PART THREE. THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE. PAGES 17 TO 20.

TWENTIETH YEAR.

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NUMBER 328.

Six years ago a colony of seventy families of

Dunkards settled on the Grand Encampment

and on Spring creek. They have raised

tion. In small mills they grind up wheat

grown by them which is mixed with that

brought from other sections in the proportion

of one part to two. From this they make a

and a star work of the start

A GARDEN AMID MINES

New Discoveries Constantly Being Made in the Great Gold Hill District.

MOUNTAINS FULL OF RICH MINERALS.

Valuable Stock and Cultivated Farms in Wyoming's Upper Platte Valley.

SARATOGA IS THE GATE-WAY TO ALL

That Town is Fast Becoming the Center of Phenomenal Activity in Mining.

RICH PLACERS READY TO BE WORKED.

Strikes are Being Made in a Section Which Has Never Before Been Visited by Prospector or Miner.

Tucked away in a pocket of the mountains of southern Wyoming, thirty miles from the line of the Union Pacific railway, is one of the most fertile agricultural sections in all the west-the Upper Platte valley. Its natural boundaries on three sides are mountains which contain practically inexhaustible deposits of all kinds of mineral.

Until recently this section was seldom or never heard of outside of Wyoming. Even to the people of that state the great natural advantages and wealth of resources of the valley are as yet little understood or appreciated.

It is a significant fact that the first permanent residents and actual settlers along that part of the Platte and on the streams tributary to it were from among that nomadic class of pioncers who had a historic share in the exploration and civilization of the Rocky mountain section. When the spirit of adventure of these men had been satisfied, they selected for their homes favored localities in the valley. Thoroughly familiar with a vast expanse of country, they preferred the Platte valley as a place of residence to other sections which were better known and more easily accessible. Thither they removed their families and all their worldly possessions. While the valley was still the disputed territory of hostile or marauding Indians, the early settlers started in to cultivate the rich soil and raise well graded stock on a safe plan not unlike that practiced by stockgrowers in thickly settled communities.

Year after year the acreage in grain, hay and vegetables has been increased and the quality improved. Season by season the little herds of cattle have become more valuable both as regards the number of animals and as to the improved character of the stock. Improved Now there are 50,000 to 60,000 acres of land under cultivation in the valley. The herds aggregate 25,000 head of cattle, There are besides 10,000 horses, and 80,000 to 90,000 sheep.

ers will be put on. Reference to the accompanying map shows how well equipped Saratoga is to control the trade of the Platte valley and the mountainous section which encloses it. The town is located in the center of a horseshoe-shaped district, formed by mountain ranges to the east and west, which trend in a southerly direction and come together at their lower limit near the Colorado line, Here the valley narrows down so that in some places there is barely more room than is required for the passage of the Platte as it flows out from its source in North park. With natural barriers on both sides, entrance to the valley can only be had from the north and south. In either case travel to the Gold Hill camp must be by way of Saratoga for at that point is the only bridge across the Platte, which during the spring and summer months runs so much water as to render it dangerous, if not absoutely impossible to ford the river. The current of the stream is so strong that it is a reckless undertaking to try to swim animals across it. At one time or another the Platte has been bridged at various points. These structures have all been swept away save one at Saratoga, which is of the so substantial a character that it alone has been able to withstand the flood of waters which the Platte drains. Private en-

terprise is not likely to be enlisted in any new scheme of bridging for a long time to come. Nor will the Carbon county authorities feel justified in incurring any additional expense on such a score in the near future since the improved bridge of iron and stone at Saratoga cost the taxpayers \$10,000 only about three years ago.

Saratoga the Gateway. Attempts which have been made to build

new roads to the Gold Hill camp from other towns, to shorten the distance or to avoid Saratoga altogether have all been signal failures. The natural obstacles which have been encountered were of so serious a kind and the cost of the work so great that such projects, however commendable they may have been in point of enterprise, have had to be abandoned. Saratoga, therefore, retains undisputed sway as the gateway to the valley and the mineral treasures locked in the mountams. This distinction the town will con-

tinue to hold. After all that has been written about the Gold Hill camp, it is unnecessary to enter into details concerning the rich mineral prospects that have been found there or the work of development that has been carried on and which has shown up an increasing wealth of deposits. Assays ranging as high as \$5,000 to the ton in gold have been obtained from rock taken out near the surface. Picked specimens have shown returns running 'way up in the thousands for gold. A large amount of free-milling ore carrying native gold has been exposed by a limited amount of exploiting. Already arrangements have been made erect a stamp mill there within the next few weeks. On account of the great depth of snow which fell on the mouatains last winter the development of the numerous claims in the camp and active and systematic mining had to be postponed till the summer. The snow lingered so long there that a short season for prospecting and actual mining was anticipated. Fortunately, though, the snow is disappearing so rapidly uow that by June 1 the campaign will be opened. It will be a busy season for that

