

Pulse of Western Progress.

Judging from what has so far developed, one of the richest mineral strikes made in these mountains for many years has been located on Mount Shavano, northwest of this place some fifteen miles, at the head of Brown's creek, says a Salda special to the Denver Republican.

The discovery was kept quiet and the prospecting continued. Careful assays showed that some of the mineral would run \$200 in silver, to say nothing of the gold, lead and copper.

Mr. McKelevy immediately proceeded to take up three claims, each below the other, in order to give him access from the basin below and to furnish timber for working the mine.

Then the secret leaked out and a rush of prospectors began to pour into the mountains full of men searching for the hidden treasure.

A capitalist from Leadville, representing a mining company, accompanied by some mining experts, went to the basin to make a proposition to buy the claim outright.

The offer being refused he offered to bond the claim. On being again refused he offered to buy the claim for \$100,000.

Mr. McKelevy is a blacksmith and as a side issue has been prospecting for sixteen years, and has never made a find out success.

He is well as everybody else who has visited the new claim, is confident that one of the richest deposits of mineral ever discovered in this section is now ready to be developed.

A ONE-TRACK RAILROAD. In speaking of the project of building a bicycle railroad from San Francisco to Pescadero, the intention being to ultimately connect to Santa Cruz, S. W. Bugbee of Oakland, who is one of the projectors, speaking to a reporter on the Santa Cruz Sentinel, said:

"The bicycle railway is a decided novelty, though not entirely new. The principle feature is a single rail and a single set of wheels under the cars, exactly like a bicycle. It is claimed that this reduces the cost of construction of a line of this kind to one-third that of a road of the ordinary gauge and through country where even a narrow gauge road is impossible.

"This road is the experiment. It has been tried at Belfast, Long Island and at Coney Island. At the latter place it has been running two years and has carried 27,000 people and has never had an accident or injured a person.

"The plan is perfectly practical and can be adapted to either freight or passengers. It is the only one of the kind made on wheels with perfect safety, and the road can be constructed for less than half the cost of an ordinary steam road.

"Our proposition is to build the road from Pescadero and develop some of this section of the country. There are great resources there now, but there is no way of developing them. The people of Pescadero have been promised a railroad many times, but all proposals have failed. We now propose to give it to them if they want it. The people seem anxious for the road. Some of the larger landholders have made us flattering offers of aid and a public meeting has been called in Pescadero to discuss the matter.

"We are going to make it a people's road, and we want them to take hold and show an active interest in the road. We can enhance the value of their lands and put the lumber, dairy produce and garden produce of that section on the San Francisco market if they desire us to.

"The bicycle has come to stay, and so has the bicycle railroad. Once established the value of the one-track road will be seen and it will be extended all over the state, where ordinary steam roads cannot go.

A WITING MOUNTAIN REGION. When the returns of the three mill runs running respectively 1,100, 1,300 and 2,400 ounces silver to the ton were received in camp a keener excitement prevailed than has yet been known. The 100 or more recent arrivals caught the excitement, and the scrambling about the hills for locations was like the usual race for fortunes, says a Columbine camp correspondent to the Denver News.

To state the population of the camp with any degree of accuracy at this date is impossible, as the hills, covering a territory of perhaps 5,000 miles, are dotted with various and numerous camps. The largest camp now known as Columbine has a population of about 175. A daily stage line is now running from Hahn's peak, making connections with the Whipple & Shaw line to Stemsboro Springs and there with the Southwestern line to Wolcott, the Denver & Rio Grande railroad. The passenger traffic has increased so that now three outfits are kept on the through route. Preparations are being made for the erection of a lodging house, stable, etc. The report which seems to circulate with greatest vigor at a distance of many miles from camp—that free gold has been found—is, from the best that can be learned, a fabrication. All of the ore which is being assayed carries a small amount of gold per ton—from \$1.20 to \$8.50.

Gold in amounts of high assay is, however, found on the south and east sides of Hahn's peak, but this, the northwestern slope of the peak, has not yet shown up any gold strikes worthy of mention. An assay received at Hahn's peak runs 5,000 ounces in silver, and the owners of the claim from which the assay was taken, the Hidden Treasure lode—are now sacking ore of this class, of which a ton will be shipped the latter part of the month. There are now three different varieties of mineral found, all running in silver—a quartz carrying sulphurates and brittle silver, running as high as 2,300 ounces; a chloride and silver glance, assaying 2,800 ounces silver, and one greatly resembling the carbonates of Leadville. The latter has not yet been assayed, but mortaring and panning brings out many curios.

