

# BLACK HILLS

## Gen. Custer again Reports

### SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS CONFIRM AND STRENGTHEN FORMER REPORTS.

### GOLD IN THE GRASS ROOTS AND IN EVERY PANFUL OF EARTH BELOW.

### Anybody Can Find it—No Former Experience Required.

### FURTHER FACTS REGARDING THE COUNTRY—STILL BEAUTIFUL.

### The Exploration of the Hills—The Mystery Explained.

### AN EDEN AND AN ELDORADO—HELD BY THE HOSTILE SIOUX BUT NOT OCCUPIED.

### Sentiment of the People—The Gold Excitement and what will come of it.

Special correspondence Bismarck Tribune.  
St. Paul, Aug. 22.—The following is a synopsis of Gen. Custer's official report to the Adjutant General, Department of Dakota, dated, Bear Butte, Aug. 15th, 1874.

**THE RETURN.**  
The General describes the march from Harney's Peak to Bear Butte, which was made with much difficulty, and adds that the expedition will return by a different route, exploring still further the head waters of the Little Missouri with a view to locating correctly, that river, of which comparatively little is known, especially of its head waters.

**THE EXPEDITION.**  
The report continues: The expedition entered the Black Hills from the west side, penetrated through the eastern and most southern ranges, exploring the inner portion, and passed out through the North Eastern range, which forms the boundary of the Hills.

**NOT AS REPRESENTED.**  
From the fact, that in all our marches through the Black Hills, we have taken, without serious obstacles, a heavy laden train, of over one hundred wagons, it may be inferred that the Black Hills do not constitute the impenetrable region heretofore represented.

**THE ENTRANCE.**  
In entering the Black Hills from any direction, the most serious, if not the only obstacles, are encountered at once, near the outer base. This probably accounts for

**THE MYSTERY.**  
which has so long existed regarding the character of the interior. Exploring parties have contented themselves with marching around the outer exterior base, and from the forbidding aspect of the Hills, as viewed at a distance, inferring that an advance toward them would only encounter increased obstacles.

**NO BETTER COUNTRY.**  
No portion of the United States can boast richer soil, better pasturage, or purer water—the natural temperature of which, in mid-summer, as it flows from the earth, is but twelve degrees above freezing—and of greater advantages generally to the farmers or stock raiser, than are to be found in the Black Hills.

**ADVANTAGES.**  
Building stone of the best quality is found in inexhaustible quantities. Wood for fuel and lumber for all time to come. Rains are frequent, with no evidence of either drouth or freshet.

The season is perhaps too short, and the nights too cool, for corn, but I believe all other grain could be produced here in

**WONDERFUL ABUNDANCE.**  
Wheat particularly would yield largely.

**MINERALS.**  
There can be no doubt as to the existence of various minerals throughout the Hills, but as this subject has received the special attention of the experts who accompany the expedition, who will report upon this subject in detail,

it only remains for me to mention the fact that iron and plumbago have been found, and gypsum—in beds apparently inexhaustible.

**REPORTS CONFIRMED.**  
Subsequent examinations at numerous points, confirm and strengthen the fact of the existence of

**GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS.**  
On some of the water courses almost every pan full of earth produced gold in small but paying quantities.

Brief halts and rapid marches prevented anything but a very hasty examination of the country in this respect but in one place, and the only one within my knowledge where so great a depth was reached; a shaft was dug eight feet deep, and the miners report that they found

**GOLD AMONG THE GRASS ROOTS,** and from that point to the lowest point reached, gold was found in paying quantities.

**ANY BODY COULD FIND IT.**  
It has not required an expert to find gold in the Black Hills, as men without former experience in mining have discovered it at an expense of but little time and labor.

**THE STOCK.**  
In speaking of the stock accompanying the expedition, the General declares the beef cattle in better condition than when they started, while the mules in the train have held their own, and the cavalry horses are in good working condition.

**NEVER SEEN SO MUCH GAME.**  
He concludes by saying: "I have never seen as many deer as in the Black Hills—elk and bear have also been killed."

The wildest excitement exists, and many have the gold fever. The rush to the Black Hills bids fair to be as great as that to California in 1849.

The country is now restless and full of men out of employment who will not be curbed—men who are infatuated with the idea of sudden wealth, and who will stake life, home, and all they hold dear, to reach this new Eldorado. The newspaper reports were enough to set the world crazy, but those of Gen. Custer confirming all others, settles the question—and seals the doom of the hostile Sioux.

