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CHARLES M. BAIR. \*\*\*\*\*  
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**A**MONG the foremost of those who have been responsible for the advancement of Montana in C. M. Bair. Known from 1908 until 1913 as the largest individual owner of sheep in the United States, he has in many other ways gained unusual prominence throughout the northwest, and definite purpose has at all times marked his career. Broad of mind and public spirited, he has done much in many ways to forward the progress of the eastern section of the state.

He was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1857. The first 18 years of his life were spent on his father's farm. For the next four years he worked on a farm in Michigan and when 22 years old accepted a position with the Michigan Central railroad.

In another four years he was a conductor, accounted among the best on the line. In 1882 he resigned and came to Montana, obtaining a position as passenger conductor for the Northern Pacific, and for eight years made regular runs between Billings and Helena.

He resigned from the railroad in 1891 and devoted his entire attention to the stock business, making Billings his home. In 1898 he sold his

sheep, of which he had 25,000 head, and all his ranch interests, and invested in the invention of Louis E. Miller for ground thawing in the frozen placer mines of the Klondike. He took 10 of the machines with him to the Klondike in 1898 and installed them in the mines of that region, where they were successfully worked. Before he returned to Montana, he invested in rich mining property, which he disposed of in 1899, again purchasing sheep.

In 1888 Mr. Bair was married in Chicago to Miss Mary Jacobs of Jackson City, Mich. Two daughters, Marjorie and Alberta, were born.

Mr. Bair continued in the sheep business until this spring when he disposed of his stock and announced that hereafter he would devote his attention to his cattle, banking and land interests which he still retains in Montana, and to the development of large land holdings within 50 miles of Portland, Ore.

An idea of the size of Mr. Bair's sheep holdings may be gained from the fact that during 1913 and 1911 his wool clip amounted to 1,200,000 pounds each year.

Mr. Bair's permanent home is at Portland. His wife and daughters are now at the winter residence in Philadelphia, Alberta, the youngest daughter, is attending Bryn Mawr seminary near that city and will finish this year.

## Charles Bair: One of Billings Most Prominent

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