

NEWS OF THE ARMY POSITS

New Commandant for Fort Riley Assumes Charge.

TO BUILD ANOTHER GUARDHOUSE

Maneuvers Will Begin at Kansas Fort Middle of August—Rejoicing Over New Pay Schedule.

PORT RILEY, Kan., May 7.—(Special.)—Brigadier General J. R. Kerr, United States army, the post's new commandant arrived here on Tuesday afternoon, May 6, and assumed the command of the post. He was met at the station by Colonel F. K. Ward, seventh cavalry, who had been in command, with his staff, Troops L and M of the Seventh cavalry band acted as an escort. The usual salute was fired by Battery B, Sixth artillery. Following the furnishing of his quarters General Kerr is the guest of Colonel and Mrs. Ward. General Kerr's family will follow him later on.

Instructions were received by Captain W. M. Whitman, quartermaster, from the quartermaster general to advise for bids for the construction of a new guard house in the artillery post. The past year all summary court offenders have been sent to the cavalry guard house for confinement. The new structure will have accommodations for over 500 prisoners and will be located east of the new barracks. As the funds for the building are taken from the appropriation for the current year the work must be started before July 1.

Two more large buildings are slated to go up at this post in the coming fiscal year. The necessary funds being included in the appropriation bill. One is a ball for the artillery post. It is the largest structure of its kind in the United States. It is to be built on a hill which will be 175,000 feet and this will be clear of any supporting pillars. The immense roof will be supported by a series of arches which will rest on large stone foundations. The ball will permit of the maneuvering of a battery of field artillery. The other building is a double barracks for two companies of the signal corps. This building will really mean the beginning of the carrying out of the brigade post plans for Fort Riley. The riding hall will cost about \$150,000 to build and the cavalry barracks \$250,000. When this work shall have commenced the amount of construction at this post will be \$1,000,000.

The maneuvers at Fort Riley will begin about August 15, instead of September 1, according to the new schedule. The post headquarters, the troops from Fort Crook and Fort Omaha will begin their march to this post in the latter part of July while the troops from Fort Leavenworth will start the first week in August. The Fort Des Moines troops will start about the last week in July to make their long march. The setting forward of the date of the commencing of the maneuvers is necessary in order that the troops to be assembled here may leave by September 15 for St. Joseph, Mo., for the military tournament which is scheduled for the week of September 21.

Troops A, B, C, D, I and K of the Seventh cavalry, have gone into camp on the national target range for their annual target practice. Since the beginning of the war few days have been so wet that shooting was out of the question. Troops G and H of the same regiment will follow the other troops on the range. The batteries are also leaving for the target range. There was great rejoicing in the post when the news that the senate and house committees had come to an agreement on the army pay bill. The telegrams announcing the good news were received about 3:30 o'clock in the evening and a little over half an hour the bands of the Sixth field artillery and of the Seventh cavalry were marching about the garrison playing and singing in the cheering of officers and their families and the enlisted men. Later in the evening the officers assembled at the club where a jolly celebration took place. Plans have been made for a masquerade ball to follow the passing and signing of the bill.

The first battalion of the Sixth field artillery made a night march on the reservation Monday night and every organization succeeded in getting lost some time during the hours of darkness. The organizations left their respective batteries at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. In taking up positions and laying lines of communication the darkness, officers and men lost their organizations while the batteries had to feel their way over the reservation's ever varying terrain. Some of the men were unable to find their organizations and came into the post at all hours of the night. The organizations returned shortly before 2 o'clock in the morning. Sergeant Davis of Battery C and Dr. H. M. H. were badly bruised during the night's maneuver.

Arrangements are being made for an outdoor athletic meet to be held at the post athletic park on Friday, May 25. Lieutenant Brown, and Kerr, seventh cavalry and Riley of the Sixth field artillery, compose a board of officers which is preparing a program of events. This will be the first outdoor meet at this post for several years.

For the last few days many season guns have been going through the post over the Union Pacific for the forts in the Puget Sound district. They are destined to Portland and were of the mortar variety.

polo playing is now a serious factor in the training of the officer in the mounted service school at this post. Dummy horses have been made and officers mount them with their hands in their pockets. They probably learn their use and acquire a free and easy seat in the saddle. Hours are assigned for playing the game and officers attend as in other military duty.

Fort Crook, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—Major W. F. Blauvelt, sixteenth infantry, who has been detailed for service and to fill a vacancy in the pay department, left the post on the 4th instant for his new post at Kansas City, Mo. Major Blauvelt and his wife, who are visiting at Fort Robinson, Neb., will join the major at his new station in a short time. Major Blauvelt's severance from the regiment is very much regretted by the officers and enlisted men with whom he has served during the last three years.