People may preach peace as much as they like, but when it is considered that the Black Hills are held for the Sioux, but not occupied, and but seldom visited by them—they holding them as sacred ground, only because of their superstition, people will rebel at the policy which would keep them from occupying them.

The country needs the excitement. The unemployed mechanics or artisans will find relief. The desheartened granger can turn from his schemes of railway regulations and find profitable employment in mines which are said to yield

**ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER DAY,** willing as fall sensible men are, to become a bloated monopolist or capitalist, if good luck will only force the gold upon him. Yes all men not dead to the necessities of the hour, to the progress of the age, welcome the discoveries of Gen. Custer, and hail him, and the noble officers who have supported him as benefactors.

**"Its Mighty Hard to Bore."**  
The St. Cloud Journal denounces as an impostor a pretended mute who has been dead beating it in that vicinity, and on the Sauk Rapids Sentinel telling its experience with the same fellow, the Brainerd Tribune says:

"We reckon this is the same cuss that was in to see us the other day, and kept us away from our dinner an hour, getting to our sympathetic heart, on paper. He assured us (with a pencil) that he was one of the hunkiest mutes on the job, and said many nice things about himself, one of which was that he was in need of a dollar the worst in the world; that was the day we took in a dollar on subscription, and so gave it to him. He worked us up to such a degree of sympathy that we were just on the point of giving him our note for ten dollars more, but happened to think that such a move would be cruelty instead of kindness—as it wouldn't have been worth two cents on the dollar, no how. Any way, we gave him all we had, added our blessing, and invited him to call again as often as possible, and he shouldn't suffer, etc.; and to think now, that he was nothing but an ordinary cuss, its mighty hard to bore."

## Black Hills Correspondence.

**Custer's Gulch—The Tribune Man and Others Take Gold Claims—None Disappointed at the Results of the Expedition—"Poor Lo must Fall"—Game Killing a Grizzly—Custer, Bloody Knife and Bear—Black Hills Region.**

**CAMP CUSTER'S BLACK HILLS EXPEDITION, BEAR BUTTE, LONGITUDE 108°, LATITUDE 44°, Saturday, August 15th., 1874.**

**Special Correspondence Bismarck Tribune:**  
On the morning of the 6th inst., the command took up its line of march for Bear Butte, where it arrived last evening. Bear Butte is about 160 miles south of Bismarck and 110 miles west, say 215 miles in a direct line.

Custer's Park is about 40 miles south west, though to reach that point we have marched 105 miles, tramping around through valleys and ravines.

**EXPLORATION COMPLETED.**  
The exploration of the Black Hills is now completed, but the General will probably

**EXTEND HIS EXPLORATIONS** up the north fork of the Cheyenne, and to the head waters of the Little Missouri, then returning to Bismarck by another route—though, undoubtedly, a direct one. You need not look for us before the 31st inst.

**GOLD AND SILVER.**  
Gold, silver, plumbago and iron, and immense beds of gypsum, have been found—the two former in paying quantities.

On the morning of leaving Custer Park, in what will hereafter be known as

**CUSTER'S GULCH,** the following notice might have been seen posted by the side of a shaft sunk by Messrs. Ross and McKay:

**DISTRICT No. 1, CUSTER'S GULCH, Black Hills, August 5th, 1874.**

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned claimants do claim (4,000) four thousand feet, commencing at No. 8, above discovery, and running down to No. 12 below discovery, for mining purposes, and do intend to work the same as soon as peaceable possession can be had of this portion of the territory by the general government; and we do hereby locate the above claims in accordance with the laws of Dakota Territory governing mining districts.

- H. N. Ross, discoverer, 400 feet.  
Mike Smith, below discovery No. 1. " " 2.  
Walt. Comer, " " 3.  
W. J. Konnelly, " " 4.  
W. T. McKay, " " 5.  
Dan Manning, " " 6.  
Henry Hennig, " " 7.  
N. H. Knappen, " " 8.  
Dick Matherson, " " 9.  
Harry Roberts, " " 10.  
James Brook, " " 11.  
Tim. Hose, " " 12.  
George Bosworth, " " 8.  
Pat Smith, above discovery, " " 7.  
C. W. Freede, " " 6.  
F. Weddle, " " 5.  
Alex. McBeth, " " 4.  
C. Bassett, " " 3.  
Samuel O'Connell, " " 2.  
George McCabe, " " 1.  
James McGee, " " 1.