WYOMING WONDERS. Ed Drummond, who has been cutting cedar posts near Thermopoles, came upon some very peculiar drawings on rock, says the Laramie Republican. In the pictures the largest animal, bird, spirit or whatever it is, is taller than a man can reach standing on the most convenient rock. The "great spirit" stands with its back to the audience, cranes its head to the right and while watching the crowd with its single eye, swallows a little forked-tail, man-headed serpent. Close beneath the protruding edge of the "great spirit" are two buffaloes; one with head and tail up, is galloping away, while the other is apparently watching the swallowing process. Close behind the running buffaloes is what may easily be imagined to be an Indian on horseback, but it is a very poor representation. There are other pictures of animals and reptiles hard to decipher, but nevertheless curious.

W. H. Reed returned home last evening from the place known as the fossil bone region, just above Steamboat Springs. Mr. Reed made the expedition in search of curiosities for the university museum, and he is highly elated over his success. He discovered a number of valuable relics of past ages, among which were the bones of a dinosaur, an extinct reptile, which, in size, ranged from sixty-five to ninety feet in length.

A large number of graptolite fossils were also found, which will prove a valuable addition to the collection at the museum.

It has been ascertained that the saurian recently found by Prof. Knight, Mr. Reed and Prof. Williams during their trip to Manitouville is one of the rarest fossil specimens in the world. In fact, it is stated that it is

the only specimen of the kind known, save one which is in the Peabody museum. There are none like it in the museums of Europe.

NORTH DAKOTA SILK. A large green, golden spotted worm is eating the foliage of the boxelder trees in the Blinnack schoolhouse grounds and playing havoc with excelsior on the slope generally, says a Blinnack special to the Minneapolis Tribune. Noting that the worm spun a cocoon of unusually strong texture, Ed Sloan, the school house janitor, sent a cocoon to an eastern friend, who is a silk weaver, with the request that he investigate its worth for cloth making.

The cocoon was sent to Washington, D. C., for "analysis," and what now is deemed a pest may turn out a blessing.

MAMMOTH CHICKEN RANCH. There is soon to be established in the vicinity of San Francisco a poultry farm, says the San Francisco Chronicle, which will be calculated to put upon the market 90,000 broilers and 2,000,000 eggs annually.

The industry is to be conducted by a company known as the California Poultry Company. Among the incorporators are William McCracken of 9 Lark Place, Homer Saxe, a fancy livestock dealer, and J. A. Finch of Washington, D. C., who recently came to the coast to engage in business. He will be general manager of the company, which will have a capital stock of \$25,000.

The farm, which is to be located near Petaluma or Napa, will begin operations November 1, and the first chickens will be put on the market in January. Each year a second and third year, when the full capacity of the plant is reached, 90,000 chickens will be marketed.

The rest of the new industry will consist of an incubator house 20x34 feet, from either side of which will extend a wing 9x125 feet, which will be the hatcher house, and a feed and store house 28x50 feet and two stories high. The rest of the farm, which is to be of forty acres, will be devoted to breeding houses and pens for the fowls which lay the eggs for the incubator and for the market.

The breeding pens, in which are kept solely the hens which lay the eggs for the incubator, will be 18x700 feet, divided into sections 18x29, with an out-of-door court 20x 200 feet.

The building will occupy about a quarter of the acre, the balance being taken up by the main buildings, and the rest will be devoted to pens and courts similar to the breeding pens, in which the fowls which lay for the market will be kept. Each pen will accommodate thirty hens, making a total of 900 laying for the market. These latter, as stated, furnish an output of 2,000,000 eggs annually.

The eggs are to be hatched in two mammoth incubators of a capacity of 2,040 eggs each.

The organizers of the company believe the industry will develop enormous proportions within a year.

WOOL IN NORTH DAKOTA. If the raising of wool in North Dakota increases in the future as it has in the past five years, the state will be one of the most important wool producers in the world, says a Blinnack special to the Minneapolis Tribune. The great increase in production in the past few years has been remarkable, and the wool which has been raised has been built up from almost nothing is surprising.

Four or five years ago sheep along the Missouri slope were the exception rather than the rule, now they are the norm. There are numerous ranches in Blinnack a wool market has been built up from practically nothing to a sale of 175,000 to 200,000 pounds of wool during the present year. An accurate estimate of the clip from Jamestown to Dickinson, the figures of which are furnished by those who are in a position to compute the amount bought at each station, is as follows: Jamestown, 80,000 pounds; Steele, 50,000 pounds; Blinnack, 175,000 pounds; Mandan, 250,000 pounds; Glen Ulen, 150,000 pounds; Hebron, 80,000 pounds; New Salem, 20,000 pounds; Sisseton, 10,000 pounds; Dickinson, 200,000 pounds; total, 1,115,000 pounds.

The wool has averaged 10 cents throughout the whole clip, and the amount of money which has been received for it, therefore, reach about \$110,000. This, it may be reckoned, is almost a total gain for the slope, since it has been raised without any interference with or lossening of other industries.

