

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Facts That Reflect the Onward Movement
in the Imperial Domain.

THE MINES, THE MILLS, THE FIELDS

Development in Central Wyoming—Colorado's New Camps—Irrigation in Idaho
—Dakota Tin Prospects—News
of the Northwest.

CASPER, Wyo., Feb. 11.—(Special to The Bee.)—The outlook for Casper in the near future is very bright.

There are two syndicates after the large fields of copper in this vicinity. One, represented by Prof. Henry Zuber of Chicago, has already got control of some seventy-five mining claims, on which it is proposed to begin extensive operations as soon as spring comes.

A large force of men will be put to work early in April. The other syndicate already has some forty claims staked, and there are yet over fifty claims held by individuals.

There are over three square miles of asbestos already located, and only this week letters have been received from English capitalists inquiring as to the number of acres that can be secured, as the quality is very rich.

Carrier & Smith have a large body of eastern miners on which the assay shows over \$70 in silver and lead.

The Blanchard syndicate, which recently obtained control of over 100,000 acres of oil land, is making preparations for a big season. Two rigs are on the ground. The first well is only 700 feet from the oil field, and the second is expected to be completed in a short time. They have a large force of men. All are pushers. They have just completed the buildings and are now getting the machinery ready for Pomeroy and will begin drilling as soon as they can get their drill and casing there.

The Pennsylvania Oil company is now drilling on the third well, located forty-two miles north of Casper on Salt creek, and expects to reach oil next week. The company is only 700 feet from the oil field, and the second is expected to be completed in a short time. They have a large force of men. All are pushers. They have just completed the buildings and are now getting the machinery ready for Pomeroy and will begin drilling as soon as they can get their drill and casing there.

Indians May Drink Beer.

Judge Knowles of the United States district court of Montana decides that beer is not a spirituous liquor, and therefore it is not a violation of law to sell or give it to an Indian. This is the opinion of the state courts that have passed upon the question, those of New Hampshire, West Virginia and Tennessee have agreed with the judge's ruling while the court of North Carolina and one court in New York have held to the contrary. The case on trial was that of a man who sold a bottle of beer to an Indian on the Crow reservation. He was discharged.

Wyoming.

A manufacturers' union is gaining strength in Cheyenne's smelter with a beet sugar factory.

The lignite coal found near Gillette is being shipped to neighboring towns.

Over \$8,000 has been subscribed toward the erection of an Episcopal cathedral in Laramie.

A ditch projected for Albany county will irrigate 7,000 acres and require \$15,000 for its construction.

The Black Fork canal near Bridge will irrigate 60,000 acres of land. It will be twenty-five miles long.

A Washash zephyr struck Laramie last Monday and whistled through the town at a gait varying from forty to sixty miles an hour.

Gold Hill roars in a carnival of the beautiful. During the past four months the total snowfall has been twenty-seven feet four and a half inches.

The young reliable Saratoga Sun reports that one from the Fairview prospect assayed \$364 in gold to the ton. There are indications that the ore will carry more silver as a greater depth is attained. The location of this property is most favorable, one being within a short distance of the growing Mile house and where neither snow nor the elements interfere with the work out doors.

The aggregate number of farms in Idaho on June 1, 1890, was 6,651, and of these 4,923, or 73 per cent, were irrigated areas, the remaining 1,728 being farms in northern counties or stock ranches upon which no irrigation was practiced. The total area of the crops irrigated on these 4,923 farms was only 26.07 per cent of the total area of lands owned by the irrigators.

The average size of the irrigated portions of farms was 5.56 acres, and the average size of fifty acres. Classifying these areas according to size, the following results are obtained: Seven irrigated farms (crop areas) of 640 acres or upwards, thirty-four of from 160 to 320, and 172 of from 160 to 50 acres. These 319 farms represent an average of 370 acres each, and had a total of 57,477 acres, or over 26 per cent of the entire amount watered in the state. The remaining 4,110 individual crop areas, under 160 acres in size, comprised nearly 74 per cent of the irrigated area, and averaged thirty-three acres each.

The average first cost of water right is \$4.74 per acre, and the average cost of preparing the soil for cultivation, including the purchase price of the land, but excluding the cost of water right, is \$10.55 per acre. The average annual cost of water right is \$1.20 per acre. The average annual value of products per acre leaves an average annual return of \$12.32 per acre.

South Dakota.

Work has commenced on the Sioux Falls public building.

The Elkhorn is building a track to the Rapid City colorization works.

One hundred of the pioneers of 1876 banqueted and swapped yarns at Deadwood last evening.

On Friday, February 19, unless executive clemency intervene, the condemned murderer, Lehman, will formally stretch hemp over his head and drop from a scaffold.

Wheat-eaters have warned the druggists of Watertown that they must immediately cease shaking for cigars in their places of business. Shaking for liquid medicine is all right.

J. P. Keath, a Deadwood operator, purchased a half interest in the Josie Annie and Katie lode on January 31, paying \$12,500, the same sum offered and refused \$30,000 for his interest.

Under the head, "The Mineral Belt," the Deadwood Times reports: "Mr. and Mrs. James Cotton are rejoicing over the arrival of a girl baby at their residence Wednesday morning."