The military tournament at St. Joseph, Mo., will probably be held from the 21st to the 28th of September. It will include the troops that take part in the Fort Riley maneuvers from Forts Riley, Leavenworth, Crook, Omaha and Des Moines. It will include ten troops of cavalry from Fort Des Moines, ten troops of cavalry from Fort Riley, three troops of cavalry from Fort Leavenworth, six batteries of field artillery from Fort Riley, two sections of mountain artillery from Fort Des Moines, twelve companies of infantry from Fort Leavenworth, six companies of infantry from Fort Crook, a detachment of Signal Corps from Fort Omaha and engineers from Fort Leavenworth. It is possible that the maneuvers contemplated at Fort Riley in September may be changed to an earlier date.

Contract Surgeon C. W. McMillan, Fort Crook; Dr. A. J. Davis, Fairfax, S. D., and Dr. R. S. Hart of Omaha have reported to Captain Van Cusen, assistant surgeon at this post, for examination for appointment as assistant surgeons in the army. The examination will take place at St. Joseph, Mo., on the 15th inst.

First Lieutenant O. E. Michaels, sixteenth infantry, the post athletic director, who has taken a great interest in athletics and manager of the post baseball team, has made arrangements for a grand ball to be given in the post ball hall this evening. The ball, inasmuch as the proceeds of which will go to the ball team, arrangements have been made for at least 80 people. It will be held in the ball hall at 8 o'clock. It will be led by military officials, there will be a band concert by the sixteenth infantry band from 1:30 to 4:30. Contingents from Fort Omaha and department headquarters will be present. This ball will be especially decorated for the occasion and there will be refreshments. Special cars each way before and after the dance. White-tie dress is required. There will be a dance music and has been enlarged for it as a special occasion. Admission 50 cents. Ladies free.

The entertainment with the talking machine given in the post ball Wednesday evening by Chaplain Hillman, sixteenth infantry, was largely attended by the officers and enlisted men of the post, as well as many from surrounding places. There will be a wrestling match in the post hall on the evening of May 11 between P. J. Rooney of Omaha and Harry Mulholland of Boston. There will be a five-round boxing bout preliminary, also an open challenge to any soldier in the post in wrestling or boxing, which in all probability will be accepted by some of the sports along that line. Reserved seats 50 cents and general admission 25 cents.

Frank Miller, who resides in the vicinity of the post, was pinched a few days ago for doing a wholesale business in the pur-

chasing of clothing, etc., from enlisted men. He was fined \$100 on Saturday, May 9, he was tried in Papillon for running a sawn ship without a license. First Lieutenant Michaels, sixteenth infantry, who caused his arrest and who took out a search warrant for his place, is prosecuting the case in the federal court.

Reminiscences of the Early Days of California Gold Mining.

BIG POCKETS OF YELLOW METAL

Remarkable Finds in River Beds and Foothills—Nuggets that Netted Owners a Modest Fortune.

There is nothing more fascinating in early California history than the story of the finding of immensely rich pockets of deposits, which, in the quality and value of their yield, partook of the marvelous. To be sure, every river, gulch and ravine was rich digging, and an ounce per day was commonplace. There were creeks that paid a dollar to the square inch and gravel deposits in some of the flats where \$100 to the pan was not altogether out of the common; but this was in general distribution and did not excite more than ordinary interest. Occasionally, however, a deposit would be discovered which would contain many quantities of the precious metal as would exceed in value the wildest dreams of avarice; pure, virgin gold in such an abundance as to set the community wild with excitement, the traditions of which still linger.

The question has been asked, which among the many finds in immediate returns had the richest value? Each of the foothill mining counties has absorbing tales of some particular spot from which enormous quantities of the yellow metal have been extracted, and it is a fact that pockets containing from \$2,000 to \$50,000 or more were found in each of them. These are the men who claim that they only attracted passing notice. It was only when the \$100,000 mark was passed that the deposit acquired general notoriety, and this only when the gold was so concentrated that it did not require more than a few days to extract it.

Richest of Its Class.

Without doubt the old Morgan mine on the summit of Carson, Nev., was the richest ever found in the state, or the world, for that matter. Its discovery was made in 1851 by a man named Hance. He was not looking for gold, but was on a Sunday hunting expedition, and had climbed the hill in pursuit of quail. At the time he was working on a small plot of ground a bar of the Stanislaus river, near the locality afterward made famous by Bret Harte, and named by him "Sandy Bar." Hance had shot into a covey of birds and was searching for a dead one that he had noted fall into a thicket of dense chaparral.