taken out of the tunnel. camp. Although it was at first supposed that a strictly gold camp had been estab-

sufficient to accommodate the treasure seek- been made in that section because only a few | capital was needed. This was only twentyyears ago there was an excitement over the discovery of gold in the Savery country just across the range on the Pacific slope. Rich placer diggings were found there and attempts make to work them. But it cost more money to carry this on than the owners possessed because there was an insufficient fall of water. If capital could have been obtained the Savery country might ere this have become conspicuous as a gold-

producing section. It is not at all visionary to expect that at some time in the near future work on these placers may be resumed with profit. There is gold in all the streams and on both slopes of the range. In the second wash a strip of gravel is found that is seldom less than three inches wide, that carries both coarse and flour gold. On the Atlantic slope the streams are stronger and have a greater fall. This seems to indicate that what was regarded as a serious drawback in trying to

work the Savery country placers will not be experienced in operating those on this side of the ranke. Ten miles southeast of the Williams-Jones Heather group of mines referred to are other claims owned by them on which less development work has been done, but which nevertheless give promising indications of large deposits of mineral. South of there, between the Indian creek and the Grand Encampment, is a stretch of territory fifteen to twenty miles square, in which, according to old residents, no prospecting has ever been done. On the Pacific slope very little prospecting has been attempted. One of the stories told by a noted hunter concerning the big leads found there passed in the community as a sort of legend. Finally a well known business man, who accompanied the hunter on one of his

trips, was rewarded by a sight of a mammoth ledge, which he describes as upwards of thirty or forty yards wide. A piece of rock broken off ftom a huge outcropping along this ledge, at a point where its width was considerably more than one hundred feet, assayed \$4 in silver to the ton. This huge lead can be traced for miles, it is claimed. An expedition will be fitted out this season to prospect that section.

Big Silver Deposits. Several years ago some prospecting was

done on the Grand Encampment, whose waters now into the Platte about twenty miles south of Saratoga. Eight miles up the canon a number of locations were made where the surface indications were rich in copper. Except in one instance little work has been done there. Those who staked off claims have been waiting to see how the work which has been prosecuted by Chatterton, Kurtz and Forney should turn out. These men were so encouraged by the strong silver indications, when a shaft had been sunk to a depth of about forty feet, that they decided to tunnel into the hill to see if they could not strike the lead at a depth of 250 feet. They have spent considerable money during the past three years in running their tunnel. When they had driven into the hill a distance of six hundred and thirty to six hundred and forty feet, it is claimed that they cut the vein which showed ruby silver and gray copper. From time to time assays that went \$700 or more a ton in silver were obtained on ore

Since this gratifying result was attained in the Chatterton mines old claims have been relocated and preparations are being made to prospect the country in that neighborhood.

Extensive Asbestos Fields.

eight miles from Seratoga. On Lake creek, that heads towards Gold Hill, silver ore has been , found that assayed \$58 to the ton.

Opening Up Communication. What has bindered the development of these many mining districts surrounding the valley has been their remoteness from th railroad and other traveled routes and the difficulty or expense of getting supplies. But all this is changed now. Stage lines have been established so that trips can be quickly and conveniently made. A daily line runs be tween Rawlins on the line of the Union Pa-

cific railway, thirty-six miles distant,. which is equipped with Concord coaches each drawn by six horses. A good road has been built over which freight teams make excellent time. A daily mail line runs to

Fort Steele on the Union Pacific, twentyeight miles away. At some seasons of the year freight is hauled over that road. But in the spring and summer the the high water of the Platte makes it impossible to ford the river at Fort Steele.

From a little hamlet Saratoga has sprung into prominence as a distributing point for the entire valley and the mining districts of both the east and west ranges. Eventually the people of that place expect that a branch of the Union Pacific railway will be built from Fort Steele, at least as far as Saratoga. Three years ago grading was begen on such a road on the line of an old survey for a route which was to extend into Colorado. For some reason the work was abandoned when within eight miles of Saratoga. But now there is every reason to believe that within the near future the Union Pacific officials will reach out for the constantly increasing business of that section. which is estimated to have grown to such proportions as to justify the construction of a branch to Saratoga. There has been some earnest discussion among people who are interested in that section as to the feasibility of building an independent line to connect with the Union Pacific system. As yet no

definite plans have been decided on. Aside from its possessing the only bridge across the Platte, Saratoga has the advantage of a central location, which makes it easy of access from all points in the valley and the localities in the mountains where camps have already sprung up or are likely to be started. Good roads radiate in all directions from the town. The site is an eligible one for a large population and for the transaction of business on a large scale.

