

THE MONTANA POST.

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WHOLE NO. 139.

The Montana Post.



SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1867.

Our correspondents throughout the Territory will oblige by conforming to the following rules: Limit all communications to a half column. Write only on one side of the paper, plainly and concisely. Mining news should be written separately from other news; brief, statistical and reliable. Write only what will be of public interest. Avoid personalities. Give date and address. The name of the writer must accompany each letter. An adherence to these rules will enable us to give early insertion to communications; a departure from them will account for non-appearance in nearly every instance.

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J. W. TAYLOR'S REPORT OF MONTANA.

The importance of that portion of the United States producing the noble metals, upon which depends in a great measure our national solvency, and the ability to restore the present depreciated paper medium to a specie basis, suggested to Congress the advisability of procuring reliable statistical information of the gold and silver producing regions. An act was accordingly passed July 28, 1866, making appropriations for that purpose, in accordance with which the Secretary of the Treasury appointed Mr. J. Ross Browne to the districts west of the Rocky Mountains, and Mr. J. W. Taylor to the east. Mr. Browne, in his report of 500 pages, devotes to Montana perhaps a dozen lines, and Mr. Taylor in his pamphlet, generously bestows nearly two pages upon the Territory ranking second among the gold and silver producing regions of the world. If the quantity was atoned for by the quality of these reports, there would be less occasion to feel annoyed at the manner in which outsiders seem to studiously ignore and disparage Montana. It is charitable to attribute to ignorance the sickly-sentimental and murderously-foolish treatises that are made with treacherous Indians by commissioners appointed from the Borioboola Gha tract societies of Boston, or broken down hacks from the political purlieus of Washington, but it requires a tremendous stretch of philanthropic benevolence to forgive those who unfairly and with incorrect reports misrepresent the resources and condition of the young and vigorous Territories to the Congress which controls them. The difficulty in nearly all instances, is in appointing to these duties men who have no practical knowledge of the business in hand. Messrs. Browne and Taylor have been well paid for these reports. If the gold regions are worthy of report, are they not worthy of personal inspection and observation, before submitting to Congress a report based upon newspaper clippings, and "statements difficult of belief"? Mr. Browne did not see the Territories and States he reported, except the small portion visible from the Overland Stage Route; Mr. Taylor never set foot in Montana; and yet the reports of these men form the basis for Congressional legislation. Here is a sample of the "two pages." "In June, 1863, there were further discoveries of placer mines about 70 miles east of Bannack, on Alder creek, a tributary of the Jefferson, they have proved of much larger extent and richness, extending continuously more than fifteen miles. Virginia City is in their vicinity." "A still more remarkable development of gulch or placer mining, occurred in 1865, at Helena." "Some of the statements in regard to Confederate Gulch, near Helena, are difficult of belief." "It is pleasant to know that Virginia City is in the vicinity of Alder Gulch, and rather startling that Grizzly and Last Chance are more remarkable than Alder, while Congress will certainly entertain serious doubts as to the credibility of Montanians after read-

ing the latter paragraph. Here Mr. Taylor strikes a vein of figures. Speaking of Confederate gulch, he states that \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 is claimed for the production of 1866, but by way of reconstituting against the acceptance of this statement, he adds, "There are many inducements to exaggeration in these statements."