While crawling on his hands and knees under a bush he saw a piece of quartz veined with gold, a chunk as big as his head. Naturally he forgot all about quail or other game and began a search for other nuggets. They were there in profusion, not only intermingled with quartz, but also in slabs. Hance said that he loaded a game bag, filled it with nuggets, and then went away in the breast of his shirt, and then made haste to join his partners and inform them of his good luck. It was calculated that he packed back to the cabin about sixty pounds, valued at over \$1,000. The partners were astonished at the good fortune of their extent, but they lost no time in returning to the place and formally staking it out under the mining laws in force. It was related by Mr. Morgan, whose name was given as a title to it, that they took back to their shanty that night over \$50,000 worth of gold, and this off the surface. They did their best to keep the discovery secret, but in a few days it leaked out and the country went wild. Thousands of miners flocked to the place from every direction, and in a month the whole country round was staked out. Hance's original discovery, Morgan afterward stated that inside the week they were uninterrupted they extracted \$40,000, proved by the fact that they carried to Columbia and deposited that amount in the express office.

Handsome Clean-Up.

They had stumbled on an eroded quartz vein, worn down and oxidized by the elements. By the time they had cleaned up the surface deposits they had taken out \$750,000, and then began sinking into the vein. Nobody knew anything about the methods of extracting and milling quartz, except the Mexicans, who had had experience in Mexico, and those nothing beyond grinding by arrastra, but their services were in demand, and all of the available greaser help was employed. In opening the vein much of it was so rich that it was pounded out in mortars, and often after a blast could chisel were employed to cut the strings of gold off the rock. And it was calculated that there was \$25,000 thrown down in one blast. The marvel was that there was non-exhaustion of the deposit. The yield, in scarcely diminished quantity, kept up for months, and in sixteen months \$2,000,000 had been extracted. This, however, was only the legitimate returns to the owners. The Mexicans were in bonanza, and there is no question that they stole at least \$1,000,000 of the gold. And so it went on until the latter part of 1852. The six partners worked steadily on their claim, and from top to base hundreds delved at the overflow. Then a curious episode took place.

Billy Mulligan, a notorious tough and desperado of the early days, got together a gang of five or six and held it for nine months before he could be disposed of by the law. It was his boast afterwards that he and his followers took out \$300,000 before being compelled to restore the ground to the rightful owners. Morgan in the meantime had bought out the interests of his partners, all of whom were enriched by the wonderful yield of the deposit, and he went to England to dispose of the property and bargained to sell it for \$2,000,000. Before the title passed more litigation sprang up and it was years before work was resumed. The claim, however, had been skinned, and although it was established that it was a permanent vein, values sank to a few dollars a ton.

Pockets of Nuggets.

Columbia and Shaw's Flat, Tuolumne county, were, in early days, noted for nuggets of pure gold that were found in the placers. This was especially true of Columbia, where, in 1850, four nuggets were unearthed, weighing, respectively, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, eighteen and fourteen pounds. In 1851 there is a record of nuggets of twenty-eight, twenty-four and twenty-three pounds. In 1852 two are mentioned of twenty-nine and nineteen pounds, and in 1853 one of thirty-three and one of thirty pounds. All of the lumps were of pure gold, without any intermixture of quartz and a fineness of 916 per ounce. While larger lumps were found in other localities, there is no place where they were discovered in such quantities.

A placer claim in Calaveras county yielded in 1857 a lump in which there was some little quartz, that, when pounded up, gave a return of 161 pounds of gold, valued at \$3,850.

One of the best unique finds of the early days was a ravine running into Goodyear's

bar on the North Yuba river. There was no soil nor gravel in the stone bedrock, and for a length of half a mile it was literally strewn and sprinkled with coarse gold, which required no washing to recover. The miners picked up the yellow metal where it had lodged in the crevices and inequalities of the rock, and it was estimated that the yield exceeded \$25,000. Goodyear's was one of the richest river bars of the early days, something like \$2,000,000 in gold having been taken out of it during the '50s.

California Nuggets.

The largest nugget that I can find any record of was taken out of the Willard claim, on the Feather river, in 1855. It weighed forty-nine and a half pounds, was pure gold and minted \$3,821.

A long list could be made of nuggets from various portions of the foothills weighing from ten pounds to thirty pounds, but they are too numerous to chronicle. One, while not a particularly large one, had a tragic history.

