

"The Gold of that Land is good."

T. A. HAND, Publisher.

AGENTS.—Wm. J. Osborn, Tucson; Charles A. Phillips, La Paz; A. M. Hunt, Santa Fe; L. Dukes & Co., Ft. Mohave; William H. Tobey, San Francisco.

The publisher of the MINER is now on a tour through the country south of the Gila. He will visit the principal points, and hopes to make his trip advantageous to the MINER and its patrons.

SINKING SHAFTS.

We are glad that our lode owners are beginning to sink shafts, and thus to ascertain what their interests are likely to amount to. Apart from the mere keeping of proprietors of feet or their representatives in the country, and for the purpose of defining the lay of the ledges, we attach very little importance to the custom, followed in most of the districts of performing six days work upon a claim. We are not prepared to approve the plan of requiring no work at all, as adopted in the Turkey Creek district, the laws of which were printed in the last issue of the MINER, although it will in most cases be just as advantageous as the practice of scratching the lodes for a few days, and much less expensive. For the benefit of those owning claims no less than for the country, it is better that shafts should be sunk to a depth sufficient to display the true character and size of the lodes. Indeed, it is necessary in order to insure their sale or to make arrangements for their working. If too expensive for a single claimant, let him combine with others. Surely, no man who seeks his own interest or that of the Territory, will refuse a prompt and cordial co-operation even if his own contribution to the necessary labor be given in that golden currency—"the sweat of the brow." With proper tools, and steady effort, half a dozen men will quickly sink a shaft to the depth of fifty feet, and at that depth some idea of what the ledge is to prove, so far as size and character are concerned, can be had, although it were better to go an hundred feet or more. If the lode seems wide and regular, and improves in the assay, the owners are at once warranted in putting it in the market, or in securing machinery either upon their own account or in conjunction with a company. They can move with intelligence and confidence, and are not likely to injure their own reputation or that of the Territory by attempting to operate upon a worthless property. Moreover, they do much to develop the country, and to discountenance, as they should, the sale of untried and bogus lodes. Every miner owes it to himself, and to the Territory, to know as nearly as possible the precise character of his claims before he attempts working them himself or asking others to. In no way short of by machinery is he so likely to obtain the needful information as by sinking a shaft and frequent assays.

The regulation heretofore in force in many of the districts, requiring that each owner should perform, or have performed, six days work upon his claim has, we believe, in most cases, been so modified that owners may combine and sink a shaft at any one point upon a ledge, the number of days labor being proportionately accredited to them upon their respective claims. This will go far to encourage the sinking of shafts, and put it within the power of the poorest man to quickly obtain a knowledge of the probable value of his feet, and whether they are to prove his everlasting fortune, or a shadow unworthy of pursuit.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The members of this body will many of them arrive here at an early day. This will be to their advantage, as it will afford an opportunity for an interchange of views upon the varied and important questions to be acted upon. It is desirable that the members should become well acquainted one with another before taking their seats. It will go far to facilitate and harmonize the business of the session. Coming from all portions of this great Territory they must remember that while they have local interests of importance and worthy their best consideration, the public good is of paramount importance. The measures calculated to promote the prosperity of the whole Territory are of the first importance, and will doubtless receive the first attention. That they should be carefully and thoroughly discussed, and acted upon only after the most mature consideration, is too obvious to need even a suggestion from us.

THE SEASONS.

Great interest is taken in watching the peculiarities of the seasons in this new and hitherto unknown part of Arizona. So far as the winter and spring were concerned we from time to time made a note of their marked features. Now that the summer is closed we may speak of it. If a fair sample of the season in this region, it may well be placed in the front rank of the allurements to this country. We have had scarcely an oppressive day, rarely one without a stirring and refreshing breeze. The nights have been cool and exceedingly comfortable, so cool that no one has cared to sleep, even in doors, with less than a couple of blankets, while the absence, both by day and night, of mosquitos, and all noxious insects, saving flies, has been as remarkable as satisfactory. The climate is no less salubrious than agreeable. Sickness is unknown, except such cases as result from imprudent exposure or drinking, or from a lack of vegetable diet, from which we are likely to suffer until our farmers and gardeners may get to work. They arrived too late this year to begin operations except in a few instances.

The rains in the latter part of May, and those in July and during August, lead to the belief that crops may be raised without irrigation. The constant freshness of the grass is gratifying to the stock raiser. The country is beyond question the finest for pastoral purposes upon the continent. Immense herds of sheep and cattle may be kept in good condition the year round without expense save for herders.

The rainy season is supposed to terminate early in September. For nearly a month past we have had showers daily, usually in the afternoon. Rain has fallen in great quantities, and been accompanied by the sharpest lightning and heaviest thunder. The mountain streams are made to overflow in an incredibly short space of time. Travellers halting in or near dry arroyos have to be careful that they are not suddenly overtaken by rushing waters. Numerous narrow escapes are reported. Lately, some men with a train, en route from La Paz, were resting in the bed of a dry creek when a flood of water from showers in the distance came upon them so quickly that several were wounded by being thrown against the banks, and one was drowned, his body being dreadfully mangled by the sweeping volume of water, rock and drift wood.