People have been flocking to Saratoga ever since the Gold Hill excitement started. There has been so great a demand for lots for business houses that the residence portion of the town has undergone a change. Now, those who are seeking homes are inclined to select the higher ground above the present town as more advantageous sites for that purpose. Although the town was first started on the east bank of the river it has since spread out on the west side, where the better class of buildings have been erected. It seems destined to go still farther to the westward where a new addition to the town site has been laid off. If Saratoga grows as fast as her people anticipate it will ere long cover a much larger area.

Outside Capital Interested. All sorts of inducements are offered for the location of business places and residences on the high ground west of the town, known as Rochester Heights. This takes its name from the interest held in it by a syndicate of Rochester, N. Y., capitalists who have had not a little experience in land investments in the west. They have already invested \$15,000 in Saratoga and guaranteed to expend \$60,000 in improvements inside of a year. Restrictions have been placed on the property which make it especially desirable for residence sites. Various enterprises of a public character are contemplated by the Rochester syndicate, which comprises Charles Wiltsy, esq., W. T. Fonda, esq., for many years cashier of the Commercial National bank of Rochester; G. H. Smith, a prominent attorney, and other investors. Capital to the amount of \$25,000 has been subscribed for the Platte Valley back which is soon to be opened with Mr Fonda as cashier. An electric light plant will shortly be put in. Plans for a new hotel to be created on Rochester Heights at a cost of \$12,000 are now under consideration and the stock has nearly all been subscribed. There are already four hotels in Saratoga, but the accommodations are inadequate to meet the domand. Plans are being prepared for a number of attractive private residences which are to be built on the Heights the present season, for business men of Saratoga, some of which will cost upward of \$4,000 apiece. Various other schemes for the im-

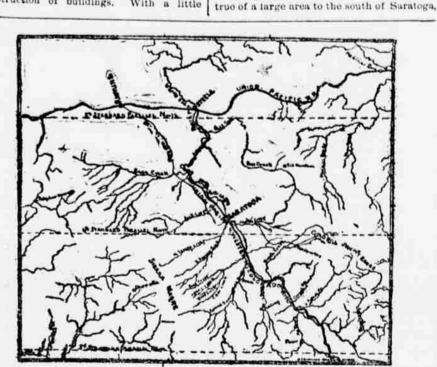
is used at present. Bath houses have been built and a hotel is run by the proprietor, W. H. Cadwell, in connection with the springs. The waters contain iron, potasium, lime, chloride of sodium and sulphur and are a certain specific for rheumatism. Some remarkable cures have been wrought to those who have tested the springs. No quatitative analysis has yet been made of the waters, which have a temperature of 122 degrees Fahreheit, but one will soon be made at the Wyoming state university.

State Geel gist Ricketts is credited with an expression of opinion that other hot springs can be located in Saratoga and vicinity by boring. Such a project has been seriously discussed by some of the enterprising citizens.

Building Material Handy.

All kinds of building material are found convenient to Saratoga. Timber is plentiful on all sides except to the north. During the past few years upwards of two million feet have been rafted down the Platte. Most of the lumber now used in the valley comes from a mill twenty-five miles south of Saratoga near South Brush creek. Other milis will shortly be put in, two having been ordered. One is a portable sawmill, which will be taken up to the Gold Hill camp. The other is intended for a colony of Dunkards, located on the Grand Encampment, where a dam has been built for this purpose, as well as a shingle and a grist mill. These will be about twenty-two miles south of Saratoga, west of the Platte.

Quarries which have been opened on Jack creek, five and a half miles from Saratoga, supply an excellent quality of sandstone. Some of it has been used in the town in the construction of buildings. With a little



SARATOGA AND THE GOLD HILL DISTRICT.

the

worth \$20.

west

more development, it is thought that an excellent cut stone of various colors can be obwhich could be irrigated to tained in vast quantities from these guarries. profit if Even nearer than that good stone for buildditch that could be taken out of the Grand ing purposes can be obtained. Limestone is Encampment, which is a very strong stream found on the Platte within a mile and a half and one of the most important feeders to the of Saratoga. All the lime used in the town Platte. Still further south the waters from is burned from rock that comes from Pass Big creek could be utilized for supplying

taken. There are three springs but only one available the present season. A dam has the land and other conditions are favorable been thrown across an arm of the Platte ten miles south of Saratoga. This is 200 feet long, 614 feet wide and 20 feet across. The ditch is recorded for 206 cubic feet of water a part of the wheat for their own consumpa second and will be carried down to the town for use there for domestic as well as irrigating purposes. An investment of \$10,000 is represented in this scheme. A flume fifty feet high and 2,000 feet long is building to carry the water over Spring creek. The ditch will cover 6,000 acres of land and is capable of irrigating seventy acres to the foot, which is the extreme limit allowed under the law recently passed in Wyoming. A contract has already