A Frenchman had mined on Spring creek, near Columbia, Tuolumne county, for a number of years. His claim had yielded fairly well, enough so that with his sober, industrious habits he had been able to make small remittances to his family, who had remained in France. In the summer of 1858 he came into town early in the day, made a bee line for the bank, where he deposited a gold nugget weighing thirty-two pounds and valued at about \$500. He was congratulated on all sides for his good luck and announced his intention of giving up mining and returning to France as soon as he could sell his claim. He returned to his cabin that night, and again came to town the next morning, staggering under a load inclosed in a sack, and proceeded to the bank, where he rolled out on the counter, to the astonishment of the banker, a limestone boulder weighing about twenty-five pounds and which he insisted was pure gold. Poor fellow; he had lost his mental balance, was as mad as the proverbial March hare, and his delusion was that all the boulders on his claim were nuggets of the precious metal. He was taken to the Stockton insane asylum, where he died shortly afterward, and the proceeds of the genuine nugget were sent to his family in France.

For pocket mining, pure and simple, Bald mountain, near Sonora, in Tuolumne county, was a second. The proceeds of pocket hunting has been so often described that it need not be repeated here. It is estimated that Bald mountain has yielded over \$2,000,000 in this character of deposits, in some varying from \$500 to \$1,000, and the hunt is still going on, although the results have been disappointing. It is one of the richest discoveries of the early days, a matter of uncertainty, common report placing it from \$100,000 to \$200,000.—San Francisco Call.

Another Professor Takes a Fall Out of Childhood's Old Reliable Wonder.

Again the Biblical story of Jonah and the whale is disputed—this time by Dr. William Rosenau of Estaw Place temple, Baltimore, in substantiation of Prof. Paul Haupt of the Johns Hopkins university, who also says Mr. Jonah and the whale never had even a speaking acquaintance.

Dr. Rosenau declared recently that it is more than mortal man can do to remain in the epigastric zone of a mammal for such a length of time and come forth alive. The rabbi declares also that the story is an apologue, and not an account of an historical happening. He asserts that many of the beautiful stories of the Bible are mere folk tales or fables written to weave a moral.

Dr. Rosenau, to sustain his argument, uses that marvelous tale—Tale No. 1 of the whale—the story of James Bartley, whale hunter.

Tersely, the story of Bartley, as recounted by Dr. Rosenau, is that while seeking mammals off Falkland island the men of the good ship Star of the East wounded a whale, which, in retaliation, is said to have flipped its tail and knocked Seaman Bartley from a small boat high into the air, where he did the aerial Merry Widow wait and while descending was swallowed by the whale in the same manner that whale No. 1 is said to have gobbled up the original Jonah.

The two stories thus far are similar, but the whale which swallowed Bartley was said to have been captured and taken aboard ship, where, after twenty-four hours, it was found that, after passing the garden gate of the whale's mouth, Mr. Bartley shot the chutes down the whale's gullet and finally landed into a barrel of Easton's gunnif mill about a foot when he crawled up to a coyer corner on the side of the whale's stomach, and throwing out his cud, reposed until he was found by his comrades, who had cut open the whale.

It was declared that the action of the juices of the whale's stomach on the seaman Jonah made his skin like parchment, and that when restored to consciousness he suffered from hallucinations.

This story was later conclusively disproved, and thus, says the professor, if any man may be found who will believe such a story, he is, naturally, the same man who believes the original Jonah story.—Baltimore Sun.

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HICKORY SUPPLY RUNS SHORT

Vehicle Manufacturers Worried Over the Growing Scarcity of Wood.

Automobile and carriage manufacturers, along with the men of the allied vehicle industries, are giving very serious consideration to the question of the future supply of hickory timber. This wood, which is one of the most important of all woods, since no satisfactory substitute for it has been found, plays a more important part among the commercial timbers than many people realize.

For automobile and carriage wheels, where strength, toughness and resiliency are essential qualities, no other wood has been found in this country that will take the place of hickory. Manufacturers say that no steel or wire spoke has yet been designed that will withstand the wear and tear of the hickory spoke. For this reason the welfare of the vehicle industry seems dependent upon the conservation of the hickory supply.

The supply of good hickory in the United States is known to be very limited. The cut last year for lumber was a little less than 150,000,000 feet and it is estimated an even larger quantity will be cut this year. The automobile and carriage wheels, axle boxes, axles, poles, single trees and neck yokes, it is estimated that at the present rate of cutting the supply will last only about fifteen years.

Reports are made from time to time of the discovery of suitable substitutes for hickory in foreign countries. The two woods which come nearest to having the quality of the hickory seem to be one of the eucalyptus and the crowfoot stem, both of which are found in Australia. Only time will tell whether these woods will prove satisfactory substitutes.

In the meanwhile American hickory users will be obliged to conserve the present supply and take steps to guarantee a future supply by encouraging private planting of the tree whose wood is becoming more precious each year.—Kansas City Star.

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JONAH AND THE WHALE

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