NEW PLACERS.

The want of water has so generally retarded the working of our placers that we have been disposed to place our entire dependence upon quartz mining. Ever and anon, however, the returns from the placers that can be worked, are such as to cause a lively sensation, even among our most sanguine owners of feet. Thus at Lynx creek lately some fine results have been had, and at Big Bug the industrious workers continue to get good pay. The interest of the moment, however, is in the placers of Turkey creek and Black cañon, some fifty miles nearly south from here. The success of the Mexicans, who have been there for some time, has been such as to attract many Americans, and the region bids fair to soon be as merry with rockers and sluices as Lynx creek in its best day. The gold is coarse, and of an unusually rich color and quality. It is found in pieces from the size of a pin-head to those weighing an ounce or more. Many hundreds of ounces have already been taken out. The placers extend a long distance prior to reaching the cañon, in which they are supposed to be of the first class. There is an abundance of water for sluicing, and it is thought that a wagon road can be had from here via Woolsey's ranch and the Agua Fria, and one from Pimo via the Agua Fria. Such roads if connected would greatly reduce the distance from Prescott to the Gila country, and should be found and worked if necessary. We have too long been inactive in the matter of securing a short and direct route to Pimo and Tucson. Col. Woolsey long since gave it as his opinion that a good road could be had by the Agua Fria, and the Governor expressed the same judgment after his journey over the country. We must not omit to state that some excellent looking gold and silver bearing quartz has been found on the lower Turkey creek and Black cañon. Some specimens brought to the Governor from the Nopal lode are rich with gold. The lodes are said to be large and well defined. They are attracting great attention, and many of our citizens are now prospecting them.

The well on the plaza continues to afford an ample supply of excellent water, and is the pride of the town and the admiration of strangers. We are glad to hear that the subscription for paying for its digging, is nearly completed. "All's well that ends well."

FROM NEW MEXICO.

By last express we have the Santa Fe and Albuquerque papers to August 5th. From the New Mexican of July 22 we call the following items:

The El Paso, Santa Fe and Kansas City Stage Company have purchased a new set of Concord coaches for their line. They spare no pains or expense for the comfort of the travelling public. The line is now better stocked and provided with better coaches than ever heretofore. Messrs. Cottrill & Co. are just the men to carry a semi-weekly mail between the States and here. It is a pity the Postmaster General cannot take some interest in having us supplied with at least a semi-weekly mail.

Fruit is beginning to be quite plentiful. We see the plaza full of boys selling apricots. By the way, apricots are a substitute for something to eat in the fruit line hard to beat. We have been eating pies made from apricots, and have come to the conclusion that it would take a man some time to starve to death on that kind of diet. If you don't believe it, just try.

Capt. Bell is now performing the duties of Chief Commissary of Subsistence. The captain is an able officer. He was formerly Professor of Drawing at West Point, served with distinction in the army of the Potomac, and for the last two years has been in the Commissary Department.

Capt. Carey is acting as Chief Quartermaster of this Department, in the absence of Major M'Ferran, who has gone to the States.

Captain Updegraff, of the 5th U. S. Infantry, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

The annexed are from the New Mexican of August 5:

The news brought by the passengers in the coach not only confirms the reported outrages by the Indians, but brings additional proof of the hostility of the Indians of the plains, and their determination to wage war against the whites. We are informed that at Walnut creek a train numbering ten wagons, and loaded with government freight, was taken by the Indians, the wagons stripped of their covers, and the unfortunate drivers murdered and scalped, and that, too, incredible as it may seem, within an hundred yards of eighty or more soldiers, who calmly looked on and saw their fellow men butchered, and two of them scalped alive, without offering to lift a hand in their aid or use the arms which government had placed in their possession when it mistook them for men. If this report be true, and we have it from a source entitled to the most implicit credence, we sincerely trust some effort will be made to punish these cowardly miscreants for their shameful and inhuman conduct.

We learn from the same source that Fort Larned was attacked, but the artillery frightened them out of their design, and they contented themselves with driving off some stock that was grazing beyond range of the guns, and burning a bridge across Pawnee Fork.

This state of affairs will make it imperative upon freighters to travel in large bodies for mutual protection, and to be more than ordinary cautious in camp. In the case of the train above alluded to, the Indians pretended friendship, and rode along the train shaking hands with the drivers until they reached the hindmost man, when they began their butchering and scalping.

Hon. Francisco Perea, our present delegate to Congress, arrived in the last coach. A large number of citizens went out to meet him and escort him into town, and in the evening he was serenaded by the 5th Infantry band. On the whole his reception must have been very gratifying to him.

