

DAM IT THEY CAN'T.

Harry Patton's Latest News About Salton Sea.

Joe Carter Says the Crevasse Cannot Be Closed.

Some Interesting Information About the Desert Lake.

Mr. Patton's Theory—Carter Gives a Practical View of the Situation. The Lake Will Be Ten Times Larger This Winter.

Editor Patton, of the Banning Herald, who first explored the Salton sea, in the last issue of his paper gives the following interesting data on the matter:

It is surprising to what an extent interest keeps up in the Salton sea. The editor of this paper never goes away from home that he is not asked by three out of five people he meets regarding the present status of the lake. There has been very little to report concerning it. The water has been falling some, but owing to a recent rise in the Colorado river it has again begun to flow past the Summit and is finding its way into Salton lake. A word about the Summit: On our memorable trip from Yuma to Salton, by boat, we found a place near Seven Wells where the water was only about six feet deep for a distance of about a hundred yards. Before reaching this spot, and after passing it, the water was about twenty feet deep. Joe Carter named this the Summit. Geo. W. Durbrow and Captain Mellon have recently been down to the break in the Colorado, and Durbrow, in an offhand way, tells the newspapers that it wouldn't take much work to stop the crevasse and prevent the flow of water to the desert. We received the other day a letter from our friend Joe Carter, who is at his cattle camp near the crevasse, and he gives his views on stopping the break:

CARTER CAMP, Oct. 9, 1891.

FRIEND PATTON: On my arrival here today from Seven Wells I found yours of September 24th and October 1st. Well, I will open up for you most cheerfully, but I am very busy and can only promise this one. I am now gathering cattle all along Carter river as far as Seven Wells, about 17 miles from this camp. I go out and sleep there at night, and the next morning track a herd of cattle and bring them home. I was not so fortunate last trip, as I had to sleep out two nights, and then three of us only secured six cows and three calves on the third day, and I got home about 2 a. m. We take out a big load of bread, some jerkey, coffee and sugar, and rough it till we get back. Yesterday morning we had no breakfast, but were fortunate enough to find three watermelon vines loaded with ripe melons, about three miles southwest of Cook's Wells. One vine had at least 40 watermelons, and many were delicious. We killed two rattlesnakes in one day; one with seven and the other with 14 rattles; the longest about 4 1/2 feet long and two inches in diameter. There is good grass and queteta weed at Seven Wells, but not much. We found enough to last five head of horses several days. There is a black weed, sosa, growing in different places so thick that it is almost impenetrable; in fact you can't travel through it over a mile, anyhow. It exhausts the strength of both horses and cattle. If we have a heavy winter, and consequently big rise in the Colorado, I think Salton will be submerged entirely. The ground is thoroughly soaked, the sloughs keep up their supply of water, and when the freshet comes there will be but little soakage and waste, and Salton lake will fill very fast. We had a rise about the first of September and the water was booming in Carter river again, and continued rising even after the water was falling in the Colorado; but it is now going down very fast and I can again cross it. Previous to the rise it had ceased flowing just this side of Seven Wells—the Summit.

Now, with all due deference to the opinions and observations of Mr. Durbrow and Captain Mellon, I think they, as well as other humans, are likely to be mistaken. Captain Mellon no doubt has an eye to business. Steamboats would be very handy about the time they contemplated closing the crevasse on the river bank. As soon as their substantial (?) dyke or levee is built I suppose the water will do as it did formerly, bank up against it until it finds a low spot above or below, and will then flow into the hills as it did before. You know that the water flowed south and west as we went in, and after going in about one and a half miles the water flowed northwest and then north until we got near the sandhills, when it again took a southwesterly course. How long will their levee last? How high will it be? I will wager that I can show them channels that they never saw, shallow and wide, but carrying immense bodies of water. The river, recollect, had flown through this region of crevasse two years previous to '91. I suppose they intend to close the big break—the new river—the others will then wash out, and then you will see a body of water go to Salton. It is most likely true that the main channel has been washed out, but (as they acknowledge) the channel has not been closed, and the cut or break is also level with the bottom of the stream; and the course of the river is in a direct line for the breaks or crevasse, and the new east channel that Mellon spoke of makes a turn south. I tell you this crevasse was formerly a dam, and all Mellon says only confirms what I say; the river will still flow to that dam, and I am d—d if he can stop it from overflowing around any dyke he can build where they say, and still continuing to supply Salton lake. The problem is not solved and won't be until a most thorough investigation is made both by land and water, which will not require less time than three or four weeks, and it will cost money. Even before the bend became such a levee the water backed up from below and overflowed these lands and backed out onto the desert, but of course did not reach Salton, as it did not have the force and body. I inclose small map.

