

Las Vegas Gazette.

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LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, JULY 25, 1874.

WHOLE NUMBER 71

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Las Vegas Gazette.

LOUIS HOMMEL,

Editor & Publisher.

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CHARLES ILFELD, Secretary.

NEW MEXICO,

Her Natural Resources and

ATTRACTIONS.

Published by ELIAS BREVOORT,

General Land Agent, Santa Fe, N. M.

Republished by authority of the Author.

EXTENT, POPULATION, Etc.

New Mexico has pertained, at different periods and with different boundaries, and extent to three different nationalities—to Spain, to Mexico, and to the United States.

Under Spain it was called the province of Nueva Mexico, under Mexico the province, the territory, the State, and the department of Nuevo Mexico and under the United States it is called the Territory of New Mexico, destined, we have no doubt, in a very few years to become one of the States of the American Union.

The Territory was created by the act of the United States congress of September 9, 1850, and the territorial government put in operation March 1, 1851, with the eastern and southern boundaries as they now are, and with the northern along the thirty-eighth degree of latitude, and the western along

the Rio Colorado of the west, the eastern boundary of the State of California. After wards a whole degree of latitude was by congress taken from us on the north, and given to the Territory of Colorado, then a portion of our northwest corner attached to the State of Nevada, and then the whole of the Territory of Arizona lopped off from our western half—so that at this time the Territory extends from 103° to 109° longitude west from Greenwich, and from 31° 47' to 37° north latitude, in other words it bounded on the north by Colorado, on the east by Texas and Indian Territory, on the south by Texas and Mexico, and on the west by Arizona, and extends on an average three hundred and thirty-two miles east and west.

The general face of the country, says the Commissioner of the General Land Office, in his annual report for 1870, is constituted of high level plateaus, traversed by ranges of mountains from which occasional isolated peaks rise to a great height, and intersected by rapid streams of water flowing through beautiful fertile valleys, and channeling in the precipitous rocky canons.

The general course of the mountains, valleys and streams is from north to south, with the tendency to a deflection from northwest to southeast, or towards Mexico and the isthmus of Panama; the territory including the southern extension of the mountain constituting what is called in more northern latitudes the great Rocky Range, this being an elevated continental vertebral column, extending from the Arctic Ocean to South America without losing its identity, or the chain of connecting peaks being broken, and following a line parallel with the general contour of the Pacific coast throughout its whole extent. The rivers of New Mexico form parts of the water system of both the Atlantic and Pacific slopes—those on the eastern side of the dividing range emptying into the gulf of Mexico by way of the Canadian and Mississippi rivers and the Rio Grande del Norte, and those on the western side flowing into the gulf of California by way of the Rio Gila and Colorado of the West.

The general altitude of the mountain chains, rising on either side of the Rio Grande and Pecos, is between 6000 and 8000 feet, and sometimes, especially in the northern sections of the territory, they reach the height of 10,000 and 12,000 feet above the sea level. One of the most noted elevations is Mount Taylor, situated northwest of Santa Fe, which rises to a height of 10,000 feet above the valley of the Rio Grande, this valley having itself an elevation of between 6000 and 6000 feet above the sea in its northern extension towards the Colorado boundary, 4800 feet at Albuquerque, and 3000 feet at El Paso, just across the southern boundary in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

The climate is considerably varied by the changes of latitude and by the elevation of the surface of the country. The salubrity of the climate is remarkable, and constitutes one of its most attractive features, the malarious maladies occasional in some localities of the Mississippi valley and elsewhere, where the soil is imperfectly cultivated and surplus vegetation allowed to decay on the surface, being entirely unknown in New Mexico; and seldom are persons here affected with pulmonary or hepatic diseases, while the presence of numerous thermal and other mineral springs, possessing extraordinary curative powers, promises to render it, as soon as their virtues shall have become as well known to the great public as new to the explorer and pioneer, one of the most popular places of resort to those residents of the cities and towns whose physical health is impaired, and who seek recuperation, and the beauty of its natural scenery most attract many who desire relief for minds overtaxed with the care and labor of arduous professions or encroaching mercantile pursuits.