With the issue of July 19th the name of the Rio Abajo Press was changed the "New Mexico Press." The size of the paper remains the same, although a portion of the matter is printed in Spanish, and an enlarged paper is promised upon the arrival of a new supply of material. The editor with characteristic pith exclaims:

As our paper is now "double-barrelled," we bid our contemporaries "the top of the morning," and will reciprocate their shots to the best of our ability.

That's right, brother Johnson, and we wish you unbounded success. Pardon the suggestion, however, that if you paid less attention to controversy with the Santa Fe Gazette, and to long winded discussions, you would make your paper more interesting, and more serviceable to the interests of New Mexico. The world don't care anything about your political or juridical differences, but it has a lively interest in the progress and resources of your important Territory. By the by, we have seen the laws of New Mexico, passed by the Legislative Assembly of 1863-4, as printed in English and Spanish (T. S. Greiner, translator), by the New Mexico press. The job is fairly done, and we hope it paid well.

Information is wanted of the whereabouts of Geo. St. C. H. Snyder, who left Austin, Lander county, Nevada Territory, on or about the 26th of September, 1863, for Arizona, accompanied by a man by the name of Mitchell. Any information will be thankfully received. Direct to Henry S., or Allen P. Snyder, Virginia City, Nevada Territory.

THE LA PAZ ROAD.

The promise of a good road to Ft. Mohave must not tempt us to relax our efforts to secure better communication with La Paz. Messrs. Lount & Co. speak confidently of their road via Williams' Fork, or at least off from the Fork a short distance. They think it can be made available at slight expense. It is pronounced vastly better now than the road known as the Williams' Fork trail.

But from all we have learned to this time our best hope of a prompt and easy communication with La Paz is by the Ehrenberg road to Weaver, or to within thirty or forty miles of Weaver, and thence in the direction of Date creek to this place.

No effort should be spared to secure water upon this road. If individual exertion is insufficient, aid may be solicited from the territorial or general governments. The matter is of vital importance to the whole Territory, and our citizens will do well to act in it at once.

We do not know that public aid can be had. We are aware, however, that many improvements of far less importance have been favored with such aid, and that money appropriated to it and prudently spent will be applied in a way which most speedily benefit the Territory, and indirectly if not directly the whole country. Capital will not find its way here in quantity so long as the Territory is destitute of roads and means of travel and communication.

THE DENVER PRESS.—Our latest Denver paper, received on the 1st instant, is the Weekly Rocky Mountain News of June 29th. (What do our Denver friends say to such mail facilities?) It informs us that Maj. Whitely has sold the Commonwealth to Byers & Dailey, and that they have re-established the News as a daily and weekly, absorbing the Commonwealth. As the only paper in Denver and a capital one, faithfully edited by men who have frowned upon severe misfortune, we hope it will be well and widely sustained. By our new express from the Rio Grande, via Fort Wingate and the Whipple route, we should receive it in twenty days from its publication, or in less if prompt connections are made. We shall look for it as the cock locket for the morning, and be tempted to crow whenever it arrives. We commend it to the people of Arizona as likely to give them the latest news in the best shape, and subscriptions left at our office, where copies can be seen, will be promptly forwarded to Messrs. Byers & Dailey, whom we hope to know better one of these days. We have a fondness for such phoenix like members of the press, and will go our pile on them every time. The News is a credit to the rocky mountain country, and we hope for the day when the MINER may spread its wings and soar to equal greatness. We should be proud to send forth such a sheet from our new El Dorado, but for the present we are content "to labor and to wait." One of these days we shall be in full feather, wearing as long spurs and making a good fight, we hope, as our Denver contemporary. We have faith to believe it, for Arizona is bound to prosper.

INDIANS.—As is usually the case with the crafty Apaches, a number of them followed the Woolsey party in, and are now hovering about in this vicinity. The killing of the young Mexican on Monday, the robbery of numerous horses, the fresh sign everywhere to be observed, and especially the report of the Mexican captive, who escaped from a small party of the red thieves and ran into Prescott one night last week, combine to assure us that the savages are bent upon annoying us to the extent of their power. We have reason to believe that they were all about town last night. The captive referred to, a lad of sixteen, who says he has been six years a slave to the Apaches, was in a starving condition, and he represents the Indians as suffering for food, and driven to desperation. He thinks they have seriously meditated an attack upon Prescott, but that they have neither the numbers nor the nerve to attempt it. Our citizens, especially stock owners, should however be on the alert. While there may be no attack in force, there will undoubtedly be small parties constantly prowling about. No one should go unarmed by day or by night, and not less than two or three men should venture on any of the mountain trails. Proper caution at the time will save many lives. A meeting will be held at Dickson's saloon this evening to devise measures for protection. We hope it will be largely attended, and result in the adoption of wise plans. Action is now necessary.