been let to cover the townsite by this ditch. The Hugus-Mullison ditch is taken from a a dam on the Platte just outside of Saratoga. This dam is a most substantial structure and

a model of its kind. It has withstood the strain of the high water for three seasons and is perfectly dry. The dimensions are 180 feet between piers and 514 feet high. The recorded capacity is fifty-nine cubic feet per second, but an application was long ago filed and is now be-

ing considered for a grant of water which shall equal 800 cubic feet per second. If this application is favorably decided upon, it is the intention of its owners

to extend the ditch as far as Rawlins, and cover the land lying to the northeast of Saratoga. The Saratoga improvement company owns half of the ditch that underlies the original townsite, while the Davis, Folsom & Brewer ditch covers the other balf.

There are thousands of acres of land lying on the east side of the Platte between the Union Pacific railway and Saratoga, that could be put under ditch, and which would become good farming lands. The same is

flour not unlike whatels called Graham, and the Dunkards are noted for the fine bread they make from this mixture. In barley, the valley claims to beat the world. It is used principally for fattening pork which is raised on alfalfa. Ryc has proven very successful, the yield being about twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre.

Hops grow wild and have been pronounced to se the best in the world. Buckwheat also fares well both as to yield

and superior quality. Timothy which can in no other

section be surpassed grows in the valley, and two to three tons an acre can be easily produced.

Two and three crops of alfalfa can be grown a season, and yields a ton to a ton and a buif an acro. It is high enough in the fall for feed for stock during October and November. The success of alfalfa on the bench land is fully assured.

Enormous yields of sugar beets are obtained. Analysis of this product by the United States agricultural department shows that the amount of saccharine matter exceeds that of the beets of any other section, ranging from 11 to 16 per cent, while 8 per cent is considered a high average clsewhere.

How Cattle Thrive.

The wild grasses are very nutritious and there are fully twenty different varieties. There is a mild timothy, two or three kinds of red top are found, a white clover grows in the bottoms and another variety is found on the upland; a blue joint grass abounds as also two or three different species of rye grasses, from which the Indians used to make meal,

Outside of the agricultural lands the foothills furnish summer grazing, where the grasses enumerated grow knee deep. On this natural pasturage the stock can not fail to thrive, as the country is uncovered during eight months of the year. All the streams are timbered and pienty of shelter as well as water is assured. Cattle run on the range from November 15 till April 1. The dry stock is left out on the range all the year around, but the cows, bulls and yearlings are put in pasturage during the winter months. As a sort of insurance on his own ranch it is customary for a cattle man to carry sixty days' feed in hay to provide for a hard winter.

The loss does not amount to 1 per cent. On one ranch out of 1,000 head only seven were lost last winter. Under the old range system of turning out the cattle and letting them run like a school of mackerel, the percentage of losses was high and as before stated 45,000 head were lost in the winter of 1884-5. Prices for cattle then went down from \$30 to \$12. Now stock is worth \$15 to \$17 a head.

There is no poorly bred stock in the val ley now; it is all well graded. The fine appearance and quality of the cattle is the subject of comment by all who visit the valley All the stock feeds on hay and grass and fattens on grass. In September or October four-year-olds weigh 1,200 pounds and upwards,

After January 1 the ranchmen begin feeding on hay, and it is nothing unusual for an animal to dress \$00 to \$00 pounds in the spring. It is notable that the lung power of the cattle raised in the valley is one-half greater than those in the east, which is an

advantage readily recognized. One reason why stock keeps in such good condition is

secause the ranchmen do not try to run more

What Irrigation Will Do.

Naturally other settlers were attracted there as a consequence of the good progress and results made and achieved by the pioneers. irrigation has done wonders for that section. But it was not till a few enterprising men had shown the way was their example copied.

It was only six years ago that upwards of 45,000 head of cattle were lost in the valley in a single winter. That was because the catlemen persisted in clinging to the old range methods and, unlike the old timers and their mitators, failed to make provision for a hord winter by raising hay to feed the stock. That costly experience wound up the old range business in the valley at least Most of those who were frozen out were Englishmen or young men from the far east who had been staked by their families. They were willing to sell out their ranches cheap. They found purchasers in men who were willing to work and to learn from the experience of those who had successfully weathered the hard winter.

