The highways leading through the county at present are not in a high state of improvement, but are being extended and made better each year. Automobile travel through this part of Colorado is increasing rapidly.

**Cities and Towns**—Central City, the county seat, is the center of one of the most productive mining districts. It is also one of the oldest cities in Colorado. Black Hawk is still an important mining and smelting point. Among the other towns are Rollinsville and Tolland on the Denver & Salt Lake railroad, and Nevadaville, Baltimore, Russell Gulch and Apex, mining camps.

**Special Opportunities** — Although mining has been followed for more than 60 years, there is still a large amount of unoccupied land, principally government domain, on which rich ore deposits may yet be found. The ores here are found principally in fissure veins and do not always show on the surface. Deep mining has proved very profitable in this county and the future production will depend largely on further extension of the deep workings. In 1922 Gilpin county produced 2,514 ounces of gold, worth \$51,969; 43,910 ounces of silver, worth at the market price at that time \$43,910; 24,000 pounds of copper, and 240,000 pounds of lead. Its total output of the five leading metals up to the end of 1922 and since the beginning of the mining industry in Colorado was nearly \$100,000,000, of which total gold accounted for more than \$84,000,000, silver \$8,600,000, lead \$2,606,000, copper \$4,280,000 and zinc \$52,656. In the matter of metal production it ranks fifth in the state, being surpassed only by Lake, Teller, San Miguel and Pitkin, in the order named. With a more stable demand for the metals at prices commensurate with costs, the industry will revive promptly.



**G**ENERAL Description—Jefferson county lies in the north-central part of the state, the city of Denver forming a part of the eastern boundary. It is an irregular triangle, with an extreme length of 72 miles, north and south, the width being about 20 miles at the north boundary and decreasing to a little more than one mile in the extreme south. Its area is 517,120 acres, or about 146,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. Its surface is principally mountainous, with some level or rolling valley land along the courses of the various streams. The altitude varies from about 5,300 feet, in the east, to nearly 10,000 feet in the extreme west.

**Early History**—The early history of this county is closely linked with that of the city of Denver. The first settlements within the present limits of the county were made by gold seekers about the time the foundations of the city of Denver were being laid in 1859. Green Russell and his party of gold seekers prospected the sands of Clear creek through this county for placer gold in 1858 and made a few discoveries. The city of Golden was founded in 1859 and was first called Golden City. For a number of years it rivaled Denver for the honor of being the first city in the state. It was made the capital of Colorado territory in 1862 and retained the honor until 1867, when the seat of government was transferred to Denver. The Colorado School of Mines was opened here in 1874. Jefferson county was one of the original 17 counties in Colorado and was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson. The territory itself was first called Jefferson, but the name was afterwards changed to Colorado in honor of the great river of that name whose headwaters are in the Rocky mountains. A part of the territory of the county was added to that of Park county in 1908.

**Surface and Soil**—The agricultural land is found principally in the valley of the Platte river and tributary streams in the eastern part of the

county near the city of Denver, and some of the most productive irrigated farming land in Colorado is included in this area. The soil is principally an alluvial or sandy loam usually dark or black in color, very fertile and easily cultivated.

There are numerous small mountain park areas suitable for cultivation that are being farmed with marked success. The western and southern parts of the county are principally mountainous, with little agricultural land. No soil survey of the county is available.

**Population**—The population of Jefferson county has grown steadily and rather rapidly. At the beginning of 1920 it was 14,400, compared with 14,231 in 1910, the increase being 1.2 per cent. This is the smallest increase that has taken place in Jefferson county in any decade since it was created in 1861. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 14.2 per cent of the total, compared with 17.4 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are German, Swedish, English and Russian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies wholly in the South Platte watershed. The South Platte river flows across the south end for several miles along the eastern boundary. The principal tributaries in the county are Clear creek, Bear Creek, Turkey creek and Dry creek. Most of these streams carry a good supply of water the year round and water for irrigation of land in the county is obtained from them principally by direct flow. In some parts of the eastern section of the county domestic water is obtained from wells and is reached at depths varying from 15 feet to 100 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, dairying, market gardening, bee keeping, coal mining and manufacturing. There has been some metal mining in the county, but comparatively little metal is being produced here at the present time. The principal manufacturing industries are located at Golden and in the towns near the city limits of Denver. Farming and market gardening are carried on principally in the Clear Creek valley, west of Denver. Following the discovery of oil and gas in Larimer county, the campaign of exploration spread to Jefferson county, and at the end of 1924 rigs had been

erected for two tests, though no drilling had been done and the possibilities of the county in this direction were unknown. It is believed, however, to offer attractive structures to experienced oil operators with capital sufficient to justify reasonably deep drilling.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, including much native hay; wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, pinto beans, some forage crops, garden vegetables, apples, cherries, and other hardy tree fruits, and some small fruits are raised.

**Mineral Resources**—Although there are large mineral areas in this county, it has never been an extensive mineral producer. The known minerals are bismuth, copper, gold, iron, tantalum, vanadium, asphalt, basalt, coal, fire clay, fluorspar, granite and other building stone, limestone and cement material and a wide variety of sands, gravels and clays. Plastic clay has been produced extensively in the vicinity of Golden. Building materials have been produced to considerable extent and some coal has been mined.

**Timber**—There is considerable good timber in the western and southern parts of the county, principally pine and spruce.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 318,199 acres of privately-owned land in the county, this being about 61 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 48,262 acres of this is irrigated land, 26,291 acres is dry farming land, 233,355 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 15,500 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, most of which is suitable principally for grazing purposes. On July 1, 1923, there was 2,200 acres of government land open to homestead entry, valuable principally for grazing purposes. The national forest area is 95,288 acres, or 18.5 per cent of the total area. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$75 to \$800 an acre, the higher priced land being near the city of Denver and utilized for market garden products. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$15 to \$50 an acre.

**Transportation**—The Clear Creek branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad passes across the county by way of Golden. The Platte Canon branch of the same road follows the course of the Platte river along the western boundary of the county to the town of South Platte, whence it runs

west across the county into Park county. Another branch of this road runs through the extreme northeastern corner of the county from Denver to Boulder. The Denver & Salt Lake railroad also runs through the northeastern corner. A branch of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad runs west from the main line at Englewood to Morrison.

**Highways**—The principal state highways in this county lead west from the city of Denver into the mountains. Tourist travel is exceptionally heavy on these roads and they are among the best improved highways in the state. The road over Lookout mountain through Denver's mountain parks is one of the most extensively traveled tourist roads in Colorado. This connects with the road leading from Denver through Morrison and Evergreen, making a popular short automobile trip out of the city. While highways have been developed here for the accommodation of pleasure seekers more extensively than in any other part of the state, the needs of farmers and stockmen have not been neglected and county highways generally are sufficient to meet their requirements.

**Educational**—There are 61 public district schools in the county, employing 149 teachers. The high schools at Arvada, Golden and Wheatridge each give a full high school course, while three years of high school work are given in the Bear Creek Valley consolidated school at Morrison. The Colorado School of Mines located at Golden has played an important part in equipping young men to direct the development of the mining industry in the West. The state industrial school for boys is likewise located at Golden. The state industrial school for girls is at Morrison and a branch of the state home and training school for mental defectives is at Ridge.

**Climatological Data**—Jefferson county has the same delightful climate peculiar to the entire foothill district of eastern Colorado. Extremes of heat and cold are rare. In the summers the temperature in the day time is seldom above 90 degrees and the nights are always cool. In the winter, periods of zero weather or colder occur frequently, but they seldom last more than a few days. The rainfall varies from 15 to 20 inches, being heaviest in the extreme northeastern part.

**Tourist Attractions**—Perhaps the most popular tourist attraction in this county is Denver's mountain parks, which are located in picturesque foothill districts west of Golden and Morrison and are reached by highly im-

proved automobile roads. These parks have been acquired by the city of Denver under special constitutional authority and are improved and maintained by the city, though the most remote of them is nearly 30 miles from the city limits. Near Morrison, at a place now called Dinosaur park, fossil remains of huge reptiles which possibly lived millions of years ago have been discovered. Among these is the thigh bone of an atlatosaurus, one of the largest or perhaps the largest of an extinct group of animals known as saurians. The bone discovered indicates that the animal was probably 80 feet in length and 35 feet tall.

**Cities and Towns** — Golden, the countyseat, is situated on the Colorado & Southern railroad, in the north-central part of the county. It is one of the most picturesque foothill cities in the state and is especially famous for its delightful climate. Morrison, a few miles south of Golden, is the gate-

way to a picturesque foothill territory, especially famous for its fantastic rock formations, one of the best known of which is the Park of the Red Rocks. Arvada, near the city limits of Denver, is an important residence and manufacturing town. Other towns are Edgewater, Wheatridge, Mountainview and Ralston, all near the city of Denver; Leyden, a principal coal mining camp, in the northern part; and Buffalo, Pine Grove and South Platte, tourist resorts on the South Platte river.

