

Resources Board Defines Problems

Two-Point Program Discussed at Meet

Helena, Nov. 21.—(AP)—The Montana resources planning board agreed Monday its major problems are to teach Montanans the value of their natural resources and to get lower freight rates for industry.

The board, created by the 1949 state legislature, met Monday to discuss these problems and plan recommendations for the 1951 legislature.

Committeemen agreed that fact-finding must precede any other action. Such facts, they said, should include taxes, capital, labor, advertising, distribution, freight rates and other matters important to industrial development.

One suggestion was that all resources be cataloged and reasons for lack of development be determined. A delegate suggested that rail freight rates are influential in keeping some industries from growing and asked a general investigation.

Representatives of several industries talked with the committee Monday. At the next session, water and soil development will be discussed, with Montana State college and the state water conservation board supplying information.

Manager G. J. Skibbins of the Montana Chamber of Commerce described unsuccessful efforts of the disbanded Rocky Mountain Wool council to get wool processing plants for Montana. He said development involves many economic forces which combine to retard or advance industry.

Acquainting Montanans with development possibilities is an important as trying to bring outsiders into the state, Skibbins went on. Small industries should be developed to thrive on local markets now existing, he added.

Conferees included President James D. Graham of the Montana Federation of Labor, the state advertising director, Albert Erickson, and Rockwood Brown of Billings and T. J. Sullivan of Butte, board members.

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