Negotiations continue for an extra session of the legislature to provide for an exhibit at the state fair. A call will be issued if members of the legislature agree to serve without pay.

A strike of a body of free milling gold ore is reported from Sand Creek, hereforeto not considered in the gold district. Assays made here gave returns of \$67.82. The property is owned by Deadwood men, who will at once proceed to develop it.

Recent developments at the Nigards Hill mines have been very satisfactory. A good deal of ore has been melted down in blacksmith forges and a number of small bars run out, which have been brought to Deadwood for exhibition.

Montana.

Bosum voted \$6,000 for a high school building.

A miner has filed a claim on mineral land on South Rodney street, Helena.

The upper works of the Asuncion smelters are now in operation, showing that the threatened freight rate fight failed to materialize.

The Rocky Ford Coal company has declared another dividend of \$100,000. Twice within the twelve months beginning July 1, 1891, has such a dividend been made.

Stripping the Forests.

The trial of parties charged with stealing timber from government lands in Idaho, now in progress in Boise City, furnishes a sample of the common robbery of forests going on in the west. During the years 1888-9-90 the accused cut and sold millions of feet of government timber in Kootenay county. One witness testified that 30,000,000 feet of save logs were delivered by the prisoners to the Spokane mills.

Such wholesale robbery deserves the severest punishment. Notwithstanding the liberality of the government in permitting the taking of timber for necessary domestic purposes, hundreds of cases like that in Idaho, illustrating the greed of the timber pirates, who often violate the law and snap their fingers at the authorities. A few vigorous prosecutions and a term in jail will have a wholesome effect.

Natural Gas.

The Salt Lake natural gas wells are astonishing the owners and the natives. The first sixteen-foot well, sunk some time ago, developed a pressure of 145 pounds. A ten-inch well recently sunk struck dry gas at 600 feet, with a pressure much greater than the first well. The second strike removes all doubt as to the extent and value of the find, and assures a cheap and unlimited supply of fuel for manufacturing and domestic purposes. Salt Lakers are jubilantly jubilant.

Valiant Maidens.

Two valiant Santa Rosa (Cal.) maidens, the sisters Swan, aged 17 and 20, deserve to be enrolled with Omaha's heroines. A hungry tramp called at their home and was taken in and fed. The following night he called, after the girls had retired, and proceeded to rob the house. One of them,

awakened by a falling window, jumped out of bed and lit a lamp. As she did so she saw the tramp under the bed. She did not scream. She went to the bed to whisper to her sister, and as she leaned over the cot the burglar caught her by the ankles and threw her out of the bed. She screamed for help to get out, but there was a man in the house.

The sister jumped out of bed and, grabbing a short stick that was lying near the head, struck the intruder a blow over the head that almost sent him into the land whence no trains ever return. Then she sprang on him and fought him by the throat, and by that time his sister, who had disengaged herself from the clutches of the man, went to her assistance. Both being well endowed with strength, they held the tramp down until a little boy was sent for an officer. When the officer arrived he found the two girls fighting off the determined girl holding the tramp by the throat. The offender was black in the face from strangulation, his tongue was sticking out, his face was scratched and badly bruised, and altogether he was about the most unromantic burglar ever seen in Santa Rosa or elsewhere. He was taken to jail.

Dakota Tin.

The Hill City Miner explored the Harvey Peak tin mines recently and reports progress. The shaft of the Gentle mine is down 400 feet, with laterals on the 90, 100 and 300-foot levels. The ledge varies in width from three to five feet, being fully five feet on the 400-level. It is a fact that at no place in all these openings can the ledge be scratched with a pocket knife.

This is the way the Ordway Syndicate puts it. The contractor has been selected, and the money has been guaranteed for the power works. This mighty enterprise is now as certain as death and taxes."

Idaho.

Bessemer pays \$400 per year for street illumination.

The Vishnu mine at Rocky Bar turned out a solid gold brick last month.

A 100-pound timber wolf was brought down with poisoned bait near Boise.

A meeting of superintendents of graded schools and county superintendents will be held at Boise March 23.

The Mineral Point, Nellis, Emma and Craigie claims at Osburn, in the Custer district, have been sold to St. Paul parties.

W. Craigie and sister of Leavenworth are visiting with Colonel and Mrs. Woodruff, Second artillery.

Lieutenant W. S. Pierce, Second Artillery, leaves this week for Waterville arsenal.

The famous Salmon lake is again rising and spreading.

Explosion at Puget Sound during January was \$70,000.

A 300-pound shag was landed on Suau Island, Puget Sound, last week.

Card sharks are reaping a harvest on Northern Pacific trains between Tacoma and Seattle.

Oregon people have been bunched out of about \$200,000 by piano fakers on a plan similar to that worked in Denver and Omaha last year.

The cultivation of the licorice plant has been started in San Francisco. It thrives best in arid, sandy loam, requires but little cultivation and the manner of procuring the extract is simple.

Fishermen in Oregon are taking out licenses. By the terms of the law passed by the legislature, no one can fish in the state except a citizen or a man who has declared his intent to become such and has resided in the state six months.