**Special Opportunities**—There is comparatively little agricultural land in the county that is not being well utilized. The forest range is also being pastured almost to its full capacity. There are extensive beds of valuable building stone that offer encouraging opportunities for development. The clay deposits are very extensive and are equal to the best found in Colorado.



**GENERAL Description**—Larimer county lies in the north-central part of the state, the north boundary being formed by the state of Wyoming and the western boundary by the Medicine Bow mountain range. It is of an irregular rectangular outline except for the western boundary. Its extreme length, east and west, along the north boundary, is 64 miles, and its width is about 50 miles. Its area is 1,682,560 acres, or a little less than one-third that of the state of Massachusetts. The surface ranges from level plains in the eastern part to an extremely rugged mountainous area in the west. The altitude varies from about 4,800 feet in the east to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks near the western boundary.

**Early History**—Early Spanish prospectors are said to have visited a part of this territory during the early part of the eighteenth century. They were searching for gold, but there is no record of their having made any im-

portant discoveries and no traces of their visit are to be found at this time. Fur traders and trappers frequently visited this part of the state during the early part of the last century, but made no permanent settlements. Kit Carson and

his band of trappers at one time spent a season in the neighborhood of what is now Estes Park. Fremont passed this way on his first and second expeditions in 1842 and 1843. On the second expedition he followed the Poudre river to its source and his is the first authentic description of the territory now included in Larimer county. So far as is known the first white settler was Antoine Janis, who in 1844 established a trading post near the present site of the town of La Porte. He remained in this region until the influx of miners and gold seekers in 1878. Tradition tells of a party of French trappers who, on their way to the mountains, buried a supply of powder in a sand bank near one of the streams. This stream is now called Cache la Poudre, thus in its name perpetuating tradition. A granite monument near the town of Bellvue, about seven miles northwest of Fort Collins, marks the spot where this powder is supposed to have been buried. Estes Park, one of the most



beautiful natural parks in Colorado, was named for Joel Estes, who visited it in 1859 and settled there the following year. In the early '70's the Earl of Dunraven, infatuated with the beauty of the Estes Park region, acquired a large portion of it and for years used it as a cattle ranch and game preserve. A military post was established on the present site of Fort Collins in 1864 and was named in honor of Colonel William O. Collins, who commanded the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. The town itself was laid out in 1871. Larimer county, one of the original counties of Colorado territory, was named in honor of General William Larimer a well-known Colorado pioneer and one of the founders of the city of Denver. A part of its original territory was taken to form Jackson county in 1909.

**Surface and Soil**—Most of the agricultural land lies in the eastern part of the county in the valleys of numerous small streams, tributaries of the South Platte river. The soil here is principally a sandy loam, with small areas of gravelly soil and a very limited amount of adobe. It is generally light, very fertile and possesses marked moisture-retaining properties. Under irrigation it produces excellent yields of all the principal crops grown in Colorado, the eastern part of the county being one of the best irrigated agricultural districts in the state. Further west there are numerous mountain valleys and plateaus with some agricultural land and a large amount of good grazing land. A detailed soil survey of the irrigated land in the eastern part of the county was made by the bureau of soils of the department of agriculture in 1904 and published in 1905.

**Population**—The population of this county has grown steadily and rapidly. In 1920 it was 27,872, compared with 25,270 in 1910, the increase being 10.3 per cent. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 12.9 per cent of the total, compared with 14.9 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Russian, German, Mexican and Swedish.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county lies in the South Platte watershed except a small area in the northwestern corner which is drained by the Big Larimie river, a tributary of the North Platte. The principal streams flowing into the South Platte are the Cache la Poudre, Big Thompson and Little Thompson, all of which have numerous small tributaries. These streams carry an abundance of water

the year round and furnish the supply for irrigating most of the land in eastern Larimer county and a considerable amount of land farther east in the Platte river valley. Water for domestic purposes in the eastern part of the county is obtained, in some cases, from wells and is reached at depths varying from 20 to 200 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, dairying, bee keeping and manufacturing. Farming is confined principally to the irrigated areas in the eastern part of the county, though recently considerable amounts of non-irrigated land have been placed under cultivation with marked success. Large amounts of feed crops are produced here and thousands of cattle and sheep are shipped in here annually to be fattened for market. Larimer county feeds more lambs annually than any other county in the state. There is a vast amount of good grazing land in the central and western parts of the county, lying largely in the national forest areas, on which large herds of cattle are pastured during the summer months. The principal manufacturing industry is the making of beet sugar, factories being located at Loveland and Fort Collins. At Fort Collins there are two flour mills, one creamery, one concrete culvert factory, one head-gate factory, three cigar factories, one brick plant and other small manufacturing establishments. Loveland has, in addition to the sugar factory, a large canning factory, milk condensery, flour mill, brick plant, plaster mill and a number of small factories. Berthoud has a flour mill, alfalfa meal mill, canning factory, two planing mills and brick plant. On November 11, 1923, a great gas well was discovered at a depth of more than 4,200 feet by the Union Oil Company of California in the district northwest of Wellington in Larimer county. Later the same company brought in a substantial oil well, the steady production of which was unknown late in 1924, on another structure only a short distance north of Fort Collins. The result was an extensive drilling campaign which resulted in a large number of wells being started in 1924, but in no further completions. Enough had been developed by the end of the year, however, to justify the statement that Larimer county will become a large producer of oil, with probably enough commercial gas to supply at least the neighboring cities and towns. The discovery well had a gas flow of 82,000,000 cubic feet daily, and after flowing without interruption for more than a month, through open casing, showed

no diminution. Since that time it has given signs of oil production as well, and the future of these two fields, at least, is believed assured.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, including native hay; sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, pinto beans, garden vegetables, including peas, snap beans, tomatoes and other vegetables grown for canning purposes; blackberries, raspberries, loganberries and other small fruits. Apples and other hardy tree fruits are grown to a considerable extent in the sheltered regions of the foothills.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are bismuth, clays, copper, granite, gypsum, marble, limestone and other building stones. There is a large mineralized area in the western part, believed to contain gold, silver, copper and other metals, but deposits are found at great depths and their development has not been undertaken because of the immense expense involved. Oil and gas in commercial quantities were discovered in 1924.

**Timber**—There is an abundance of good timber in the western part of the county, principally pine, cedar, spruce and aspen. Lumbering has been followed to a limited extent for a good many years.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 685,931 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 40 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 107,931 acres of this is irrigated land, 15,400 acres is natural hay land, 22,520 acres is dry farming land, 532,660 acres is grazing land and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. At the beginning of 1924 there was approximately 69,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some good agricultural land and much grazing land. This may be purchased or leased through the State Board of Land Commissioners on favorable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was 32,620 acres of government land open to homestead entry, much of which is rough or semi-mountainous and valuable only for grazing purposes. The national forest area in this county is 636,097 acres, or nearly 38 per cent of the total area. Irrigated land sells here at from \$100 to \$400 an acre, depending principally on water rights and improvements. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$10 to \$50 an acre.

**Transportation**—The eastern part of the county is well served with railroads, but the western part is wholly without railroad transportation. The

Colorado & Southern railroad between Denver and Cheyenne passes through the eastern part of the county by way of Fort Collins. A branch of the same road runs from Fort Collins to Greeley. A branch of the Union Pacific railroad runs north from Denver beyond Fort Collins. The Great Western railway, a subsidiary of the Great Western Sugar company, serves a considerable area of the beet-growing districts in the southeastern part of the county.

**Highways**—This county has an excellent system of highways, chief of which is the North and South Road from Denver to Cheyenne, which passes through Fort Collins. The Big Thompson route to the national mountain park leaves this road and extends directly westward to the village of Estes Park, being one of the most popular tourist highways in Colorado. A state highway is now being constructed westward from Fort Collins through Rustic and Home across Cameron pass into Jackson county. The Fall River road through Rocky Mountain national park by way of Grand Lake to a connection with the Victory highway at Hot Sulphur Springs has proved to be a popular summer tourist route.

