

Scraps
From the
Editorial
Wastebasket
Sifted From the Grist
By WILL AIKEN

The man who cannot talk expression "swarming up to his subject" may have had in his mind a picture of a fellow who sat down to write something on an extremely cold day and then proceeded to strain the type bars or the job mill as he pulled straight two every letter, expending energy in terms of tons, the letter to fend off the rigors of the climate the while the children of his brain disputed themselves on the same subject line. But the man who has lived in Billings long enough to imitate some of the spirit of the metropolis of the Mountain Empire—say a day, a day and a half or two days—needs no stimulant of acrobatics to help him warm up, as you will all agree. There is something in the atmosphere that keeps one rosy as is the glow of summer heat, and this is particularly true with regard to the subject of the Billings sugar factory and the importance of the sugar beet industry in this part of the state.

There is no smallest need of going into details and trying to put over a column of statistics in a column that wouldn't know a statistic if it met one climbing the Hiawack opposite the fairgrounds. You all know how many thousands of acres are planted to beets, how many thousands of tons are freighted into the factory, how many thousands of people are engaged in the industry directly or indirectly, just as you know that this year there has come to Billings the distinction of being the home of the sugar factory with the greatest output in all the wide world—which is a sweet morsel to roll under the tongue or run in the headlines. But it may easily be that a great many of you do not know what is now going to be set down for your reading. The leading beet producing firm in all the Billings district is that of Grimstad & Brown, composed of O. King Grimstad and Rielwood Brown, Billings lawyers. You know them, or know of them, of course, and perhaps you have read of General Grimstad and his little army of beet workers who, on a certain day near the close of the harvest, routed an army of laborers in the engagement that has come to be known locally as the Battle of the Pipe Line.

Well, the firm of Grimstad & Brown owns a large farm 40 or 50 miles east of Billings, and it shipped to the sugar factory in 1924 more beets than any other individual or company engaged in growing beets. Not only that, it was the heaviest shipper in 1923. And as if that were not distinction enough to satisfy "most anybody," it may be made known that they are among the owners of the largest sheep holdings in eastern Montana. To say nothing of being practicing attorneys who keep right on with their practice. Isn't it enough to make a fellow wish he had started out to be a lawyer instead of what he started out to be?

Grimstad / Brown Ranch is Largest Supplier of Biggest Sugar Beet Factory in World

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