This is a sluice diggings, and is estimated at \$10 per day to a man.

**NONE DISAPPOINTED.**  
No member of the expedition is disappointed at the result of the expedition and the belief is common among members of the expedition that there are not troops enough in this department to prevent the immediate occupation of the country by miners.

**Why not occupy the BLACK HILLS?**

It is now well known that though the Black Hills country belongs to the Indians, it is not occupied by them, and is seldom visited by them. Because of their superstition it has been held as a sacred spot to them—as the

**HUNTING GROUND OF THE GREAT SPIRIT,** and, just here, permit me to remark that the belief prevails among the command that if the Great Spirit should determine to seek a hunting ground, he would go no further than the Black Hills for it.

**GAME OF ALL KINDS ABOUND,** and in unlimited quantities.

It is a fact recognized by all, that there are no finer grazing lands in the world, than are those in the valleys of the Black Hills, and none can see any reason why they should not be occupied by the adventurous white man. I dare say that none who will consider the rich deposits of gold and silver, the abundance of game, the soil, water and timber—the fact that the country abounds in everything that will make a great State prosperous and wealthy, will for a moment agree with those who think that this country should still be

left in the hands of the Indians, who like the

**DOG IN THE MANGER,** will neither occupy it themselves or allow others to occupy it.

It is true the expedition was an affair of peace, not intended to bring on hostilities—nor has it brought them on—for not a shot has as yet been fired at the hostile Indians—none have made their appearance, but the news 'ere this is abroad in the land, and the restless spirits from all localities will flock to the frontier towns, and they will break for the Black Hills, and will reach them, too, and to prevent it would require a larger army than it would take to guard the Rio Grande, were every Mexican determined to supply himself with American stock.

And in the conflict which follows **POOR LO MUST FALL,** for though he has some rights that white men are bound to respect, he has none that

**INFATUATED GOLD HUNTERS** will respect.

The facts should be considered by the Government and immediate steps taken for the peaceable extinguishment of the Indian titles.

**GAME.**  
I said game was abundant. So it is. There are deer, black and white tailed, elk, black and grizzly bears, mountain sheep, mountain lions and all manner of fur bearing animals.

**KILLING A GRIZZLY.**  
Gen. Custer and Col. Ludlow, on the 7th inst, killed a grizzly which weighed about eight hundred pounds. Six or eight shots were fired before the old fellow surrendered. On receiving the first shot he coked himself up on his hind legs, and showing his huge teeth, he grinned defiance; but like all who fight Custer, he was compelled to surrender.

**ANOTHER GRIZZLY.**  
On the same evening, the Santee scouts killed the mate to the one killed by Custer and Ludlow, which was even larger than the male, but before bringing her down, the noble Santees fired shots enough to extinguish the whole Sioux nation.

The one killed by Custer and Ludlow had claws fully five inches long, and teeth or tusks as long as a man's finger, which were set outside the lips, making an animal somewhat ferocious in appearance. I have rode inside the columns since I saw those jaws—would rather see old Sitting Bull than such a bear.

**A PICTURE WORTH HAVING.**  
Illingsworth took a photograph of the stricken monarch, with Gen. Custer, Col. Ludlow, and Bloody Knife the Sioux guide, standing around it.

**BEAR BUTTE REGION.**  
We entered the Hills from the west side, through the Western Pass, and sought an outlet through the northeast, which we found, though not without considerable difficulty.

The formation of this portion of the Hills is the same as that of the western portion. The lower range is covered with a black substance which resembles crushed coal—possibly lava—the upper range is of red sandstone. Bear Butte is about two and one-half miles outside the Hills. There is but little timber on it, and it is surrounded by prairie. Next to Harney's Peak, Bear Butte is the highest of the hills.

**BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES.**  
After leaving Custer's Park on the 6th, we marched for two days through a beautiful country—parks and valleys—of which the Black Hills are full; the landscapes in many instance arranged as if by art. On the 8th we marched through a forest destroyed by fire and storms—desolate enough, I assure you; but soon we struck another section as lovely as the loveliest. The 11th was spent hunting for an outlet through the Hills—the 12th and 13th in the same way, but yesterday we struck the prairie about twenty miles southwest from this point.