**Educational**—There are 85 public district schools in the county, employing 290 teachers. High schools at Loveland, Fort Collins, Berthoud, Estes Park, Wellington, La Porte and Timnath all give a complete high school course, while one year of high school work is given at the schools at Virginia Dale, the Waverly school near Wellington, Masonville and the Big Thompson consolidated school near Loveland. There are consolidated schools at Loveland, La Porte, Timnath and in the Big Thompson district near Loveland and the Waverly district near Wellington. The Colorado State Agricultural college is located at Fort Collins, having been opened in 1879. This is the headquarters of agricultural extension work for Colorado and free public short courses in agriculture are given here each winter for the benefit of Colorado farmers and stockmen. This is also the headquarters of the United States agricultural experiment station work for the state of Colorado.

**Climatological Data**—The climate in the eastern part of the county is mild, very healthful and well adapted to general farming and stockraising. The rainfall in this area is comparatively light; the air is dry and bracing and the percentage of sunshine very high. In the western part, where the altitude is much higher, the winters are

severe and the snowfall extremely heavy. The average annual precipitation in the agricultural districts in the eastern part of the county ranges from 14 to 17 inches. In the western part it increases rather rapidly, being above 20 inches along the mountain range which forms the western boundary.

**Tourist Attractions**—Estes Park has for a great many years been one of the most popular tourist centers in Colorado. The Rocky Mountain national park, created by act of congress in 1913, includes the picturesque mountain region directly west of Estes Park. Since its creation this park has become the most popular national playground in the West. Estes Park now lies at the eastern entrance of this national playground and an excellent system of highways is being laid out and improved through the magnificent scenic area now included in the national park. Cherokee park, in the northern part of the county on the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre river, is a popular tourist resort and fishing place. Most of the streams in the county are well stocked with trout and are very popular fishing waters.

**Cities and Towns**—Fort Collins, the principal city, lies in the heart of the agricultural district in the east-central

part of the county. It is an ideal residence city and has grown very rapidly in the past ten years. Loveland and Berthoud, in the southeastern part of the county, are the centers of prosperous agricultural communities and in recent years have developed important manufacturing industries. Other important towns are Timnath and Wellington, in the eastern part, and Estes Park at the entrance of the Rocky Mountain national park.

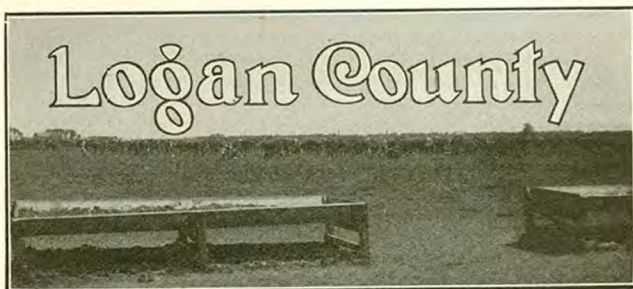
**Special Opportunities**—The agricultural area of this county is being as completely utilized as that of any county in the state. There is still, however, considerable non-irrigated land that might be farmed to advantage. The pasture land is also being well utilized. There are good opportunities for the establishment of factories, principally for the utilization of food crops grown here and for the development of various natural mineral resources, principally clays and stone. In the western part of the county, along the base of the Medicine Bow range, there is a vast area of land, probably containing valuable metal deposits, which offers special opportunity to the prospector and investor. Within the past few years canning and pickling plants have developed a new market for thousands of acres of farm products.

## GENERAL Description—

Logan county lies in the northeastern part of the state, the northern boundary being formed by the state of Nebraska. The valley of the South Platte river crosses the county diagonally from

southwest to northeast. In outline it is an irregular rectangle, 48 miles long, east and west, and 38 miles wide. Its area is 1,166,080 acres, or a little less than one-fourth that of the state of New Jersey. The surface is generally level or rolling except a few hilly areas in the northern part. The altitude varies from 3,600 feet, in the northeast, to about 4,100 feet in the northwest.

**Early History**—Long's expedition to the Rocky mountains traveled up the South Platte river through what is now Logan county, in the summer



of 1820. Fremont followed this route on at least two of his expeditions. The valley of the South Platte river was one of the principal routes of travel to the mining camps during the early history of Colorado, and a stage line was regularly maintained for a good many years. A station on this stage route near the present location of the town of Merino was called by the Indians "Fort Wicked" because of the vigorous tactics adopted by its keeper, Hollen Godfrey, in defending himself and his associates against Indian attacks. Although travel through this territory was considerable between

1860 and 1870 there was no permanent settlement made, principally because of the hostile attitude of the Indians. The cattlemen began establishing ranches in the 70's, and early in the 80's agricultural development began. Logan county was created in 1887 from a part of Weld county, extending eastward at that time to the state line. In 1889 Phillips and Sedgwick counties were formed from the eastern part of Logan county. The county was named in honor of General John A. Logan.

**Surface and Soil**—The valley of the South Platte river, which crosses the county, averages five miles in width and contains most of the irrigated land. It is comparatively level, skirted on both sides by ranges of low hills. North and south of the valley the county is a comparatively level prairie, with sandy loam soil, well adapted to cultivation without irrigation. The soil in the valley proper is principally an alluvial or sandy loam of great fertility. There is no soil survey of this area available.

**Population**—The population of this county has grown steadily and rapidly since its organization. In 1890 it was 3,070; in 1900 it was 3,292; in 1910 it was 9,549 and in 1920 it was 18,427, the increase for the decade being 93 per cent. In 1920 the foreign-born population was 12.1 per cent of the total, compared with 13.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Russian, German, Mexican and Italian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The South Platte river flows northeast across the county and affords the principal drainage and water supply for irrigation. Frenchman creek, a tributary of the Republican river, drains a small area in the southeastern part. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells. The underflow is reached in the valley of the Platte river at depths ranging from 10 to 40 feet, and on the high land at from 50 to 200 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, dairying and manufacturing. Farming under irrigation has been followed successfully in the valley of the Platte river for more than 30 years. On the prairie land north and south of the river there has been rapid development of agricultural activities without irrigation in the past decade. On account of the large amount of feed crops raised here thousands of cattle and some sheep are shipped in annually to be fattened for market. Dairy farm-

ing has been increasing steadily in importance for the past half dozen years. The principal manufacturing enterprise is a beet sugar factory belonging to the Great Western Sugar company, located at Sterling. Drilling for oil in Logan county was apparently assured late in 1924, and the tests on favorable structures will be watched with interest.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, pinto beans, forages and garden vegetables. Fruit crops are grown on a limited scale. Forage crops and pinto beans are grown rather extensively on non-irrigated lands north and south of the Platte river.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, utilized to a limited extent for the manufacture of brick; gravel, building stone and potash.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 987,359 acres of privately-owned land in the county, or approximately 84 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 64,500 acres of this is irrigated land, 13,400 acres is natural hay land, 583,215 acres is dry farming land, 320,900 acres is grazing land and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 134,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including a large amount of agricultural land and some grazing land, all of which may be purchased or leased through the state land board on favorable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was 1,040 acres of government land open to homestead entry, consisting of small isolated tracts of little economic value. Irrigated land sells here at from \$80 to \$200 an acre and non-irrigated land at from \$15 to \$60 an acre.

**Transportation**—The Union Pacific railroad follows the course of the Platte river through the county. The Burlington railroad follows the course of the Platte river northeast to Sterling, and a branch line of this system runs east from here through Phillips county into Nebraska. Another line runs north into Nebraska and another west through Weld county to Cheyenne, Wyoming. These roads make the town of Sterling one of the most important railway points in eastern Colorado.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Platte Valley road or Lincoln highway, which follows in a general way the course of the Platte river through the county. The Omaha-Lincoln-Denver road follows in a general way the course of the Bur-

lington railroad west to Sterling, where it joins the Lincoln highway. A state highway runs west from Sterling, following in a general way the course of the Burlington railroad to Cheyenne. Another state highway follows the course of the Burlington railroad north into Nebraska, while two state highways run south from the Omaha-Lincoln-Denver road into Washington county. There are numerous county roads, generally imperfectly improved but sufficient to take care of the present agricultural development.

**Educational**—There are 107 public district schools in the county, employing 201 teachers. A full high school course is given in the Logan county high school at Sterling and in the branch high schools at Merino, Atwood, Fleming and New Haven (near Fleming). Three years of high school work is given at Iliff, Crook and Dailey, and two years at Padroni and Mt. Hope (near Sterling). There are consolidated schools at Dailey and in District 72, twenty miles southeast of Sterling. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate is comparatively mild and well suited for general agriculture and stockraising activities. The winters are comparatively short and are not subject to extremely low temperatures. The rainfall in the western part varies from 13 to 15 inches annually, and in the east from 15 to 17½ inches. There is considerable variation from year to year, but a season seldom occurs in which there is not sufficient precipitation during the growing period to insure fair crops of small grain, forage and other products well adapted to this climate. As a usual thing about three-fourths of the rainfall comes during the growing season.