In making up the estimate of Montana yield, Mr. T. says that as the United States mints and assay offices report \$5,505,587 20 from Montana in 1866, it will be safe to double that amount for the total yield for that year, and he jets us down \$12,000,000, whereas, J. Ross Browne reports it at \$18,000,000. For the most productive year of Alder gulch he states on the authority of "an intelligent citizen" that Montana yielded for 1865 only 6,000,000. Upon what he bases the yield for '63 and '64, which he says "is more likely to be correct than the bulk of newspaper reports," is not stated, but the following is his estimate: 1863, \$2,000,000; 1864, \$5,000,000; 1865, \$6,000,000; 1866, \$12,000,000. Total, \$25,000,000. This is for all Montana. In making an average of the estimates of several competent judges, as to the yield of Alder gulch alone, the product foots up nearly \$50,000,000. Yet in this report in which \$30,000,000 was reported to him as last year's product of Confederate, Mr. T. very carefully indeed, prunes down the yield of the Territory for four years, to \$25,000,000. The population he bases upon "exploration and discovery," rather than a new method, it strikes us, and we are not surprised that he estimates it at 28,000. If the "explorations and discoveries" of the great statistician had been extended this side of St. Paul, Minnesota, he would probably have ascertained that the lowest estimate of last year was 40,000. Again, in the number of quartz lodes, "represented to be gold bearing and the titles recorded" he only gives those in the vicinity of Bannack, Virginia and Helena, as though lodes not in the immediate vicinity of these mushroom villages were not worthy of notice. The number is stated at 2,500, whereas, as early as September, there were recorded in Beaver Head, (Bannack) 1,800; in Madison, (Virginia) 2,800; in Edgerton, (Helena) 1,100. Total, 5,700, besides 5,300 in other districts, or a total of 11,000 lodes. As to the average yield of the vein rock being \$40 per ton, we think we have a good thing for a few hundred years, if it yields one half that amount when the bullion can be put in bank at from \$5 to \$7 per ton, at the present price of labor, transportation, etc. Mr. Taylor probably intended no wrong in this report we have no reason to impeach his motives, but as a statistical report of Montana it is a perfect absurdity, unworthy of the region it purports to report upon, and would do us more injury than benefit, were it not for the more substantial statistics that are measured by Troy weights, and are finding their way to the East. As this is merely a "preliminary report," it is to be desired that the "fuller consideration" will be based upon actual observation, and a personal knowledge of that whereof he writes.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

The Great Powers of Europe have had repose for a few years from the tumult of war and the excitement of conquest. The banners of peace have been unfurled from their fortresses and the husbands on the borders have gathered their harvests unmolested, and untrod by hostile squadrons. This state of affairs is abnormal and dangerous. Crowned heads are not safe from the intrigues of domestic foes, except when by something more exciting the minds of their subjects are directed from the oppression of their masters. Their camps swarming with soldiers of fortune, always ripe for foreign wars or domestic insurrection and their courts crowded with ambitious and scheming diplomatists, are dangerous auxiliaries to the feverish condition of a people who require a counter irritant to distract their attention from the oppression that ever hangs like a millstone about their necks. Napoleon, the master-mind of the old world, has manifested a thorough appreciation of by what a brittle tenure he holds the sceptre of France, and while, by vast internal improvements and the fostering and aiding of the arts of peace, he has been adding to the greatness and glory of his empire, he has not forgotten the history of his predecessor and the restless, warlike spirit of his people. Mexico offered a field for his eager soldiery, while pacifying Austria by the maintenance of Maximilian; Italy for the diplomatists; and with avidity he seized the opportunities. Time worked out a solution of those problems, and the Eastern question gave scope for the latter, until Eng-