It is not every sheriff in Oregon that can furnish bonds as speedily as Sheriff Furnish of Umatilla county. Last week he was notified by the county court that his bonds as tax collector were fixed at \$15,000, so he sat down, wrote out a check for that amount, took it to the bank, had it certified and passed it in to the county clerks.

Corporal C. K. Osgood, K. Troop, is in the guard house. The charges against him are conduct unbecoming a noncommissioned officer. Corporal Osgood is a member in good standing of the Young Men's Christian Association, a leader in the church choir and an all-round Christian, but he allowed his passions to get the best of him and now suffers the consequences.

For fear the men and horses will get rusty the orders are that any day the men are not in service they shall ride five or more miles for exercise.

Major C. S. Isley is turning over E troop's property to Lieutenant Sedgwick Rice preparatory to his going to Fort Robinson. The major expects to leave next week.

Private Gale and Livingston, E troop, were discharged in consequence of expiration of their contracts.

Both are to be replaced by new recruits.

Port McKinney.

We have been having all sorts of weather for the past fortnight, the thermometer ranging all the way from 40° above to 15° below zero.

Part of the time it has seemed as if we were in the midst of summer, but we had hardly arrived at that agreeable conclusion when presto change, and Jack Frost had us again in his clutches hard and fast.

Saturday, the 30th, was a charming day and the regular monthly market takes place on the last day of every month at all military posts, was held in full-dress uniform on the parade ground Sunday. In consequence Saturday was devoted to polishing buttons, cleaning up and doing all of the many little things that soldiers have to do to make themselves presentable for inspection. When we turned in for the night all were ready for the next day's performance; about midnight the weather changed and at 7 o'clock Sunday morning the ground was covered with snow and the weather was as bad as it had been for the day before.

This made a change and inspection was in the company quarters, in overcoats, fur gauntlets, fur caps and overshoes, instead of

the head by such means, something else is sure to suffer.

Usually, nine times out of ten, it's the lungs, heart and kidneys that are affected.

The worst chronic disease yields to its mild, soothing, cleansing and healing properties. Not only Catarrh itself, but Catarrhal Headache, Cold in the Head—all the troubles that may cause Catarrh or may come from it.

They may help you a great deal, but you may have to take a time or two to get used to them.

Mr. Underwood resigned and his resignation was accepted, leaving twelve directors, neither Omaha nor Denver having a majority.

The Deacon party attempted to re-elect Mr. Underwood against the wishes of Mr. Venner and Mr. Viale of the Omaha party. A quarrel ensued and a struggle for the control of the directory began.

Had I resigned unconditionally and refused to act it would have been unfair and unjust to me to be compelled to resign. Mr. Venner, who was working with Mr. Underwood, to arrange to have my resignation accepted and paid, had his name to my successor, which would have left me in a difficult position.

Now with respect to the hydrant rental, January 1, 1892, the city owed the company \$37,000, the company owing the city \$80,000 due the day after. Additional coupons would be paid Feb. 2, 1892, upon the original \$80,000 mortgage.

The company was required by the terms of this mortgage to create a sinking fund in annual installments, at that time aggregating \$20,000.

No demand had been made for payment of the amount.

Mr. Underwood had told me long before the present quarrel started that they did not intend to comply with it as was not deemed necessary, the works having increased

enormously in extent and value and \$40,000 of the contracted amount had been paid out of the sinking fund.

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The building the canteen is now in was originally built for the Deacon party and is still in use.

The canteen has moved into its new quarters on the last day of every month at all military posts.

Port Sidney Notes.

Lieutenant J. W. McAndrew, Twenty-first Infantry, returned from leave on the 5th inst. and has resumed charge of the post.

Private John Wilson, company E, was discharged on the 5th inst., by expiration of term of service. He will, with his family, locate at Cheyenne.

Lieutenant F. L. Palmer, Twenty-first Infantry, who had command of company E, has been relieved by Captain A. C. Williams.

Recruit John Moran, who enlisted under false pretences, was dishonorably discharged on the 5th inst. Moran had been dishonorably discharged by sergeant of the Seventh infantry at Fort Logan, Colorado. He came here and soon deserted and was spotted by one of the new identity cards sent from the War department.

Recruit Frank Houk, enlisted by Lieutenant W. H. Lincoln, Neb., for company K, was discharged on the 7th.

Private Elmer C. Goodrich returned from furlough on the 7th.

Private Michael Ryan, a deserter from company B, Seventeenth infantry, at Fort Russell, Wyo., and who was arrested in North Dakota, was brought here and has been sentenced by sentence court martial to be dishonorably discharged and two years' confinement at Leavenworth military prison.

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Port Meade, S. D.

Corporal Carl Barnstein of troop D, Eighth cavalry, has transferred as a private to the hospital corps.

About thirty or forty recruits are expected here from Jefferson barracks for assignment to the Eighth cavalry about March 1.

The first annual dance of the W. T. Sherman Lodge No. 12, K. A. and N. U., of this post will be given on next Friday evening, February 19. The committee in charge have made elaborate preparations and expect the ball to be a great success.