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Since the advent of this class there has been a steady growth and healthy development in the valley. At first there was room for anyone to carry out his own pet scheme of irrigation and only the water of the numerous feeders of the Platte were utilized for that purpose. Under this plan over three hundred miles of irrigating ditches, exclusive of laterals, have been put in and are now in operation in the valley. This work has been done at a very small expense. But the valley is over sixty miles long and has an average width of twenty to twenty-five miles. As all the land, by irrigation, is susceptible of utility and cultivation for stock raising or farming purposes, several plans are now perfecting for putting all that section under ditches. Enough water runs to waste in the Platte and its tributaries to in sure the success of these projects. Even before these big enterprises are carried out there are chances for water rights to be acquired and ditches built by which many valuable farms can be made out of the unoccupied arid lands,

Rich Mineral Section.

Prosperous though the valley has been in the past, the celebrity which it has recently attained is in the main due to other causes than the increasing publicity concerning its advantages as an agricultural and stock country, great though they are.

It was only a few months ago that rich mineral discoveries made on one of a chain of mountains which hem in the valley turned attention to that section. Since then the fame of the Gold Hill camp has been growing, as the reports of the numerous big strikes in free-gold and gold-bearing quartz and placer ground have been circulated. Seldom has a new camp advertised itself so well in so short a period as has Gold Hill. It is the objective point of an army of prospectors from all over the country and of miners who are preparing to desert old camps for this new one, which can only be reached by way of the Platte valley.

The excitement which has been created in mining circles over the discoveries at Gold Hill has already transformed the town of Saratoga, which is the only settlement in the valley, from a small trading point into a veritable mart of trade. Saraan extensive and rich mining toga district. Nothing can check the rapid progress of the town which has been so quickened by the numerous mineral finds made in the country directly tributary to it.

There is already a daily stage line to the Gold Hill camp, which is only twenty-eight miles from Saratoga. Other mail lines run to the different parts of the valley, and

shed, there are, on all sides, abundant evi dence that rich and extensive deposits of silver will be exposed. Nor is the importance of the gold discoveries to be discounted. In all the canons and gulches that head on or towards Gold Hili rich placer grounds have been located. So flattering were the prospects obtained that work was begun in various localities even before the snow had gone off. Preparations are making for hydraulicking on a large scale.

Rich Gold Diggings.

A company organized in Rock Springs ha been rewarded for its enterprise and early operations by striking a rich pay streak six nches wide in the first bed of gravel on their ground in Buffalo gulch. They found bed rock at a depth of only sixteen feet. The dirt runs 25 cents to the pan. The scene of these operations is only fourteen miles from Suratoga.

Along the Medicine Bow river and on the North Brush and South Brush creeks that head on Gold Hill, ten thousand to twelve thousand acres of placer ground have already been located. Some of this is owned by private individuals, who will wash for gold. while other properties belonging to companies will be worked by hydraulicking on a large scale.

In the vicinity of Gold Hill is a large area where prospecting has been hurriedly or imperfectly done, if any attempt at all has been nade to find leads or evidence of mineral de osits. But while Gold Hill is at present the Mecca

of the prospector and miner, there are other localities adjacent to Saratoga where the chances for equally as good strikes are in dicated by the sittle prospecting and exploiting of mineral claims done in previous seaons. To all that mountain region on both sides of the Platte valley has been given the name of the Gold Hill mining district. There is a popular fallacy that whatever of importance the section may attain in the mining world depends on the results obtained in the Gold Hill camp. Nothing could come wider of the mark than such a haphazard prediction or supposition.

Long before Gold Hill was ever heard of experienced miners found rich prospects on both the east and west ranges. On the west range-or Continental divide-within twentyfive or thirty miles of Saratoga work has been done on a half-dozen claims during the past five years. It is estimated that upwards of \$50,000 has been expended on these properties during that time. They have been patented and are in good working shape with many tons of ore on their dumps, sorted and unsorted, which would pay to ship Leads carrying silver ore that runs as high as 700 ounces of silver to the ton have been followed down to a depth of 135 feet or more. Little sur has been made about these mines, because they were originally lo cated by ranchmen who settled the valley after considerable experience in mining. They quietly prosecuted development work when they could spare the time from their farming and stock-raising. When they grew tired of this slow gait it was an easy matter for them to interest a shrewd man of business who after a full examination of the properties of these ranchmen-miners, supplied the necessary capital for more active development work.

These mining claims, which are owned by State Senator Frank O. Williams and Henry R. Jones, the original locators, and J. W. Heather are only twenty-five miles south west of Saratoga at the head of Jack creek. Good Field for Prospecting.