land refused to add her influence to France, Russia and Austria, and selfish considerations left the Islands of Greece to the mercy of the Ottoman. These, however, were but blinds to cover the greater object, extension of the borders of the Empire—the acquisition of the coveted fortress of Luxemburg, from which France could pour into Prussia, almost in a day, the whole strength of her armies, and by the holding of this menacing position, eventually absorb all the territory to the east, and make the Rhine the border of the Empire. It was a project worthy of "the nephew of his uncle," and was well-nigh successful, until Prussia, suddenly frightened and divining the purport of the scheme, has interposed diplomacy to prevent its consummation, in the event of the failure of which it is but reasonable to believe, that the sword will succeed the efforts of the pen, and the clash of contending armies will reverberate across the continent. Already the notes of preparation have rung out from the arsenals and dockyards of France, re-echoed across the English Channel and along the Baltic and the Elbe. Russia and Prussia are reported to have formed an alliance offensive and defensive. The former appears to have anticipated complications of this kind, and is prepared for the conflict. Smarting under the remembrance of the Crimean war, deprived by the moral support given to Turkey by Western Europe, by which she is prevented from wresting from the Porte his strong grasp on the Bosphorus, which would give her navy in the Black Sea free access to the West, Russia is ripe for any conflict that would wipe out the one and attain the other. Every energy of that vast and populous country has, since the fall of Sebastopol, been centered on those objects. She has built immense military railways; increased her military strength; rid herself of her American possessions, and is stripped for the fight. Her standing army has been increased from nine hundred thousand men to one million two hundred thousand. The military strength of France is one million two hundred and twenty thousand men—almost equal numbers; but Prussia has an army of her own and the late German Confederation, amounting to one million more. The interests of England and France, so far as Russia is concerned, are identical. The conquest of Turkey by Russia would destroy the balance of power, and Austria, nearly surrounded by the dominions of Prussia and the Czar, would share the fate of Poland; while Italy, by religion and national sympathy, is closely allied to France. Spain has but little interest in the conflict. Her national boundaries are distinct and limited by the Pyrenees. France is proud and ambitious, Prussia alarmed and resolute. England may well stand halting between two opinions, irresolute and endangered. Desiring the humiliation of Russia, and retention of the present status of power. She sees France unable to cope with her formidable adversaries and would willingly lend her a helping hand, but the fear of American privateering, which she has furnished the precedent for, the danger of a collision with Spain, and the more dangerous condition of Ireland and Canada from the designs of the Fenians, renders her the most unpleasant position of any of the powers likely to be drawn into the vortex of war. The signs of the times indicate the approach of a stupendous contest for the mastery of Europe, and the dragon of war, satisfied with carnage on our Western Continent, is hovering over the Old World, his baleful breath infecting the atmosphere with a noxious poison that requires the purification of blood, and the sacrifice of battle.

UNHAPPY MEXICO.

The latest advices from Mexico indicate that Maximilian, no longer supported by the French, is in a closely besieged city, with the liberal troops pressing him from square to square until his little band of Imperial soldiers are driven to the Plaza, and the United States Government, in anticipation of his capture, has made intercession with Juarez to spare his life in case of capture. What would be the result of the success of the liberals is hard to conjecture. France has been noted for her revolutions, republics and empire following within a hundred days; but Mexico has within the past thirty years, had more different forms of government than mercenary France can boast of in a century, and the present divided condition of her people gives no assurance that the success of the liberals would be productive of a twelve months peace. The following brief history of its government mutations is from the New Orleans Bee: "The year 1836 found Santa Anna in power, and saw him preparing to declare himself Dictator. He enjoyed this dignity but a short time, when he was defeated and captured at San Jacinto. Burtamente succeeded as President; but, in 1839, Santa Anna being released, he again took the office. During this year, Bravo was President for one week, after which there came a period of confusion, during which the laws were suspended, and Santa Anna and Canales took turns at dictatorship, one overthrowing the other by revolutions. This see-saw game went on until the year

1844, which found Santa Anna in power and called to the same year he was deposed and banished. Canales was made President, but in December he was sent after his predecessor with a mob at his heels. Then came Herrera, who was deposed by the revolution of 1845, and was succeeded by General Paredes, under whose administration the war with the United States began. This ended in 1848. Santa Anna was again President, but he was deposed to make room for General Arista, who was also compelled to resign by a revolution of 1853, and by a decree Santa Anna was again recalled, and for the fifth time made President. He then endeavored to make his rule perpetual, meditating a coup d'etat; but before he could strike a blow for monarchy, Alvarez, "The Panther of the Pacific," then Governor of Guerrero, raised an insurrection at Acapulco; and in 1854, Santa Anna, who was the would-be king, sought safety in flight, with the Panther close upon him. Then came Carera, who was President for seven and twenty days, when he, too, was forced to flee by revolt. Comonfort succeeded him in 1857, and at once took measures to make a strong government. He was active against the clergy, and began confiscating their property, holding that the church had no right to own lands. This led to another revolt in 1857, which was suppressed after much difficulty; but in the following year it broke out again, and Comonfort was forced to resign. General Zuloaga was then made President by the conservative party. At that time Benito Juarez was chief justice. He promptly became a revolt, maintaining that the resignation of Comonfort left him President. His claim was supported by the liberal party, and he became the leader of that party which has since made so many struggles to get into power. Juarez raised an army which was defeated by Zuloaga, when the former retired to Vera Cruz and established himself as President of the liberals, as the latter did at Mexico of the conservatives. Zuloaga was followed by General Robles, who made a futile attempt to unite the two parties, and failing, was succeeded by Miramon. From him the conservative support descended to General Ortega, who Juarez still claims to be President of the liberals.