When writing on the crevasse I merely express my opinions and views from observations. This is a large, level country, and I am continually making discoveries in regard to the topography of the country. Mellon and Durbrow accomplished a great deal in a very short time. How about the notes taken of the topography of the surrounding country? How did they get there or where did their information come from?

I can't get anywhere near the river, Sloughs, lagoons, mud and brush prevent any progress in that direction.

I want you to understand that in expressing a contra opinion to the different parties writing on this subject my motive is only for the public benefit. If Messrs. Durbrow and Mellon, or other parties, should succeed in dyking or leveeing the crevasse, preventing the overflow as it has been, it would be an immense benefit to me personally, as my cattle are deprived of much fine pasture and driven a long distance from the camps. I now believe the only way of stopping the flow to Salton will be a levee at Gardiner's or Alamo Mocho. There is good reason for the lake water falling—no more flow and the seepage from the upper lakes and soil has ceased. The water rose last night higher than it did in three days of the previous rise. J. S. CARTER.

We see that all of the monthly magazines are taking long distance shots at the Salton lake. It is wonderful what a good description a fellow who has never seen the lake can write of it. The editor of the Herald, however, has no complaint to make, as all of the magazines give him due credit for his trip. It is our opinion, as it has all along been, that the Salton basin will fill up to sea level, and a vast and permanent body of water be established, with connection with the gulf. It will be permanent because its immense advantages will be so manifest that the government of the United States will see to it that the channel is kept open, and that nothing interferes with the flow of water. With the lake filled up, a speedy steam launch, laden with fish, oysters, turtles, etc., can run from the gulf to the railroad in twelve hours or less.

We also believe that when Grant Bros. get through straightening the Southern Pacific track at Gila Bend, they will come up and move the track over the desert to a point above sea level. Even with the ordinary rise in the Colorado river, the lake will be ten times greater in extent this winter than it has been, and with a heavy rise the lake will assume mammoth proportions.

BATTLE OF THE BUCKS.

Strange Combat Witnessed by Bear Valley Men.

The gentlemen comprising the surveying party now working for the Bear Valley company, up Millard's cañon, were on Monday treated to a sight which seldom comes to men in this center of civilization. We get the story from Messrs. Pollock and Ross, transit men of the party, says the Banning Herald. The men were working up the cañon, about a mile above the Millard house, when they heard a peculiar crashing noise. Looking up they saw on the cliffs, high above the stream, and about a quarter of a mile from them, two noble ducks standing with heads lowered about ten feet from each other. Thus they stood eyeing each other and pawing the dirt for fully a minute. Then they made a simultaneous spring and came together with a noise like a falling tree. So violent was the concussion that the animals were thrown back until a distance of 10 or 15 feet again intervened between them. The men, fascinated with the sight, watched the deer go through the same performance again and again. Finally, after a more than usually violent rush, the bucks did not separate, but struggled as if apparently trying to push each other back. It soon became plain to the men, however, that instead of pushing they were pulling away from each other. In other words their horns had become locked, and from raging combatants the bucks became frightened animals and were only bent on securing a divorce. Messrs. Pollock and party then conceived the idea of taking advantage of the helpless condition of the bucks and capturing them. They made a grand rush for the scene, but before they reached it the deer in their struggles approached too near the edge of the cliff, and both of them fell to their death in the pool below. When the party reached the water the deer were found locked in each other's horns, quite dead. The gentlemen thought to skin the deer and bring in the hides to lend an air of authenticity to the tale, but the law is so strict as to having in your possession the hide of a newly deceased deer, no matter whether the deer dies of a gripe, commits suicide or falls out of a balloon, that they forbore.

The above is a true story all the same, and one of the bucks is the grandfather of the rawn that narrowly escaped death in the stone ditch some weeks ago. One animal story a week is enough, and Uncle Johnnie Moore's adventure with the mountain lion will have to go over.

RUMORED IMPROVEMENTS.

Reported Work to Be Done by the Citizens' Water Company.

It appears that the Citizens' Water company is arousing itself. When Mr. Wicks was last here, it is reported that he gave orders to have an estimate made of the cost of a new steel main from the Ivanhoe reservoir into the city. He also intends to have another reservoir constructed beside the one at Ivanhoe, so that the storage capacity of the company will be doubled. It is further said to be the intention of the company to fence in the ditch to the reservoir. This would of course keep cattle from wading in it, but would not prevent the washing into it by the rains of all the filth above it on the hillside. These plans all sound pretty, but time only can tell what there is substantial about them.

How to Overcome the Dangers of Exposure.