**Tourist Attractions**—There is heavy automobile tourist travel through this county over the two main state highways named above. The county is

generally level and devoid of natural scenic attractions, but the agricultural development under irrigation is extensive and visitors from eastern states show considerable interest in the agricultural districts. There are a number of points of historic interest in the county, one of the most important of which is Cedar Canon, about twelve miles northwest of Sterling, where Captain Jacob Downing, with a force of cavalry, fought an engagement with a band of Arapahoe Indians in 1864.

**Cities and Towns**—Sterling, the county seat and principal town, is the largest and most prosperous city in northeastern Colorado. There is, perhaps, no town in the state that has shown a more consistent growth and development in the past ten years. It is an important shipping point and trading center and is the home of a large beet sugar factory belonging to the Great Western Sugar company. Among the other towns in the county are Iliff, Proctor, Crook, Powell, Atwood and Merino, on the Union Pacific railroad; Fleming, on the Burlington railroad east of Sterling; Peetz and Padroni, on the Burlington railroad north of Sterling; and Willard and Stein, on the Burlington railroad west of Sterling.

**Special Opportunities**—There is probably 300,000 acres of arable land in the county that has never been broken. Most of it can never be irrigated, but the success of farming without irrigation here in the past ten years has demonstrated that this unbroken area may be expected to become profitable farming land. There is also room for considerable agricultural development in the cultivated areas through the introduction of more intensive methods of farming. Dairying is rapidly increasing in importance and steps are being taken to establish a large milk condensery at the town of Sterling, which would result in a big increase of the number of dairy cattle.

#### LAND CLASSIFICATION, SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY

County	Area Acres	Homestead Land	State Land	National Forest	Acres Patented	Acres Non-Patented
Adams	807,680	40	23,786	.....	746,457	23,826
Arapahoe	538,880	40	13,695	.....	498,607	13,737
Boulder	488,960	880	6,915	127,822	275,919	155,944
Clear Creek	249,600	13,950	2,935	168,177	59,915	185,061
Denver	37,120	.....	632	.....	36,335	632
Douglas	540,800	680	8,461	135,423	381,622	144,562
Gilpin	84,480	4,040	1,719	40,435	33,932	46,194
Jefferson	517,120	2,200	15,502	95,288	318,199	112,996
Larimer	1,682,560	32,620	68,997	636,097	685,931	876,714
Logan	1,166,080	1,040	133,744	.....	987,359	134,784
Morgan	823,040	1,561	55,416	.....	720,629	56,977
Park	1,434,880	66,830	93,360	626,565	334,512	786,755
Weld	2,574,080	4,303	166,883	.....	2,253,376	171,186

# Morgan County



**GENERAL Description**—Morgan county lies in the north-central part of the state and includes a considerable part of the South Platte valley. It is almost a perfect square, 36 miles long and 36 miles wide. Its area is 823,040 acres, or about 140,000 acres more than that of the state of Rhode Island. The South Platte valley crosses the center of the county, east and west. North of this the surface is principally a prairie, somewhat higher than the river bottom. The altitude varies from 4,100 feet in the northeast to about 4,600 feet in the southwest.

**Early History**—Morgan county was organized in 1889 from a part of Weld county. Long's expedition passed through this territory en route to the Rocky mountains in 1820, and it was from a point in what is now Morgan county that they first caught sight of the peak afterwards named in honor of the leader of the expedition. The country is described by Dr. James, historian of the expedition, as an undulating plain "presenting the aspect of hopeless and irreclaimable sterility." It was regarded with the same lack of favor by most of the early visitors. A few stockraisers began to establish homes in the river valley in the early '60's, and for twenty years stockraising was carried on rather extensively. Farmers began to come into this territory in the early '60's and gradually to take up the government homestead land and begin the cultivation of the soil. The town of Brush was begun in 1882 and named in honor of Jared Brush, a pioneer irrigator then living in Greeley. A fort had been established on the Platte river in 1861 and named Fort Morgan, in honor of Colonel Christopher A. Morgan. This fort was garrisoned by United States troops, the garrisons being maintained principally for the protection of the stage line which passed this way and carried United States mail. The town of Fort Morgan, founded in 1884, now occupies the site of this ancient fort, but the orig-

inal military post has been entirely destroyed. It was abandoned in 1868.

**Surface and Soil**—The South Platte valley crosses the central part of the county, east and west. A low range of hills marks the boundary of the

river bottoms on each side of the river, beyond which the country spreads out into vast rolling prairies. The soil of the valley and of the narrower valleys of numerous tributary creeks is principally sandy loam with some alluvial deposits, very fertile and yielding readily to cultivation. On the high prairie lands the soil is principally a sandy loam with occasional patches of adobe and gumbo. No detailed soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population of Morgan county has grown steadily and rather rapidly. In 1920 it was 16,124, compared with 9,577 in 1910, the increase being 68.4 per cent. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 14.9 per cent of the total, compared with 14 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Russian, Danish, German and Mexican.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Platte river and its tributaries drain the county and furnish the principal water supply for irrigation purposes. The principal tributaries are Bijou, Badger and Big Beaver creeks, entering the river from the south. Water for domestic purposes is obtained from wells in many parts of the county. In the Platte river valley it is reached at depths ranging from 5 to 50 feet and on the prairie lands to the north and south from 25 feet to 500 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, dairying and manufacturing. Farming without irrigation has been carried on rather extensively north and south of the Platte river in the past half dozen years. Irrigated farming is confined largely to the Platte river valley, and stockraising and stockfeeding are followed rather extensively here in connection with general farming. Until recent years large numbers of cattle were grazed on the prairie lands north and south of the river, but these lands are now being utilized largely for general farming purposes. Feed crops are grown ex-

tensively on the irrigated lands along the rivers and thousands of cattle and sheep are shipped in here annually to be fattened for market. The principal manufacturing industry is the making of beet sugar, factories belonging to the Great Western Sugar company being located at Fort Morgan and Brush. The dairy interests of the county have had a steady and consistent growth the past few years; especially is this true on the dry lands, where each farm supports from half a dozen to a dozen or more cows. One creamery at Fort Morgan and another at Brush furnish a local market for the butterfat. Some cream is shipped to Denver, making a total cream business for the county of no small proportions.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa and other hays, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, pinto beans, milo and other forages, garden vegetables and some fruits, principally hardy tree fruits.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, sand, gravel and building stone. A map published by the United States geological survey shows favorable oil structures in parts of this county, and serious exploration is anticipated during the next few years as the result of discoveries made in other parts of northern Colorado.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 720,629 acres of privately-owned land in the county, which is approximately 86 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 78,312 acres of this is irrigated land, 2,200 acres is natural hay land, 250,142 acres is dry farming land, 385,691 acres is grazing land, and the remainder railroad rights of way and town and city lots. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 55,000 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, most of which is suitable for agricultural purposes. This land may be purchased or leased from the State Land Board on reasonable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was 1,561 acres of government land open to homestead entry, consisting of small isolated tracts of little value. Irrigated land in this county sells at from \$75 to \$200 an acre, depending principally upon the character of water rights and improvements. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$12 to \$50 an acre.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Union Pacific railroad follows the South Platte valley through the county. The Burlington railroad runs east and west across the county south of the Platte river. It branches at Brush,

the main line running east through Washington and Yuma counties, and another line running north into Logan county.

**Highways**—The principal state highway in the county is the Omaha-Lincoln-Denver road, a considerable portion of which is surfaced. At Fort Morgan this road connects with the state highway leading down the Platte river to Greeley and south from there to Denver. At Brush it connects with the state highway leading south to join the Union Pacific highway at Limon. There is also a state highway running north from Fort Morgan to connect near New Raymer with the road from Sterling to Cheyenne. There are numerous county roads generally fairly well improved and sufficient to take care of the agricultural development of the county.

**Educational**—There are 85 public district schools in the county, employing 190 teachers. High schools at Fort Morgan, Brush, Weldona, Wiggins and Snyder each give a complete high school course, while the school at Hillrose gives two years of high school work. There are centralized schools at Brush, Snyder, Wiggins, Goodrich, Hillrose and Orchard. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here is mild and equable. The average annual rainfall varies from 13 to 15.5 inches, and most of it comes during the growing season. The summers are generally long and warm, while the winters are comparatively short and not subject to extremely low temperatures. This part of Colorado is especially noted for its healthful climate. The Eben-Ezer Home Sanitarium, which offers accommodations for consumptives of limited means, was established at Brush, in this county, principally because of the favorable climate.