ROLANDS AND OLIVER'S.

All the laws of all the Legislatures of Montana are valid, and any man or set of men that presume to say to the contrary are lawless revolutionists, and factious citizens, unfit to live in civilized communities.—(Gazette).
Beautiful. It so happens, however, that the Gazette has not been, nor will it be consulted on this subject. It's pretty hard to have the delightful prefix, Hon., unceremoniously knocked off his name, and the gentleman's vapid ranting is kindly forgiven.
He does not, in the recent issues of the Post, vindicate the conduct of the political bunnies worth a cent.—(Gazette).

It is only such flatterer, illegal, charter-granting, bogus assemblages as the Montana (so called) legislatures that require vindication. A sound structure needs no props.

We would like to see the Editor of the Post crossing unfordable rivers independent of a ferry charter.—(Gazette).

It can't be done in this Territory, fordable or not. The more shame for us. Did you ever see a bridge?

We found the people of Argenta and Bannack inclined to subscribe for the "Democrat," and anxious to get the news.—(Democrat).

Which latter remark accounts for the fifty additional copies of the Post, ordered for that vicinity this week.

There is probably no person in the land so eminently qualified as a statistician, as Jas. W. Taylor, and whatever subject he may write upon the public may rely on being instructed as well as edified thereby.—(Herald).

Permit us to ask, Captain, if Montana quartz cannot be worked for less than \$40 per ton? If for \$10,000, the amount paid him, Mr. T. could not have afforded to visit the principal Territory he reported on and devoted more than two pages of a 28 page pamphlet to it? If our population last year was 28,000 and the yield \$12,000,000? If, indeed, the entire report is not an absolute absurdity, and a gross injustice to Montana? Do not allow "the compliments of the author" to swerve you from your duty as a journalist, and induce you to sanction a report, that, however much of a gentleman of principle, education and ability the author may be, is disparaging to Montana, wholly unreliable, and is laughed at by every one conversant with the subject. It is but simple justice for every paper in the Territory, and is demanded of us as the representatives of the people, to ask Mr. Taylor to either speak of Montana as it is, and as he will find it, or to omit mentioning it in subsequent reports. Show your colors.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun writes, February 1st: "Mr. R. Satten, chief of the Globe staff in the Senate, gives in a late number of his excellent Reporter, a table of the physical characteristics of the members of the Senate. It appears by this table that the tallest member of the Senate is Mr. Cowan, of Pennsylvania—6 feet and 3/4 inches; and the shortest is Mr. Davis, of Kentucky—5 feet and 5/8 inches. The man who weighs most is Mr. Van Winkle, of West Virginia—284 pounds. The lightest is Mr. Riddle, of Delaware—117 pounds. Mr. Pomerooy, of Kansas, has the largest chest—44 inches; Mr. Riddle the smallest—32 inches. The oldest is Mr. Guthrie, of Kentucky, born, December 5th, 1792; the youngest, Mr. Sprague, of Rhode Island, born, December 13th, 1830. Mr. Creswell, of Maryland, stands 5 feet and 8 1/2 inches high, weighs 201 pounds, was born Nov. 18th, 1828, and has only two younger colleagues, Mr. Sprague and Mr. Norton of Minnesota. Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, is 5 feet and 6 1/2 inches high, weighs 179 pounds, and is, next to Mr. Guthrie, the oldest man in the Senate.

MINING MATTERS.