The neighborhood is full of quartz leads which prospect well on top. Some of them are thirty feet wide and run in great belts from the Atlantic to the Pacific slope. It is

Farther down the canon and within twenty-four miles of Saratoga, are large deposits of asbestos. These beds have only been partially opened up, but enough has been done to show that an immense quantity of this valuable mineral, which brings 75 cents to \$1 per pound, can be taken out at small expense. The asbestos is of good quality and the fiber long. Some of it is of a pure white color, but other kinds and of variegated colors are found. Negotiations have been pending for some time for the purchase of a large tract where these deposits occur. Other beds of an even finer quality than that described have recently been discovered on the Grand En campment and in the huls beyond it. It is reported that nearer Saratoga than this de

posits are known to exist, but up to this time nothing has been done to determine their extent. At Battle lake on the Pacific slope, thirty miles from Saratoga, some rich copper leads have been exploited, though not to any great

extent. Within the past few days reports have come of a strike on an eightcen-foot vein which carries silver that assays \$100 to the ton.

Risked Their Lives for Copper.

What is known as the Battle Lake mine was first located as far back as 1867. For a a long time no work to speak of was done on the property. Now it has a shaft down sixty feet and shows a red oxide that runs 37 per cent in copper.

The story is told that some years ago a man who knew the richness of this property went to Denver and interested some mining men in it. The specimens of ore which he exhibited were so rich that on the strength of the showing they made he negotiated a sale. Fearing to let slip a chance for such a bargain as that offered them the purchasers accompanied the man to the mine by way of North Park, Coro., in the winter and when such a trip could only be made on snowshoes and with great difficuity. When the real owners of the prop erty went there to resume work the follow ing season they were surprised to find that their cabin and stores had been disturbed They were at a loss to account for this until some men presented themseives later on and

explained the circumstances under which they had been induced to invest their money with a man who had no right to sell the mine. This incident might be regarded as to trivial to relate save that it tends to show

the richness of the property which mining men were induced to visit when such a trip was attended by many hardships. There are other ledges in the vicinity of the Battle Lake mine which show good surface indications.

On the range which bounds the valley of the east, and to the north of the Gold Hill camp, are indications which are certain to prove sufficiently attractive to miners for prosecuting thorough prospecting the present season. The snow is fast disappearing and will soon permit of this to be done. This early some prospecting has been done in the foot hills and on the mountains which have become bare. Only last week a prospector named Charles Nelson made a gold discovery on Cedar creck, west and north of Gold Hill and within sixteen miles of Saratoga. He prospected a ledge which is not unlike those

of the Gold Hill camp and obtained encour aging results. Ledges such as that located by Nelson have been traced for a long distance.

+ Pass Creek which drains Gold Hill to the north shows good indications of gold, noth as regards ledges and placer ground. Formerly the placers were worked by a company, but whenever the travel will justify it stages a great wonder that fewer locations have after several seasons they gave up because rheumatism and diseases of the blood were

provement and beautifying of that portion of the town are now under consideration.

It must not be supposed that enterprise in Saratoga is confined to outside investors, Those who are engaged in business there or have property interests are keenly alive to the necessity for improving the town and assisting in divers ways to aid in various schemes looking to the development of the resources of that section in general. Ranch men in the valley as well as residents of Saratoga have generously contributed towards the expense of opening new roads During the winter it was due to their substantial aid that communication between the town and the Gold Hill camp was kept up continuously. This was not an easy not trivial matter, as the snowfall in the mountains was unusually heavy and of almost daily occurrence. The hardy miners who weathered the severe winter on the mountain have the Saratoga people to thank for what little comfort they enjoyed by keeping in

touch with the outside world. Faith in the future of Saratoga and the outlying districts has been demonstrated by its people, who have backed numerous en terprises with their own money and by their investments in mining properties. One commendable thing about the activity in real estate, is the policy pursued by Messrs. W. B. Hugus, J. W. Beall, J. Johnson, H. M. Bennett, A. R. Couzens, F. Chat. terton and their associates in the various companies which own the townsite and the additions to it, in keeping down the prices of lots. Notwithstanding the rush of people to Saratoga, and the de nand of property for

speculative or building purposes, there has been no attempt to fix values on the basis of a beom, present or prospective.

Saratoga has an excellent graded school for nine months during the year There are two churches, Episcopalian and Presbyterian. Rev. F. M. Collier is pastor of the latter society which now holds services in the school house but will soon have a church edifice of its own. The Church of the Heavenly Rest while not a pretentious structure is nevertheless an attractive and commodious one. Rev. Dr. R. E. G. Huntington is the rector.

