

### REALTORS IN FAVOR OF OIL REFINERY IN BILLINGS

The Billings real estate board is directing its forces toward the establishment of an oil refinery in Billings. The city is most favorably located between the oil fields of this state and northern Wyoming and has the shipping facilities which made the foundation for a refinery secure, according to the attitude adopted by the realty men. When the plans and purposes of the Montana Refining company, formed of local men, was presented before the board at this week's meeting, hearty endorsement and pledges of support were readily accorded.

It is pointed out by members of the board that conservative oil journals for months have recognized the great future of oil production in this section, that the wells brought in during the last spring and summer have established the confidence of the oil men who know the business, and that the Winnett field for some time has been shipping its oil to the refineries of Greybull, Wyo., and Regina, Can.

Rockwood Brown, secretary treasurer of the Montana Refining company, of which the other directors are Rudolph Molt and E. K. Winne, presented the plans of that organization before the board members.

At present the development of the oil fields and the production of oil in Montana is being held back by lack of a refinery, it was said. Both real estate men and representatives of the refining company agreed in the discussion that an oil refinery here would enhance the value of property, increase business and prove a benefit to everybody. It was said that the building of the refinery would not only stimulate the production of oil in adjacent fields, but would result in the opening of many new fields and the thorough testing of many unproven areas in this part of the state.

Pipelines now in operation have not sufficient capacity to care for the output of present wells, it was said, and as more wells are brought in the need for a refinery here steadily grows. That it is poor business to ship crude oil out of the state and then ship gasoline and other refined products back, adding the cost of freight both ways, was cited in the discussion.

"It is time for the business men and citizens of Billings to awaken to the fact that Montana is destined to be one of the great oil producing states," said President J. L. Alford of the real estate board, "and now is the time for Billings to come to the front and make this the largest refining center in the northwest. We have the oil, the railroads, and this is the logical place to pipe the oil, as it will have a gravity flow from most of the fields."

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