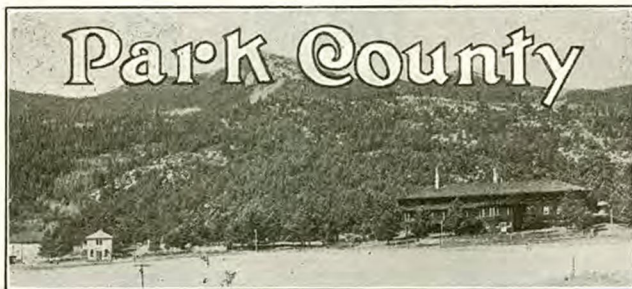
**Tourist Attractions**—Automobile tourist travel through this county is heavy and is growing each year. There are few points of scenic interest in the county, but the visitors from the east are usually much interested by the extensive development of agriculture under irrigation. The site of the old government fort, erected in 1861, is of some historic interest, and although no remains of it are at present visible, a monument erected by the D. A. R. marks the site.

**Cities and Towns**—Fort Morgan, the principal city and the county seat, is located near the central part of the county on the Burlington and Union Pacific railroads. It is growing rap-

idly and is one of the most important towns in northeastern Colorado. It has a well-equipped sugar factory. Brush, on the Burlington railroad, further east, is the principal shipping point for a prosperous agricultural district and is the home of a sugar factory belonging to the Great Western Sugar company. Other towns are Orchard, Goodrich, Weldona and Snyder, on the Union Pacific railroad, and Wiggins, Vallery and Hillrose, on the Burlington railroad.

**Special Opportunities**—There is perhaps 300,000 acres of fertile arable

land in this county that has never been broken. Though the rainfall here is not so heavy as in some other sections of eastern Colorado, the experience of the past half dozen years has proved that farming without irrigation can be carried on successfully here provided crops are raised which are especially adapted to this territory. Pinto beans and forage crops usually make good yields. Efforts are being made to bring about the construction of a milk condensery at Fort Morgan.



**GENERAL Description**—Park county lies almost in the exact center of the state and includes the beautiful mountain-rimmed meadow known as South park. The western boundary is formed by the Park range, which in some sections is the Continental divide. It is extremely irregular in outline, about 60 miles long, north and south, and having an extreme width of about 45 miles. Its area is 1,434,880 acres, or a little less than one-fourth that of the state of Vermont. The surface is principally hilly or mountainous except for the park above referred to, which lies near the central part of the county and is nearly 50 miles long and from 10 to 40 miles wide. The altitude varies from about 7,200 feet, at the point where the Platte river crosses the eastern boundary, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the western part.

**Early History**—Captain Pike and his exploring party crossed the southern end of South park in the latter part of 1806, soon after he had made his famous effort to scale Pikes peak. There are traditions of Spanish explorers in this territory in search of gold, but no trace of Spanish diggings has been found. After Pike's visit there was little travel into this part of Colorado until the active search for gold began in 1858 and 1859. A party of prospectors, includ-

ing W. J. Holmes, crossed the front range into the South park basin in the summer of 1859 and after considerable prospecting without favorable results they pitched camp on the bank of the stream which was later called Tarry-

all creek. A settlement was built here, which was called Tarryall. Some placer ground was discovered and the camp grew rapidly. All of the placer ground was soon staked off and newcomers were told to move on. A party of prospectors, who had visited Tarryall and had not been warmly received, traveled further west and established a camp which they called Fairplay. Gold dust was also discovered in this territory and the new camp grew rapidly. It is now the county seat of Park county. During the early mining activities Park county was one of the principal producing districts and was organized as one of the original 17 counties in Colorado territory. It was named in honor of the beautiful valley on the rim of which most of the prospect camps were located.

**Surface and Soil**—The surface of South park is level or rolling, crossed by numerous small streams which have their sources in the surrounding mountains. It is one of the best natural meadows in Colorado. The geological formations here show that it was one time the bed of an inland lake and the soil is made up of deposits from the waters of this ancient sea. It is very fertile and produces excellent crops despite the high altitude and short seasons. Farming is followed to a limited extent in the valleys of some of the streams along the rim



of the park. The park is surrounded on all sides by rugged mountainous areas, and the South Platte river, which drains this territory, has cut its way out to the eastern plains, forming one of the most picturesque canons in Colorado. No soil survey of this county is available.

**Population**—There has been considerable fluctuation in the population of this county, due principally to variation in metal mining activities. In 1920 the population was 1,977, compared with 2,492 in 1910, the decrease being 20.7 per cent. The county's maximum population at any census period was 3,970, reached in 1880. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 9.7 per cent of the total, compared with 16.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Swedish, English, German and Canadian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—This county lies in the South Platte watershed, the South Platte river having its headwaters on the western rim of the park. The rainfall in this area is heavy and much of the water used for irrigating lands in northeastern Colorado has its origin in the county. In South park water for domestic purposes is in some cases obtained from wells and is reached at depths ranging from 15 to 75 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are stockraising, farming, dairying, lumbering and metal mining. There are valuable coal deposits in the county, but they have never been developed. Good building stone is available here and some has been quarried, principally for local use. South park is one of the most important stock-raising districts in the state.

**Crops**—The principal crops are native hay, potatoes, small grains and garden vegetables. Stockraising, however, is the principal agricultural industry of the county, and the largest acreages now in production are given over to the crops which are used most generally for stock feed. The greater part of the grain raised in the county is cut for hay, although some is matured each year. Native hay is by far the largest crop, more than 35,000 acres being cut annually. Non-irrigated potatoes also constitute a crop of considerable importance, although the acreage is usually small.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are bismuth, clays, coal, copper, fluor spar, gold, lead, manganese, silver, vanadium, zinc, cement materials and a variety of building stone.

**Timber**—There is considerable timber in the mountainous areas sur-

rounding South park, principally pine, cedar, spruce and aspen.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924 there was 334,512 acres of privately-owned land in the county, which is approximately 23 per cent of the total area. The records of the county assessor show that 23,328 acres of this is natural hay land, 6,743 acres is dry farming land, 259,787 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 93,500 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, most of which is valuable principally for grazing purposes and can be purchased or leased from the State Land Board on reasonable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was 66,830 acres of homestead land, most of which is of little value except for grazing purposes. The national forest area of this county is 626,565 acres or approximately 44 per cent of the total area. Irrigated land sells at from \$40 to \$125 an acre, and non-irrigated land at from \$5 to \$25 an acre.

**Transportation**—The Platte Canon branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad follows the Platte river through the northern part of the county and extends southward from Fairplay to Buena Vista, in Chaffee county. A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad leaves the Platte Canon line at Como and runs northeast over Boreas pass to Breckenridge. Branch lines run from Fairplay to Mudsill and Alma, mining camps.

**Highways**—The scenic attractions of Park county are numerous and varied, and excellent state highways leading through the county make them readily accessible to sightseers. A state highway running in a generally southwesterly direction from Denver leads to Fairplay, the county seat. From Fairplay a road runs north to Breckenridge in Summit county and thence by a diverse route to Leadville. The highway leading west from Colorado Springs over Ute pass to Buena Vista, in Chaffee county, passes through the southern part of the county and is connected with the highway leading through Fairplay by two roads. There are numerous imperfectly improved county roads and trails sufficient in a general way to take care of the agricultural and mineral development of the county and to make most of the scenic attractions in the mountain districts accessible to tourists.

**Educational**—There are 33 public district schools in the county, employ-

ing 38 teachers. Schools at Hartsel, Fairplay and Guffey each offer a full high school course, while one year of high school work is given in the schools at Como and Alma. There is a consolidated school at Guffey. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate of South park is very similar to that of the other mountain parks in Colorado, chief of which are North and Middle parks. Although the altitude is above 8,000 feet, this territory is surrounded on all sides by mountains, thus being protected from disagreeable winds during the winter. The summers are short and warm and the winters, though cold, are not disagreeable because of the high percentage of sunshine and the small amount of moisture in the atmosphere. The average annual rainfall in South park proper varies from 10 to 15 inches. It is considerably higher in the mountainous country surrounding the park, except for a small area in the northeastern corner. Along the Continental divide, in the northwest, the annual precipitation averages above 20 inches. The snowfall during the winter months is extremely heavy in the mountainous areas in the western part of the county and especially on the boundary line between this and Summit county.

**Tourist Attractions**—South park is one of the most picturesque mountain valleys in Colorado, and automobile tourist travel through this section has been greatly increased since the completion of the two state highways before mentioned. Railroad tourist travel into South park has always been heavy. The mountainous regions in the northern and western parts are becoming more and more popular each year as highways are opened, making them accessible to automobile travel. The streams are well stocked with trout and are perhaps visited by more

fishermen each year than the streams of any other section of Colorado. There is considerable small game in and about the park, principally grouse and sage hen. Among the popular resorts in the county are Lake George, Hartsel, Bailey, Cassels and Shawnee. Many Denver people have cottages along the Colorado & Southern railroad in the county and spend a considerable part of the summer here.

