

"Report of Investigation of Sanitary Condition in Mines, and of the Conditions under Which the Miners Live in Silver Bow County," 1908–1912

This investigation was undertaken to determine, if possible, the source of the high death rate from tuberculosis in Silver Bow County. . . . In this work 438 house with 1,418 rooms and 2,949 occupants were inspected. In the detailed report we mentioned only . . . places . . . found to be in an insanitary condition.

No 22 Corra Terrace: 4 people one bed room, 272 cubic feet air space to each person, toilet outside, sewage disposed of in Cess Pool, own cow, never disinfected, very dirty house, cow pen at back door, many flies, no screens, pipes in sink leaking water dripping from side of house. . . .

No.137 East Daly: one room one bed room, 980 cubic feet air space, toilet outside, sewage disposed of into street, don't use milk, never disinfected, one tuberculosis April 1912. Very dirty and filthy place, bad odor, woman very unclean and stated had running sores on her hips, her face and hands were covered with pimples, no garbage can and slops . . . thrown into street.

No 21 Plum St.: conditions in vacant half block adjacent to this place is very insanitary, people in streets above, keep hogs and cows, slops and refuse are thrown into alley, rain washes it down into flat where it lodges in an old cellar on flat, close to 21 Plum St., no drainage from this

hole and water stands in it until dried up by the sun, cats are drowned here and dead animals are thrown into this hole, people are compelled to keep windows and doors closed on account of the odor from this place. . . .

Mullin St.: Pile of decayed meat in alley near butcher shop. Refuse thrown on street in front of Mullin House. This part of the street is flat and very little drainage. Refuse from Wells and Center Streets washes down and become stagnant here. Some of the people have cows and the manure is very much in evidence. . . .

Ohio St., Hopkins St., New St., Mahoney St.: This Section is what is known as the "Cabbage Patch" and is too filthy to describe. Found but one garbage can covered, many of the garbage cans on the sidewalks and in streets. Houses small, poorly ventilated, alleys filthy. Dead dog found in alley and judging from odor believe had been dead three or four days. Understand many miners live [here] on account of the cheap rent. . . .

Source: *Silver Bow County (Mont.) Sanitary Conditions Report, 1908–1912. Small Collection 89.* Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 193.