"S." sends the following interesting items from Confederate, on the 10th instant: "The weather is moderating very fast, and mining interests are beginning to look up. A grand enterprise is being undertaken in this place, which is looked upon as a great deal of interest. King, Gillette & Co., of Helena, under the supervision of Captain O'Brien are about to commence a bed-rock flume in Confederate gulch, starting a short distance below the mouth of Boulder, and running up until they strike bed-rock, and by the use of hydraulics, run the whole of the dirt of the gulch through their flume. It is the only way the gulch could be worked successfully, and it is hoped that it will prove remunerative to the enterprising company. Hillis & Co., have been taking some rich pay dirt out of their claim, at the mouth of Montana gulch, taking out from \$95 to \$188 to the pan. They found one nugget weighing \$312.

Boulder, much abused Boulder, it seems is looking up again. A nugget weighing \$100 was taken out of the old discovery claim one day last week, and the boys have a fair prospect of doing well, the coming summer. Williams & Co. found some very rich paying ground in their claims, right adjoining below discovery. They are engaged in erecting a derrick by which to raise their dirt with a horse, it is the first thing of the kind in this section of country, and, no doubt, will be a great improvement on the more common way of grinding it out with a windlass. Abt & Co., next below, have been on good pay ever since last July, and have a fair prospect of making a "down the river" strike the coming summer. McCarty & Co., first claim above discovery, have not as yet found anything big, but they feel confident that their ground is good. Boulder bar is attracting considerable attention this spring it is thought to be rich, and so far as a dump can be had, the claims will be prospected as soon as water comes.

JUSTICE sends the following from Red Mountain City, on the 10th inst: "The warm weather of the past week has made a marked change in the appearance of our hamlet. Everybody is busy, including merchants, and all wear smiling faces. Some eight or ten companies are now washing pay 'gravel' and as many more will be at work as soon as lumber can be obtained for sluices. Armstrong mills are the only kind in operation here, at present, consequently lumber is scarce and very high. This drawback will, however, be obviated in a short time, as Major Shoup informs me that he will have his mill in complete running order on the first of May. As far as I have been enabled to learn, those companies who have worked the past week have fully realized their expectations, and are convinced that their confidence has not been misplaced in selecting Highland district as the Eldorado of their hopes. On Cooley's gulch, a tributary of Highland, vast piles of dirt await the coming of water, it being a dry gulch, no water of consequence can be obtained at present; but there will be an abundance in a short time. Some new and rich developments were made a few days since that created considerable excitement. The bar upon which the town stands has always been considered valuable, but nothing definite was known until the past week. It is beyond doubt rich and extensive. Quartz prospectors are busily engaged on our mountain sides, seeking for ledges. Since my last, two valuable discoveries have been made. One, near the Nevins, discovered by Harvey & Co., is well defined and very rich in free gold. We have mine grocery stores; two saloons; five or six boarding houses; three butcher shops; two bakeries; one book store; two clothing stores; two shoe shops; one hardware store; three livery stables, and a brewery nearly completed. One hotel in full blast, and two more will be completed in a few weeks."

HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT.—Mr. D. H. Hopkins, who made a flying trip to the Hot Springs district, a few days since, furnishes us the following items in regard to that district. The visit was chiefly made at the mill and property of the Ragland, Cope & Napton Company, which has been the pioneer in developing this locality, rich region. This (the Alpha) company brought out in the summer of '65, a fifteen-stamp mill, of six hundred and fifty pounds each, with Chilian arrastra and amalgamator combined, and a forty-horse power engine as the motive power. The mill was erected in November of that year in Canadian gulch, two and a half miles north of Sterling. This mill, with one and a half cords of creosote, costing \$4 per cord, has a reducing capacity of ten tons per day, saving ninety-five per cent. of the gold, and with double shoes will reduce twenty tons per day with the same amount of fuel. The latter method, however, which brings the crushing surface nearer the screens, is only used on inferior ore, and does not enable so close a saving of the gold. It is crushing on rock from the full crevice of the Gold Hill lode, twenty tons per day. Mr. Cope, the managing Superintendent, is highly pleased with the prospects of the locality, and is due to his energy that they have now developed the following leads of the Company, which yield, by actual test, the amount per ton annexed. Pony Discovery—shaft, one hundred and thirty feet; crevice, three feet; yield, \$35. Gold Hill—shaft, sixty feet; crevice, three feet; yield, \$40. Esop—shaft, thirty feet; crevice, five feet; yield, \$30. Excellence—shaft, twenty feet; crevice, two and a half feet; yield, \$50. Oriental—shaft, sixty feet; crevice, six inches; yield, \$10. Oriental Extension—shaft, twenty-five feet; crevice, three feet; yield, \$40. The Company own, altogether, twelve hundred and fifty hundred feet of quartz situated from one fourth to three miles from the mill, with abundance of fine timber within one mile. Mr. H. but adds his opinion to that of many other competent men in stating that Hot Springs district is one of the very best in Montana for the number and richness of its leads and the splendid facilities for working them.