Saratoga's Celebrated Springs. The medicinal and curative properties of the Saratoga hot springs have gained for them a certain celebrity all over the country. They were known to the Indians for years and even before there was any town a crude sort of sanitarium was established there to which patients afflicted with acute forms of

creek Lying above the doric limestone on Cedar

creek, a dozen miles distant, a variegated red and white marble is found. No attempt has yet been made to open a quarry to test the quality or determine its commercial value. Not far from the Grand Encampment what may turn out to be a superior quality of marble was recently found. Coal, Iron and Lead.

Indications of coal are seen on all sides of Saratoga except to the south. North of the town fourteen miles and a mile from the Platte on the east side of the river, is a vein four and a half feet thick. A tunnel 120 feet long was driven. This supplies all the coal used in Saratoga. Two miles west of this coal deposit is another vein that runs under the Platte. Near the river, a fifty-foot tun nel was driven which shows a four-foot vein of coking coal. Besides these there are four veins that show in the bluffs between Saratoga and Fort Steele.

West of the river and eighteen miles from Saratoga on Sage creek near the stage station is a six-foot coal vein on which a forty-foot tunnel was run. North and east on Pass creek, sixteen mites from Saratoga a large coal deposit has been found.

Over on the west range and especially on the Pacific slope are coal deposits which cover a large area and where the veins are of gigantic size. Nothing has yet been done to open them up because there has never been any demand for coal in that section. But no matter where camps u ay be started, it will be only a short haul to supply them with an abundance of fuel both for domestic and manufacturing purposes.

Iron is so abundant that it may be said to occur everywhere throughout the mountains. All varieties have been discovered and so conveniently located to the coal deposits as to render it of more than ordinary value.

Mixed with all the silver-bearing ores is a large quantity of lead, more than sufficient for smelting purposes. It occurs in such quantitles as to give grounds for the belief that at some time it may be treated for commercial purposes.

Great Water Power.

The Piatte would supply ample water power for mills and for irrigation on a large scale. The river is a raging torrent for four months in the year. At its lowest stage it is a good-sized stream and runs a large volume of water that could be harnessed for mechanical purposes at small expense. Its banks and the configuration of its valley are such as to render it easy to build storage reservoirs or dams at almost any point along its course The close proximity of all material requisite for carrying out enterprises of this sort, such as stone, timber and cement, is an advantage which should not be lost sight of.

What may be regarded as low-water mark in the Platte is reached in October. The river was gauged last season in that month at what was considered its lowest stage and showed that it then ran 2,772 cubic feet of water per second. The volume during the irrighting season is at least three to five times more than that. With an average fall of twenty feet to the mile, it will be seen that there remains in the Platte enough water that could be utilized for transforming all the arid lands in the valley into as good agricultural lanos as the 50,000 to 60,000 acres which are now under cultivation within a radius of twenty miles of Saratoga.

Correspondence has been progressing for some time with Colorado miliing men who are seriously considering the establishment of a flouring mill at Saratoga.

Big Ditches Under Way.

Two large ditches have been taken out of the Platte. That known as the Davis, Folsom & Brewer ditch is not yet completed, but its construction is being rushed so that it will be though, there will be quite a large yield, as

water to a large expanse of country tributary to it. Farming and Pasturage.

It has been a revelation to many visitors to the valley that the sagebrush land, that was

so long regarded as worthless, can be turned

into arable ground of such excellent quality

and made to be so productive. The expense

is merely trivial. All that has to be done i

to turn water onto the land and nature doe

the rest. Where the land has been under

water for a season the sagebrush is killed.

Grass springs up, which furnishes good feed

for stock. Then late in the fall there is suffi-

cient grass left to burn over the

following year crops can be raised. The

total expense for clearing land of this sort :

estimated at not more than \$5 an acre on the

benches. By such an expenditure governmen-

land which costs only \$1.25 an acre becom

It is not claimed that all of this sage brush

or desert land can be turned into first-

class agricultural land. But there are thou

sands on thousands of acres that are suscep

tible of such transformation by the method

described. All of it, though, can at least be

turned into rich pasturage, and that is needed

quite as much as farming lands, because the

valley is admirably adapted for stock raising.

Vegetables and Grain.

intend to hold a fair at Saratoga to show

what they can do in the way of raising veg

etables, fruits, grain and fine stock. They

will surprise everybody who is not familiar

with the possibilities of the valley. Some of

the stories told about the big yield

in all kinds of produce seem like fairy tales

but the ranchmen are always ready to furnish

In potatoes they claim to equal if not out

rival the famous Salt Lake production. They

grow to a large size and are often shown

weighing two and a half to three and even

three and three-quarters pounds apiece. The

average yield for the first year is 200 bushels

of potatoes on the bench lands. The bottom

lands produce double that quantity. From

three pounds of seed one ranchman is known

to have had a yield of 150 pounds and another

Cabbage average eight pounds each on a

patch of 2,000 plants. It is not uncommon to

It is in grain and hay that the valley ex-

cels. Nowhere can a better showing be

made. The legal weight of oats is thirty-six

pounds to the bushel, which is several pounds

nexcess of that in many of the states.