AN ALASKA ROMANCE. Juneau, Alaska, has a Russian romance, of what it fully expects will develop into a romance, and it is almost as interesting a subject for discussion as the gold fields says the St. Paul Pioneer-Press. When Count de Lanesau, a young Russian, visited Juneau eight years ago he was 22 years old.

He followed the example of other visitors before him. He took an Alaskan maiden as his housekeeper. She was attractive in appearance and affectionate in disposition. Her name, Lucy, was born to them, and the young count was devoted to her. He was satisfied with his housekeeper and very fond of her. He bought a lot of land in Juneau, in Alaska and enjoy his new possessions.

The count conceived the idea of building a castle on Point Lookout, overlooking the town, and set men at work felling trees and building the foundation. A cyclone came along and blew the men and the lumber off Point Lookout, and the count changed his plans. He bought a lot of land in the plateau valley below, and set a gang of men at work clearing it. After he had spent several thousand dollars in the preliminary work his father ordered him to return to Russia, before leaving he deeded over ten lots in Juneau, three lots in Douglas City and a cannery site at Cape Farntaw to his daughter, Grace.

The count said goodbye to his Alaskan family and left his daughter in the care of Frank Starr of the count's return to Russia his father has died, and he is now in possession of large estates. Frank Starr is now in correspondence with him, and he believes the count will provide generously for his daughter. So it is among the possibilities that this waif in time may become a heiress and a young woman of some importance, in Russia as well as in Alaska.

NEBRASKA. North Loup is at present doing business without a bank.

Six Red Cloud wheelmen started from Red Cloud to Denver.

The ninth annual session of the Long Pine Chautauqua begins July 25.

The water power of the Erieon irrigating canal will furnish 150-horse power.

A telephone line to connect the cities of Norfolk and Pierce is talked of.

The First State bank of Arapahoe has been merged into the Arapahoe State bank.

At a meeting of the representatives of Pierce's creditors held at the Leavenworth Bridge company, was practically determined to build a bridge across the Missouri at Yankton. All the preliminary work has been done, and if orders are given to proceed with the work, the bridge will be completed in sixty days. The estimated cost of the structure is \$250,000, and is to be independent of the Yankton & Norfolk railroad bridge, which will also be completed at once.

A great deal of apprehension exists in and outside this state in regard to the present status of the North Dakota game laws. The shooting season is about to begin. The strong feeling of compliance and revised laws, as passed at the last session of the legislature, will not go into effect until some time next winter.

COLOREADO. The Blue Bird, Cripple Creek, is producing some good ore these days. The first case is reported to be 100 tons of ore.

A discovery of gold on Willow creek, about seven miles north of Como, is reported, and many prospectors are now in the district.

The management of the American Flag mine, Gilpin county, has just encountered a four-foot vein of lead ore in the 600-foot level of the mine, which looks very promising.

Late arrivals from West Dakota announce that a big strike of rich ore has been made by the mine, which is beginning to present a fine appearance to its owners, free gold having been found in some of the ore.

Prospecting in the lower Farwell district has been going on for some time. A fine vein of silver was discovered just after the 4th and since that time a great number of prospectors have gone to that district. Old-timers are beginning to believe that the camp will be permanent.

It is believed that the work of the government surveying party now at Colorado Springs will disclose an error in the reckoning made by the Kansas Pacific survey of the elevation in this locality, and that the altitude of Pike's peak will be proven to be 10,947 1/2 feet, a gain of over 1,000 feet.

WYOMING. In the last strike of ore at the Cooper Hill mine the assays showed \$49 to the ton in gold and silver.

Returns of the ore taken from the Hazen mine, recently opened up near Douglas, give returns of \$1,500 to the ton.

The creamery recently started at Wyoming, near Laramie, is in full blast and turning out several hundred pounds per week.

A strike of rich ore was made on the Golden Summit mine, says the Newcastle Journal. An assay made by Messrs Lyon gave returns of \$245 per ton.

Much interest is being manifested in the Hartley strike, and it is said negotiations are pending with eastern investors, who will shortly visit Hartville to complete their investigations.

A party of young people from Lander went over to the Indian agency to see the Indians perform the wolf dance. Chief Sharp Nose charged them each 25 cents, saying: "When you go to white man show, he pay; when white man go to Indian show, he pay, too."

An application for 4,000 acres has been made by a Fort Bridger company for land in the Black Fork river in Utah county. An application for 10,000 acres along the same stream will be filed by the Black Fork Canal company.

The Alpha canal, composed of Papillon, Neb., company, is reclaiming 10,000 acres of land under the United States laws, in the Big Horn region, and has a colony of Nebraska prospectors ready to settle on its land as soon as work on its water system is completed.

Over 3,000 acres of placer ground has been staked off this spring near the mouth of Crystal creek, a tributary to the Gros Ventre, in the Jackson Hole country, says the Gazette. The 100 miners and prospectors are in the country, and rumor says that every pan of dirt thus far worked has shown fine colors, and the prospects for a permanent camp are good.