THE HIGHLAND QUARTZ.—The quartz in the neighborhood of Red Mountain City, Highland, is attracting the attention of every one by its superior richness and tremendous ledges. Until late last fall, this locality was unprospected, and comparatively few lodes have been yet recorded; but the hills will swarm with men as soon as the snow disappears sufficiently for prospecting. Among those already developed, the Ballarat probably ranks first, and is believed to be the best vein in Montana. The quartz is decomposed, yields by assay, as certified by Nowlan & Weary, at Helena, \$141.50 per ton, and has, at a depth of fifty feet, a twenty-eight foot crevice. Several arrastras will be erected on it at an early day. It has five hundred yards south of town. The Nevins lode, southwest, is very rich, \$25 per ton having been made by crushing with a hand mortar. There is on it a forty foot shaft, showing four feet of crevice. The Talco is another fine ledge, lying three hundred feet north of the Ballarat. The French lode is an extension of the Talco, and has a thirty foot shaft and four feet of crevice. On the Galena, a tunnel, now in two hundred feet and near the lead, will tap it one hundred and twenty-five feet from the surface. The Delmonico is an extension of the Ballarat. It has a fifty foot shaft on it, producing fully as well as the Ballarat. The Bendigo is an extension of the Nevins. West of the town is the Red Mountain silver lode. It has a six foot crevice and is believed to be very rich. These are the principal lodes yet developed in that vicinity, and they give assurance of rich returns. Messrs. Watson & Co. will have arrastras on the Ballarat, and convey shortly, and we understand that Mr. Irwin, of Deer Lodge, proposes erecting another on number four west. There is a great want of lumber at Highland, and a strong desire expressed to have a steam saw mill erected. A gentleman, thoroughly reliable and well informed, states that two hundred thousand feet of lumber for burning, slating, building, etc., could be contracted for at good figures. There is a chance for money.

FIRE CLAY.—We understand that a lead of fire clay has been found in the Muskelesh region. The discovery was made but a short time ago, and the deposit presents every indication of being the right kind of stuff. Further particulars shortly.

FROM SALMON RIVER.—Mr. Phillips showed us, last evening, a letter dated at Salmon river, April 11th, stating that eleven dollars per pan had been taken out of the drain ditch on No. 5, Sierra gulch, and four dollars and seventy-five cents from a single shovel of dirt. There were rumors of much larger yields, but these are reliable. In a reservoir being built to receive water for Coffey gulch, twenty-eight cents to the pan could be obtained on an average. There are about 2,000 men at Salmon, and arriving by hundreds daily. Large quantities of goods are coming in from Idaho and Utah. The snow was disappearing rapidly, and it was thought work would be generally commenced this week.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?—A note received, last evening, from "Onhook," dated Argenta, April 15th, reads thus: "Editor Post: At four p. m., to-day, a cart wheel of silver, weighing four hundred pounds, was expelled from twenty-four tons of Legal Tender ore. This is the largest mass yet produced by one operation. The St. Louis works are in full blast, day and night, and working admirably. The cart wheel will arrive to-day, in care of some fellows who will never tire until it is worn."