**Cities and Towns**—Fairplay, the countyseat and one of the oldest towns in the county, is on the Colorado & Southern railroad in the western part. Como, also on the Colorado & Southern railroad, near Fairplay, is an important shipping point. Alma, in the western part, is a mining camp. In addition to these towns are the resorts before mentioned and the town of Hartsel.

**Special Opportunities**—There is a large amount of government land in this county, including both homestead area and national forest. It is all subject to patent under the mineral land laws and much of it is perhaps highly mineralized. Some of the government land is also well adapted to farming and stockraising. Although agriculture and stockraising have been carried on successfully here for many years, there is still considerable room for development in this direction. The coal and stone resources are extensive, but their development will probably wait on the improvement of transportation facilities. At present it is safe to say that mining and stockraising are the two leading industries and offer the best promise for the immediate future, as they require a minimum amount of railroad transportation. The history of industrial activity in the county gives ample reason for the belief that future exploration may result in the development of mines which will surpass anything in the county's production in former years.

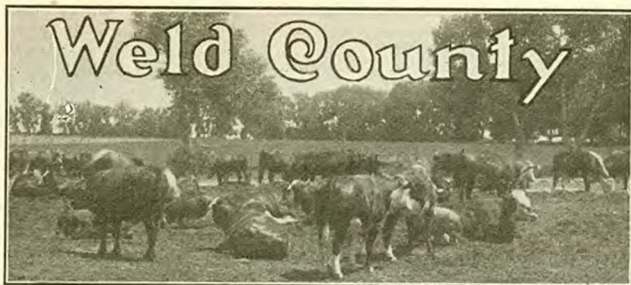
#### FINANCIAL STATISTICS OF SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, JANUARY 1, 1924

County	Assessed Valuation	Bank Deposits	Population	Assess. Val. Per Capita	Bank Dep. Per Capita
Adams .....	\$ 32,489,350	\$ 1,737,074	14,825	\$2 192	\$117
Arapahoe .....	20,722,055	2,222,234	14,275	1,460	155
Boulder .....	46,634,130	7,860,639	33,600	1,392	234
Clear Creek .....	5,528,830	666,767	2,500	2,213	267
Denver .....	377,025,300	164,109,652	277,215	1,400	592
Douglas .....	11,517,670	563,333	3,610	3,203	156
Gilpin .....	2,836,499	262,688	1,250	2,257	210
Jefferson .....	24,085,185	1,376,600	15,880	1,551	83
Larimer .....	52,274,020	7,096,633	29,925	1,739	237
Logan .....	42,187,660	2,601,718	18,850	2 135	138
Morgan .....	29,173,650	3,388,726	16,600	1,742	204
Park .....	8,924,845	191,705	2,100	4,207	91
Weld .....	116,164,460	8,600,872	55,850	2,050	154

## GENERAL Description —

Weld county is situated in the northern part of the state, slightly east of the center, and includes the largest irrigated area of the South Platte valley. It is of a double rectangular shape with maximum dimensions of 70 miles north and south and 72 miles east and west, and minimum dimensions of 35 miles east and west. Its total area is 2,574,080 acres, more than three times the total area of the state of Rhode Island and equal to four-fifths of the area of Connecticut. In 1887 and 1889 parts of the county were taken to form Logan, Washington and Morgan counties. It is the third county in the state in point of size, ranging next to Las Animas and Moffat counties. The surface is level prairie, slightly rolling and with a low range of hills bordering the Cache la Poudre river near the western boundary. The South Platte flows almost directly north through the county from the southern boundary line to Greeley, where it turns east. The Cache la Poudre traverses the county from the west and flows into the South Platte about four miles east of Greeley. The altitude varies from a maximum of approximately 5,000 feet in the southwest corner of the county to about 4,400 feet on the eastern boundary.

**Early History**—Although there is comparatively little in the way of written record of the early history of the county, it is established that French trappers came up the South Platte to the headwaters of the Thompson and St. Vrain only a few years after the Revolutionary war. In 1835 Colonel Dodge, commanding an expedition for the United States government, came up the South Platte and passed through Weld county. The following year Lieutenant Lancaster Lupton, a member of his party, returned to what is now Weld county and established a residence and trading post, the ruins of his fort being visible still only a short distance north of the present town of Fort Lupton. Fort St. Vrain was established as a trading post about 1837 by Colonel Ceran St. Vrain, and about 1840 Fort Vasquez was established north of Fort Lupton and on the present North and South highway. The ruins are still plainly visible from the



road. The rapid growth of agriculture came with the beginning of the irrigation era, which commenced at about the time of the establishment of the city of Greeley in 1870. The county is one of the original 17 counties of Colorado territory and was named in honor of Lucius L. Weld, first territorial secretary of Colorado.

**Surface and Soil**—Weld county soils are either sedimentary or residual, both classes standing high in agricultural production. For a wide stretch along the river beds the soil is a sandy loam of alluvial formation, known as Laurel sandy loam, with a depth ranging from two to five feet. This soil is particularly well suited to onions, cabbage and sugar beets. From Eaton to the Cache la Poudre, including Pleasant valley and adjoining sections, is an extensive area of Billings loam and the same soil is found from the edge of the Platte river beds to a point northeast of Kersey and in other parts of the county.

**Population**—The population of Weld county has grown steadily and rather rapidly. In 1920 it was 54,059, compared with 39,117 in 1910, the increase being 38 per cent. This county ranks third among the counties of Colorado in population, being surpassed only by Denver and Pueblo. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 15.2 per cent of the total, compared with 15.4 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Russian, Swedish, Mexican and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The South Platte and its tributaries, the Cache la Poudre, Big Thompson, Little Thompson, Boulder and St. Vrain, with various other small streams, drain the county and furnish all the water used for irrigation, except such as is derived from the Laramie and Grand rivers and brought over the divide into the watershed of the Cache la Poudre. Water rights on the streams of the county are of exceptional value and command a high price. Water for domestic purposes

is found at depths varying from 35 feet to 260 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stock feeding, coal mining and manufacturing, the last named industry being confined largely to plants using the products of the farms. Irrigated and non-irrigated farming are commanding almost equal attention at the present time and in the unirrigated districts of the eastern part of the county and in the rich irrigated districts in the Johnstown and Fort Lupton sections dairying is commanding unusual attention. Stock feeding, including the fattening of lambs, cattle and hogs, is one of the chief industries of this district, as of others where the by-products from the manufacture of beet sugar are available. There are four sugar factories in the county, located at Windsor, Eaton, Greeley and Fort Lupton. Milk condenseries at Johnstown and Fort Lupton have proved satisfactory to the owners and to farmers, who have been enabled to add another cash crop, at the same time adding to the fertility of the soil. Vegetable canning factories located at Windsor, Greeley and Fort Lupton; pickle salting stations at various points in the county, and flour mills at Greeley, Eaton, Milliken, Johnstown and Fort Lupton conclude the list of industries dealing chiefly with farm products. Following the discovery of oil in Larimer county several tests were started in Weld county, but late in 1924 none of these had progressed far enough to justify a prediction of the outcome. The reports of experienced geologists, however, indicate some encouraging structures, particularly in the eastern part of the county, and it is expected that all of these structures will be tested thoroughly within the near future.

**Crops**—The principal crops are alfalfa, seed beans, wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbages and a wide variety of vegetables used for canning. On the unirrigated plains in the eastern part of the county, milo, kaffir, corn and other forage crops are raised extensively.

**Mineral Resources**—The mineral resources of the county are confined to clay, gravel, sand, stone and coal. The coal fields in the southwestern part of the county give employment to a large number of men.

**Land Values**—At the beginning of 1924, there was 2,253,376 acres of privately-owned land in the county or approximately 87 per cent of the total area. The records of the county as-

essor show that 354,084 acres of this was irrigated land, 8,262 acres was natural hay land, 850,250 acres was dry farming land, 1,014,101 acres was grazing land and the remainder productive and non-productive coal land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots. On January 1, 1924, there was approximately 166,883 acres of unappropriated state land in the county, including some good agricultural land and a considerable amount of grazing land, all of which may be purchased or leased through the State Land Board on reasonable terms. On July 1, 1923, there was 4,303 acres of government land in the county, most of which is of no value except for grazing purposes. Irrigated land sells here at from \$75 to \$300 an acre, depending principally upon the character of water rights and the nature and extent of improvements. Non-irrigated land sells at from \$15 to \$60 an acre.