**PARTING.**  
All regretted to leave the Hills with their pleasant groves, beautiful lawns, ice cold brooks, and luscious fruits and gems of gold and silver.

For no country has nature done so much as for this, leaving so little to be done by the husbandman. The open and timbered spaces are so divided that a person can obtain a farm of almost any dimensions, from an acre upwards, with the proper proportion of timber,

and prairie, with pure babbling brooks, in which the water is only 12 degrees above freezing the warmest days in summer.

Nature seems to have gone further, and has located choice building sites amid evergreens, flowers and shrubs.

The soil is a deep black loam, between 3 and 4 feet deep, moist and exceedingly productive. There is every indication of an abundance of rain, while the ground is not torn by torrents.

**MORE ABOUT GOLD.**

The scientific corps accompanying the expedition, have examined the mineral resources, although not thoroughly, as the halts have been brief, and it is the opinion of those who are in a position to know, that the minerals are as rich as any in the world.

I saw a prospect taken from one pan of earth which yielded fifty pieces of gold the size of pin heads. This was taken from a shaft in Custer's Gulch. Gold was found in the grass roots, and in the earth, in paying quantities, to a depth of eight feet.

Miners estimate that gold to the extent of one hundred dollars per day to the single man, can be secured from one locality prospected.

**CONCLUSION.**

All the officers of the command are well, except Lt. Chance, who is still lame, but is getting along nicely.

James King, of H troop, 7th Cavalry, died on the 13th, of dysentery. He had been ailing for three days, but he refused to leave the ranks until the day previous to his death. King's friends reside at Des Moines, Iowa, and he is spoken of as a good soldier.

Two games of ball were played in the Hills, of which I have forwarded the score. They speak for themselves.

N. H. K.

## THE BLACK HILLS.

The disposition to misconstrue every act of the Administration, which exists on the part of certain opposition journals, frequently lead them to indulge in the most far-fetched and unfounded conjectures. The Custer expedition to the Black Hills of Dakota is a striking instance in point. The New York World leading off as usual in the assault, thinks there are some queer things about the affair. The preparations, it says, have been made with much secrecy; no appropriation was asked of Congress; the War Department has been singularly reticent; hence, argues the World, the expedition must be the work of a "ring." The officers are known favorites at White House; Custer is in command, Forsythe is second, and Fred Grant is third. What clearer evidence can there be of a "job" than these damning facts? The Boston Post also scents corruption in the Custer expedition, and stigmatizes the invasion of the Sioux territory as a direct and flagrant violation of the treaty which Bishop Hare has made with that tribe. Like the World, the organ of the Boston Democracy, too, talks about a "ring" and White House favorites, "including the rapidly promoted son of the President."

Now nothing can have a more slender foundation to rest upon than these insinuations about rings and jobs. If the preparations for the Black Hills expedition were made with any special secrecy—which remains yet to be proved—if no appropriation was asked of Congress and if the War Department has really been "singularly reticent" about the affair, this would be nothing exceptional.

Military preparations are generally secret, neither is it usual to ask special appropriation for every raid against the Indians, from Congress; nor is the War Department in the habit of proclaiming in advance from the house-tops what it proposes to do. Nor, indeed, are we aware that General Custer is such a favorite at the White House. His long and arduous services on the frontier, point to him as pre-eminently fitted for the command of such an expedition as that against the Sioux, and his experience as an Indian fighter had, therefore, more to do with the appointment than his standing with the President. Stripped of these unwarranted allegations, there is in reality nothing more to justify the stuff of the World and consorts about "rings and jobs," than that Colonel Grant is attached to the command of the expedition.—Inter-Ocean.

Oh Theodore Tilton,  
Go on with your quill!"  
And scandal, you odious creature;  
Your charges are thin;  
No credence they'll win;  
We'll bet you Henry Ward Beats yer.—Danbury News.

One of our correspondents says: "You must publish all the items I send or I will discontinue." We can not help it, and will regret losing so good an itemizer; but just at present the editor is at the office and proposes to insert or omit at his discretion.—Gopher Mirror.

A Pennsylvania-avenue boy got so homesick that he walked seventy-eight miles without eating in order to get down once more at the family hearthstone. He was received with such warmth by his mother and father that it was several days before he could sit down anywhere.