A clean-up was made by some Laramie parties on their placer workings in the Douglas creek district and shows an average of over 200 dollars per ton of ore. Messrs. Wolcott and Story brothers and were worked by two men. This is the second clean-up this season, the first producing \$7,500 in gold.

A powerful gas well has been discovered in the country some five miles from Douglas. The escape of gas is natural and comes from the ground with a roaring noise through an orifice which is three or four feet wide at the top. The sheep herder who found it approached the hole to see what it was, and was knocked senseless in a moment, but regained consciousness on being taken out of the gas.

The city of Laramie will shortly begin the construction of a new and complete water system. Bonds to the amount of \$40,000, which will be taken by the local bankers and capitalists, will be issued at once, and the work of construction will be finished before winter. The water supply will be obtained from springs two miles east of this city, and the pressure will be obtained by gravity, the fall being over 125 feet.

OREGON. The Siletz reservation is to be opened July 25.

A single firm at Burns shipped about 500,000 pounds of wool to the railroad this year.

Several new trails are being cut in the vicinity of Harney, but only seemed to make them livelier.

The farmers of the Allier slope are making arrangements for digging an irrigating ditch from the canyon, near the mouth of the canyon. The ditch, it is estimated, will ditch 100,000 acres.

The police authorities of Pendleton recently arrested three men as vagrants, who, after being held for some time, were brought to trial before the recorder, declared that they were vagrants on their way from Spokane to fill an engagement. The recorder had a space in the room cleared, and after enjoying an hour of some of the finest

tumbling ever produced on circus boards, concluded the claim of the men was established, and let them go on their way.

The Pendleton ensuring mill has received to date 2,463,886 pounds of wool, of which 2,006,306 were brought in by railway, and 457,580 by team.

It is alleged recently found a large stone knife while spading in his garden on his ranch near Nehalem. The knife is about fourteen inches long, and is supposed to have belonged to a prehistoric man.

The irrigation ditch near Ontario, which is to be twelve miles in length and cover 10,000 acres, is nearly completed, and one lateral is already built. The main ditch is fifteen feet at the bottom, twenty-five feet at the top and five feet deep.

A child of Mr. Dallas, who is camping on Wilson river, came near being captured by a cougar the other day. The animal was discovered just as it was about to spring, by the mother of the child, who threw stones at the brute and drove it away.

A large cave was discovered and partially explored recently by James Dillman, James Pickett, and Jim Jones beyond the lava on the road leading to Big Meadows, Ore., on the Deschutes. The party explored the cave for a distance of four miles.

Birds are said to be busy destroying the fruit of the Malheur river and on Willow creek. It is said that as great is the destruction that the cricket pest which recently visited these sections of country could not be compared with the birds.

A number of enterprising young men are endeavoring to make a large body of unutilized land northwest of Milton "blossom as the rose" by utilizing subterranean water, which will be raised to the surface by means of large pumps propelled by steam or gasoline power.

Oregon contains more than 25,000,000 acres of arable land. The Willamette valley alone contains 5,000,000 acres. Over 10,000,000 or about one-sixth of the whole state is covered with forests, the balance of the state being mountain, grazing and desert lands, the latter of which can nearly all be made highly productive by irrigation.

The Conley farm, in the Grand Ronde valley, will not have a first class yield this year, but a better one than last. There are 4,000 acres in wheat, 600 acres of which have been damaged by grasshoppers; 900 acres will give good crop and 2,500 acres will yield probably twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre. It is estimated that from the present outlook the Conley farm will turn out a total of 70,000 to 75,000 bushels of wheat this year.

WASHINGTON. A Seattle firm sent seven tons of bottled beer to Hongkong.

Spokane mining brokers are endeavoring to have a mining auction held in that city some time in October.

A fine elk was seen quietly grazing with a band of cattle near Elma, not long ago. His elkship was killed the next day by Elma hunters.

The Washington reports that 100 tons of giant powder were discovered under a sidewalk in Hoquiam, near the business part of town, recently.

Lake Washington loggers have orders for 6,000,000 feet of logs of which 5,000,000 are going to up-land mills, and 1,000,000 are for the Bellingham Bay Improvement company's mill.

Bliss Canyon coal will be used by the Great Northern Railroad company on the Cascade division. This, in conjunction with the contract awarded by the United States government for 3,000 tons a month, will necessitate an increase of operatives from eighty to 100 men.

Persons returning from the Okanogan country confirm the report that an Indian child had been eaten by a bear a few days ago, says the Wilbur Register. It seems that a squaw residing just below the Indian school on the Okanogan river had left her papoose, while she went to the customary manner leaning against a tree while she went to the river to do some washing. When she returned she found several head of hogs fighting over the remains of her child. The hogs

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