**Transportation**—The Union Pacific, the Colorado & Southern, the Burlington and the Great Western, commonly known as the "Sugar Road," provide fairly adequate transportation facilities for the county. The Denver-Cheyenne line of the Union Pacific traverses the western part of the county from north to south; the Omaha branch leaves the Denver-Cheyenne line at La Salle and runs east along the valley of the Platte river. The main line of the Burlington crosses the southeast corner of the county, passing through Keenesburg and Roggen, while the Cheyenne branch of the Burlington furnishes transportation to the northeast section of the county, passing through Stoneham, New Raymer, Keota, Grover and other towns. The Great Western road is operated by the Great Western Sugar company for its own purposes and runs from Eaton to Longmont, in Boulder county, serving Johnstown and other important towns along the line. The Colorado & Southern branch extends from Greeley through Windsor into Larimer county. Another branch of the Union Pacific crosses the southwest corner of the county, running from Brighton, in Adams county, to Boulder.

**Highways**—Weld county has a more extensive highway system than any other county in the state. The principal state highway is the North and South road leading from Greeley, which is surfaced almost throughout the county. An East and West road connects with this at Greeley, running to Loveland and thence to Estes Park on the west and to Fort Morgan on

the east. This road is also surfaced through the county. There are several other well improved state highways and numerous county roads usually sufficiently improved to take care of the agricultural development of the county.

**Educational**—There are 220 public district schools in the county, employing 610 teachers. A complete high school course is given in the high schools at Greeley, Eaton, Ault, Pierce, Nunn, Windsor, Johnstown, Milliken, Erie, Frederick, Fort Lupton, Platteville, Gilcrest, Hudson, Kersey, New Raymer, Buckingham, Keota, Grover, Mead and Gill. Three years of high school work are given at Keenesburg, Prospect Valley, Kiowa (near Roggen), West Pawnee (near Grover), Briggsdale, Galeton, and Stoneham, and two years of high school work are given at Masters, Coleman (near Briggsdale) and Severance. There are consolidated schools at Windsor, Fort Lupton, Keenesburg, Ault, Pierce, Johnstown, Sligo, Milliken, Nunn, Masters, Hudson, Platteville, Mead, Erie, Grover, West Pawnee, Gill, New Raymer, Keota, Prospect Valley, Gilcrest, Kersey, Buckingham, Kiowa (near Roggen) and Frederick. The State Teachers' college is located at Greeley and is amply provided with grounds and buildings and all modern appliances for a school of this nature.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here, as in the adjoining counties, is equable and well suited to the agricultural pursuits which predominate in the county. The summers are comparatively long and the winters usually are not severe. The rainfall varies from 12 to 15 inches, and is generally uniform over the entire county.

**Tourist Attractions**—Except for the chalk bluffs in the northeast part of

the county, there is comparatively little of scenic interest to be seen, but the county is practically the gateway to many mountain resorts and thousands of people pass through every year en route to the resorts to be found at the high altitudes to the west. Well-kept tourist roads lead to the foothills from all parts of the county.

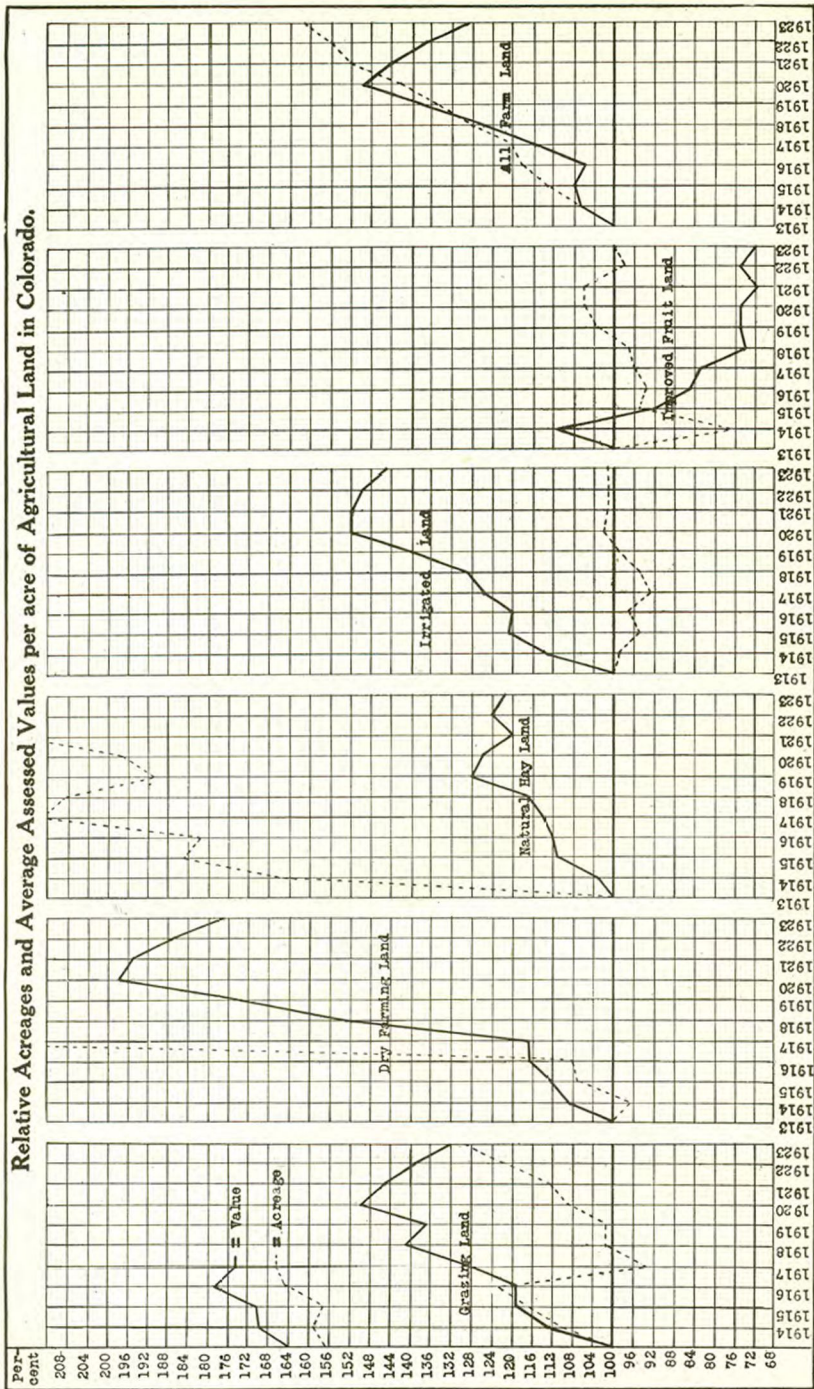
**Cities and Towns**—Greeley, the countyseat, is the largest city in the county, having a population of approximately 12,000. A number of other important cities in the county practically follow the lines of the railroads. Along the line of the Union Pacific the more important towns are Fort Lupton, Platteville, La Salle, Evans, Eaton, Ault, Pierce and Nunn. Windsor, on the Fort Collins branch of the Colorado & Southern, is in the center of an agricultural community. In the southeastern part of the county the principal towns are Hudson, Keenesburg and Roggen. Kersey and Kuner are prosperous towns on the Eastern line of the Union Pacific, and Briggsdale, Grover, Keota, Buckingham, New Raymer and Stoneham are the more important towns in the northeastern part of the county. In the southwestern part of the county Erie, Firestone, Frederick and Dacono are coal mining centers. Mead, Johnstown and Milliken are the principal towns in the intensively cultivated section southwest of Greeley.

**Special Opportunities**—Although agricultural development has arrived at a high stage in the larger part of the county, there are still large areas of land capable of production which are not now being cultivated. There are also some opportunities for the extension of irrigation, although these are essentially limited and must depend largely upon flood waters, as the ordinary flow of the South Platte and its tributaries is now being used.

**COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDS OUTSTANDING  
JANUARY 1, 1924**

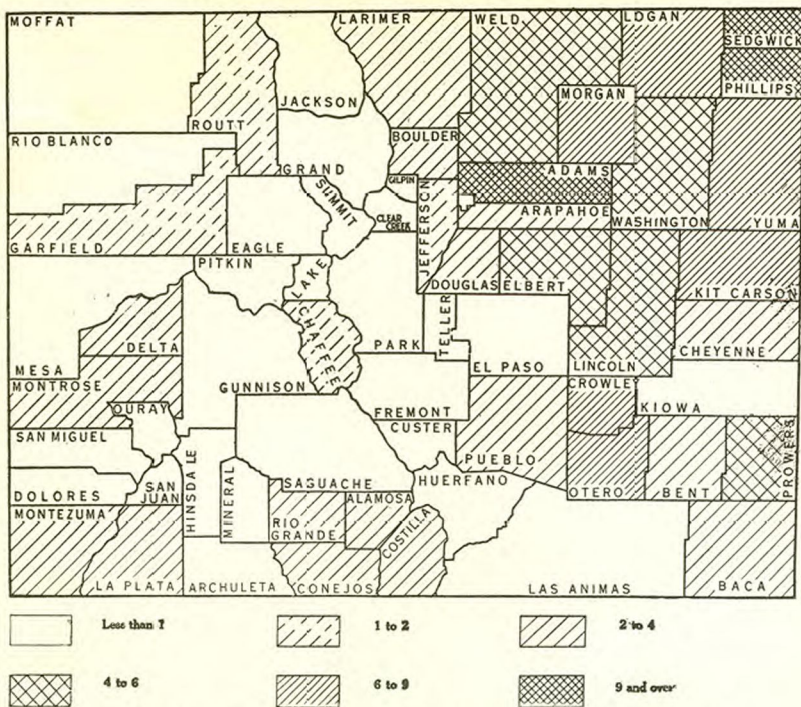
County	County Bonds	Municipal Bonds	School Bonds	Total
Adams .....	\$ .....	\$ 825,000	\$ 352,000	\$ 1,177,000
Arapahoe .....	.....	435,977	326,800	762,767
Boulder .....	.....	2,223,100	633,900	2,857,000
Clear Creek .....	.....	41,500	.....	41,500
Denver .....	.....	18,695,600	4,350,000	23,045,600
Douglas .....	.....	72,000	8,500	80,500
Gilpin .....	.....	88,000	.....	88,000
Jefferson .....	.....	612,315	418,200	1,030,515
Larimer .....	.....	1,084,557	760,000	1,844,557
Logan .....	109,000	1,332,500	563,000	2,004,500
Morgan .....	.....	808,619	374,900	1,183,519
Park .....	.....	.....	12,000	12,000
Weld .....	.....	468,700	360,000	828,700

### Relative Acreages and Average Assessed Values per acre of Agricultural Land in Colorado.

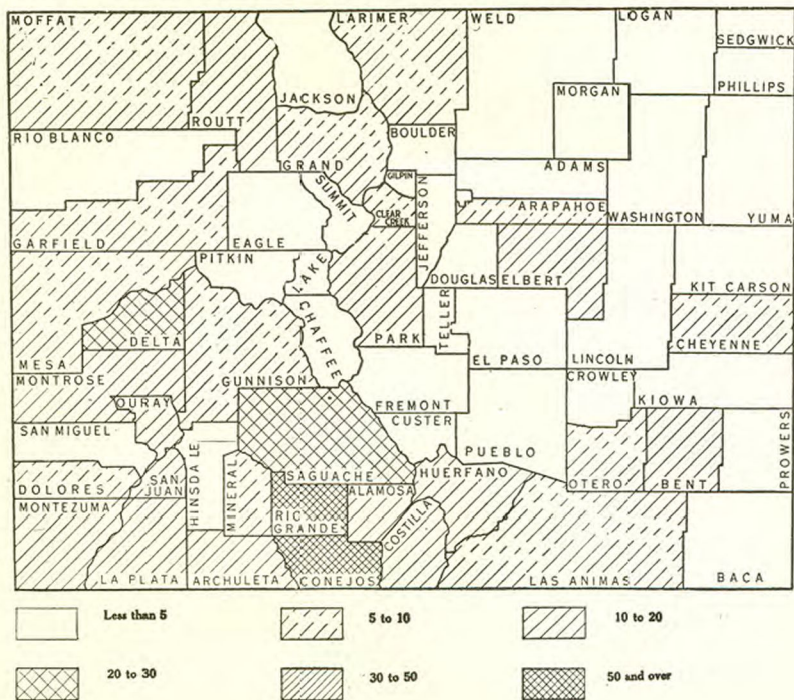


Note—The tabulations showing the acreages of the various classes of farm land reported by the assessors each year from 1913 to 1923 are indicated by the dotted lines in this chart, while the tabulation showing range in average assessed value from year to year for the same period is indicated by the solid 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 BEEF CATTLE PER SQUARE MILE OF AREA AS  
REPORTED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1923**

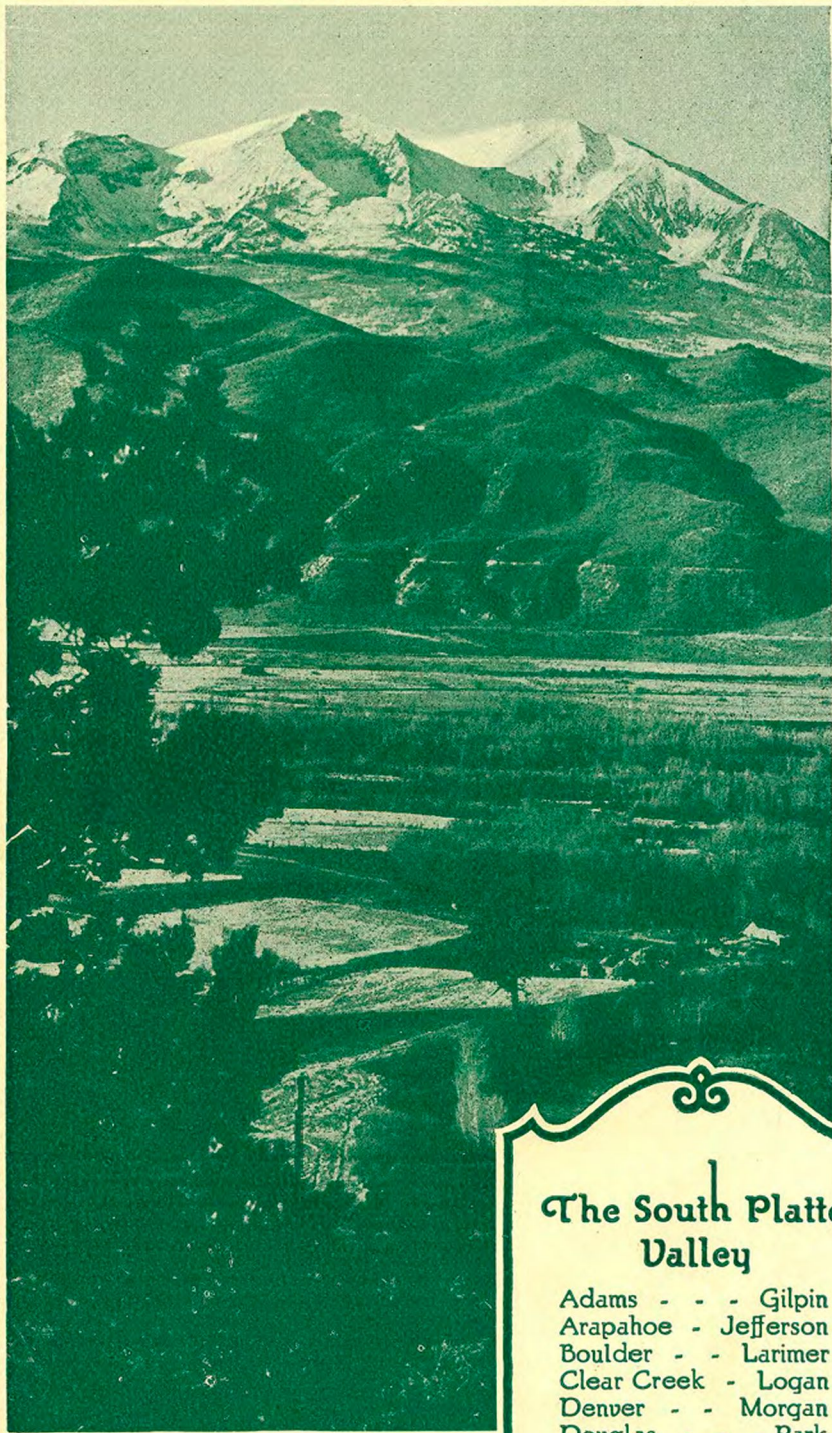


**NUMBER OF SWINE PER SQUARE MILE OF AREA AS  
REPORTED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1923**









## The South Platte Valley

Adams - - - Gilpin  
Arapahoe - - Jefferson  
Boulder - - Larimer  
Clear Creek - Logan  
Denver - - Morgan  
Douglas - - - Park  
Weld