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE.—Messrs. Nowlan & Weary have received in bank the 400 pounds of bullion slabs from the last cupellation of the Legal Tender ore. From the rock the lead yielding more, former runs are more bagatelles, compared with what is in store. As an evidence of the richness of the rock, we may state that the St. Louis and Montana Mining Company offered Mr. Esler \$30,000 for fifty tons of the rock, \$600 PER TON IN GOLD.

GOLD AND SILVER.—The following lodes have been recorded since our last: Trail, Nevins district, by W. C. Hinson; Plus, Hot Springs district, by H. Roy Gilbert; Auguste Belmonte, Hot Springs district, by E. B. Thomas; Prof. Rabbit district, by Z. D. Mathews. This latter lode is silver and yields largely by smelting. Judge Hosmer, Dr. Fray and T. C. Kevets have secured eleven hundred feet on good rock and are putting up a Scotch hearth on it as early as a day as practicable.

IN BANK.—The Christenot mill sent in to Nowlan & Weary's, yesterday, about sixty ounces of fine return. Colonel Postelwait deposited some fifty ounces from the Havoc, by E. B. Thomas, Dabier & Co.'s. The former is still short of water, and the latter working from top rock. By the first of May the four principal mills at Summit will be knocking away on good rock and there will be quite a lively time to see who will get ahead.

REVIVING.—Work in Last Chance and adjacent gulches is slowly getting under way; but some time necessarily elapse before full forces of men will be employed on the various claims. But little can be done until the ground is thawed out and water becomes plentiful. The coming week may possibly remedy both these drawbacks.

FROM BANNACK.

SPRING.—Long-looked for Spring has at last come. The weather is delightful; the floods are upon us, dashing down Hangman's gulch at a furious rate. Grasshopper is overflowing its banks, and will probably do a good deal of damage to the miners in the gulch.

SALMON RIVER news is good, and the stream of miners is flowing on. Pack trains arrive now and then and depart loaded with goods for the new Mecca of the miners. Letters for the new mines should be directed via Bannack, Salmon River. But few miners will leave Bannack, wisely preferring steady employment at good wages to chances in the new diggings.

ARGENTA invited Bannack over to a free party and supper. We of course availed ourselves of such a compliment, and last Thursday night was a gay and festive time in Argenta. The party was made up of the best citizens of the County, and was conducted so prudently that the most fastidious could find no fault. The best of feeling prevailed the entire party. The supper, which was prepared at the Esler House, was superb, and reflected credit upon its management.

The next morning the ladies and gentlemen visited Mr. Deidesheimer at the St. Louis furnaces, which are working well. Piles of metal are lying about which have the right ring. They are smelting ore from the Legal Tender, Mr. Deidesheimer is the right man in the right place; and although he professes to know nothing of Prof. Steitz's secrets, yet he is a successful, skillful and practical man. There is room at Rattensnake for a hundred such furnaces, and all can do as well as the St. Louis. The Senator lead is developing finely, producing an abundance of the richest ore, in which specimens of native silver have been found. The Stapleton, Legal Tender, and in fact all that are being developed are getting better and better as the shafts are deepened.

THE SILVER LEADS AT BANNACK are improving as the industrious miner digs deeper, and we might, to-day, have been astonishing the world with rich returns, had it not been for mistaken scientific theories; but all these things will be righted by and by, by practical men. The Huron furnace is nearly completed, and we believe that Mr. Wood, who is a practical miner and mechanic, will meet with success; yet we think that the ore of the Huron will eventually have to go through the crushing process. So far, Mr. Wood has accomplished much, done good work and at a trifling cost to the company. The test will soon be made. We wish success.

THE METROPOLITAN TROUPE are here and are nightly attracting a full house. Their performances are good, but spoiled too much with "Daisy." Their negro characters are hard to surpass.

OLIVER'S COACHES are making good time, but we receive no Eastern mail. We wish it would come along. Of course all of us will get a pile of letters some day. We must be patient, wait and hope. S. F. D.

THE MOST ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS are written without accents, stops or separation between the words, nor was it until after the ninth century that copyists began to have space between words.