Francis O'Reilly, the well-known livery man of No. 18 Prince street, New York, says of ALLOCK'S POROUS PLASTER: "For the last forty-two years I have been engaged in the livery and hacking business. I am greatly aided by my boys. We are much exposed to the weather, and we have found ALLOCK'S PLASTER of very great service. We use them as chest protectors, placing one on the chest and one on the pit of the stomach. They not only ward off the cold, but act as a tonic. We are frequently attacked with rheumatic pains in the back and pains in the side; but one or two of ALLOCK'S PLASTER quickly cure them. My wife and daughter have also used ALLOCK'S PLASTER for weak back and think the world of them. I have now been using them for twenty years, and always have a box in the house."

Purity-Strength-Perfection CLEVELAND'S SUPERIOR Baking Powder. Absolutely the Best.

THE SAILORMEN.

THE CREW OF THE ROBERT AND MINNIE AT LIBERTY.

They Have Been Prisoners in the County Jail, but the Government has Paid Them Well—The Facts.

In connection with the discharge of the Robert and Minnie sailors, mention of which was made in yesterday's HERALD, who had been held as witnesses in the Itata case, there is possibly an impression that the incarceration of these men has been very much of a hardship to them. While it is usually considered irksome to be deprived of liberty under any circumstances, there are, however, conditions under which innocent men under lock and key are not wholly miserable. In the case of these Itata witnesses there was a mitigating circumstance in the shape of a per diem, which made their imprisonment not unendurable. From the time of their incarceration as witnesses, which was due to their inability to procure bonds for their appearance at the trial, they have been allowed \$1 per day each and board.

The five sailors from the Robert and Minnie were put in the county jail on the 11th of May last, as United States prisoners, charged with violating the neutrality laws of the government. On May 15th two sailors from the Itata, Eduardo Telling and Clodomiro Umeres, were locked up on the same charge. The latter, however, were released on May 18th out on the 26th they were again detained, this time as witnesses. On the same date the Robert and Minnie sailors were discharged as prisoners, and held as witnesses. It was from this date that their per diem from the government began. The United States also paid their board. This at first was at the regular prison rate, 35 cents per day each, and contemplated only prison fare. Some time later, about June 24th, the supervisors of this county adopted the rule that witnesses detained at the county jail should be allowed board at the rate of \$5 per week. The United States government, having no prison of its own, uses various penitentiaries and county jails throughout the country by private contract, conforming in all respects to local regulations. From the last mentioned date the government paid for the board of those seven men at the rate of \$5 per week. These items, while practically immaterial in summing up the total expense of the Itata matter, amounted to quite a respectable sum by themselves, footing up very nearly \$1700.

From the standpoint of the sailors, however, their incarceration has not been oppressive. When the prevailing rate of seamen's wages is considered, and also the fact that a sea voyage is practical isolation, it can readily be seen that they are about as well off as they would have been had they retained their liberty.

LETTER BAG.

Likes the County Hospital.

EDITORS HERALD: Having been an inmate of the county hospital at Los Angeles for fourteen days, undergoing treatment for a complaint which necessitated an operation, successfully performed on the 17th inst., and being discharged as cured this, the 24th day of October, 1891, I request the favor of the publication of this statement, with a view of bringing to the notice of the public the excellence of the management of the Los Angeles county hospital under the supervision of Dr. Brainerd, M. D.

The patients are unanimous in their testimony of the uniform kindness and attention displayed by the physicians and their attendants, and complete satisfaction is expressed with regard to diet, while the scrupulous cleanliness of the hospital is apparent in every department. It is out of sheer gratitude that I ask the insertion of this statement, trusting that it may be gratifying to the public to be cognizant of the fact that the city of Los Angeles contains a public institution whose reputation is well calculated to reflect great credit on all those interested or concerned with it.

This statement, the veracity of which cannot be impeached, is made purely with disinterested motives, entirely free from bias or prejudice.

The air of contentment pervading the whole of the hospital indicates the superiority of the system on which the management is based, and a visitor cannot fail to be impressed by the courtesy and urbanity of those appointed to look after the welfare of the sick of the county.

HENRY TREVELYAN.

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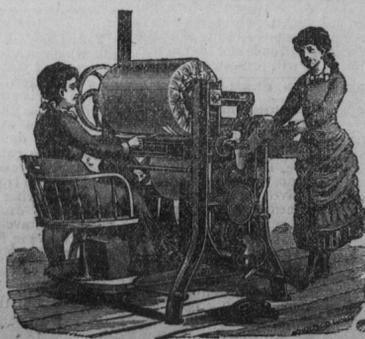
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