Ranchman Brewer, just below Saratoga,

averaged twenty-nine and one-half bushels to

the acre on a tract of 100 acres. This was his

third crop on sage-brush land. Oats used to

be shipped into the valley from Nebraska in

four-bushel sacks, weighing 130 to 160

pounds. These same sacks are sometimes

used by the rauchmen, but when filled with

oats of their own production, and where there has been no special attention paid to

their cultivation, they tip the scales at 175 to

225 pounds. An average yield is about

twenty-eight bushels to the acre, though in

favored localities it runs as high as thirty

Not enough wheat has been grown on

which to base any estimate. This season,

got sixty-eight pounds from one.

pounds.

bushels.

farther east.

less favored sections.

proof for their assertions.

Next fail the people of the Platte valley

ground and get rid of the sage brush.

side

under

put

of the valley

great

big

The

cattle than they can attend to. Fine Native Horses.

Horse raising has of late commanded con-iderable attention. A majority of the stock mares were brought there from Iowa, Illinois indiana and Missouri. Many of them are thoroughbreds. That is also the case with the stallions. These are mostly Normans, Percherons, Clydesdales, Cleveland bays, English sires and Beigians. One outfit recently imported twenty-one stallions. These were English draft horses. The same concern has some standard bred trotting horses, including a brother of Jay Eye See. The progeny of such stock have superior lung power, and great credit is due to those who give such careful attention to this business,

Sheep and Wool.

If the cattlemen had their way about it, sheep would be driven out of the vailey, as they claim the land is too valuable for such grazing grounds. But the sheep business has proven profitable and the wool clip extraordinarily large. It averages higher than most other sections. One band of 2,000 this season averaged fleeces weighing fourteen pounds. Another of 2,500 sheep averaged thirteen pounds last month. The whole clip was contracted for at 16 cents a pound.

The increase averages as high as 70 to 80 per cent, though some bands make a showing equal to 90 per cont on account of the favor able condition for lambing. One band of 20,000 wintered out last season and the loss was small. But the sheep will probably have to go, as settlers are crowding them and too much of the country is being brought under

Healthful and Delightful Climate.

Summer in the valley is a delightful sea-son and cannot be surpassed in the Rocky mountain region. The mean temperature is about 72 degrees and the nights are always cool while during the davtime there is breeze continually stirring. Storms are never bad and there are no thunder showers such as occur in some sections of Wyoming There never has been an instance where life or property was destroyed by the elements.

lyclones are unknown. The winters are not severe. A snowfail to exceed six inches is a rarity. For four weeks at a time there are clear, bright days. Even when it is cold a drive of forty or fifty miles can be taken. The air is dry and pure, Dr. H. M. Bennett, who is the only physician in the valley, has never missed but one call in five years, and on that instance he was incapacitated by an accident. The valley is entirely exempt from dichthories scalar forms turked and from diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid and all germ diseases. Infantile diseases are unknown

No better commendation of the people car see heads that weigh fifteen to twenty e passed than to state that in the history of the valley, where nearly five hundred votes were sast at the late election, there have been only two criminal cases in the Carbon Clean heads of cauliflower weigh as much as sixteen pounds, and the average is seven to eight, or nearly twice what are grown county court from there. In one instance the accusation was petty larceny and the other case was for horse-stealing and the culprit All kinds of vegetables give big yields and was convicted Litigation is practically un-known in the valley. The people, who numthe quality is not less inferior than the quantity as compared with the products of pered 2,000 by the last census, are noted for their hospitality.

Signs of Enterprise.

Right now Saratoga is a very busy place. The construction of new buildings is being rapidly pushed to accommodate the rush which is expected. A brick yard which started up there sold the first kiln of 280,000 brick before they were burned. They were of excellent quality, but a superior article will be made in future as better clay has been discovered on the edge of town from which

inscovered on the edge of town from which others equal to pressed brick will be made. An experimental farm has just been estab-lished under the auspices of the state uni-versity adjoining Saratova. Forty acres of land were donated by citizens for that purand were donated by citizens for that pur-pose which is all under ditch. Buildings have been contracted for to cost \$4,000 and will be finished as soon as possible. The farm is under the superintendent of Captain J. H. Mullison who is regarded as an authority on irrigation matters having successfully expe-rimented on a large farm of his own in the valley for ten years or more. It is anticipated that the results achieved on the farm will be of great benefit to the ranchmen as it can be determined what can be grown there and the best way of doing it. GRONGE F. CANEL