The plateaus, valleys and hillsides of New Mexico, continues the commissioner, are usually covered with various indigenous grasses, furnishing the best of pasturage for sheep and cattle, the most valuable and widely distributed of these grasses being a variety called the mesquite or grama grass, which grows during the rainy season of July and August, ripens under the influence of autumnal suns and dries up the stalk, bearing a copious abundance of nutritious seeds, and constituting adequate support for every kind of live stock throughout the entire winter, and until the more rapidly growing herbage of the spring and early summer has attained sufficient growth to attract animals by its freshness from their winter sustenance, and furnishing the food necessary to the most perfect development of animal life. The herdsmen and shepherd in this country therefore possess great advantages over the farmer and stockraiser of the more eastern states, as the latter is compelled to spend a large portion of his time and labor in support in providing food for the support of his stock during winter months; besides this advantage there is to be considered the fact

that mildness of the winters and the slight falls of snow render shelter, other than that afforded by the valleys, and timber, entirely unnecessary for the protection of the herds and flocks, the pure air, wide ranges, and excellent food resulting in an extraordinary healthiness of the animals, among which the contagious diseases, prevalent in other sections, are almost entirely unknown, the horses being remarkable for their endurance, and the beef and mutton celebrated for their excellence, while the flesh of the cattle and sheep is readily cured without the use of salt, by being hung up in the open air, the rarity of the atmosphere soon producing a state of dryness, which will preserve it in all its natural sweetness and excellence for any reasonable period. The production of wool is at present one of the most profitable branches of industry in the Territory, and the recent introduction of improved breeds of sheep, with a view of obtaining larger animals and finer qualities of the fleece; will undoubtedly contribute greatly to the advancement of this interest.

The mining interests of the Territory are important, and promise to constitute in the immediate future one of the chief sources of wealth and prosperity; the deposits of gold, silver, copper, iron and coal being extensive and valuable. Embarrassments, proceeding from Indian difficulties, and from the wants of ready means of transportation for supplies and products, have greatly retarded the development of the mines in the past; but recently the country has become more settled and safe, in consequence of the present beneficent Indian policy of the government and the efficient administration of the same, the result being new discoveries of valuable mines, and more profitable working of the older ones, the yield of gold and silver during the past year comparing very favorably with that of any of the past years in the history of this interest, notwithstanding the suspension of work on some of the principal mines, for the purpose of introducing new and improved machinery with the view of their more economical working. The great desideratum in connection with the mining interest is better and cheaper modes of transportation, which can only be furnished by the construction of railroads, and when these shall have been extended through the Territory—as they inevitably soon must be, in the course of American progress—the mines of New Mexico will undoubtedly contribute greatly to the augmentation of the present annual production of the precious metals in the United States.

There are certain portions of the Territory perhaps unfit for either cultivation or pasturage—but it is certain that almost all the valleys of the rivers, as well as the table lands within reach of irrigation, are exceedingly productive; the soil possessing elements of great fertility, and the occasional scarcity of water alone preventing the more arid portions from producing excellent crops and superior indigenous herbage. The most abundant crops of the Territory are those of corn, wheat, barley, oats, apple, peaches, apricots and grapes; all of these grains and fruits thriving readily, and the crops being of excellent quality. The soil, climate and nature of the surface are especially adapted to the culture of the grape, this being an important branch of the husbandry of the country, the yield of fruit being prolific, and the wine produced therefrom of excellent quality. Consequent upon the necessity of irrigation, cultivation of the soil is confined to those localities where water from the rivers and streams can be readily obtained, the usual method of securing the necessary supplies being by constructing large canals, called *acequias* *mudres*, of sufficient capacity for an entire town or settlement, at the cost of all who desire the benefits to be derived therefrom, along the most elevated portions of the valleys or over the greater elevations of the plateaus adjoining the foothills of the mountains, and from this main ditch each farmer constructs his own minor canals to the lands he desires to irrigate, the right of each to the use of the water being confined to certain hours in each week; in order that the supply may be fairly divided, a farmer being able, by the use of these ditches, to water thoroughly about five acres in a day, on even ground. The necessity for irrigation is certainly the source of considerable trouble and labor to the agriculturist, but the certainty and excellence of the crops, which result from this care, and the comparative freedom from dependence upon the seasons, almost atone for this necessity. But we gathered from well tried experiments that, when more attention has been given in this section to the planting of fruit and forest trees, the climate will be materially changed in this respect, greater supplies of rains following, and its fall being more evenly distributed through the several seasons.

*The *acequias* are often twenty or thirty miles long, and often afford considerable mill power. Each irrigation is a new eating of manure to the soil, and cultivation by irrigation, instead of impoverishing, enriches the soil. The Spaniards two hundred and seventy years ago found the Pueblo Indians here cultivating the ground by irrigation, and the same land has been tilled ever since annually, and it is still of undiminished fertility and productiveness.

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CLIPPINGS.

A lawyer's advice—*Damnium sum.*

Don't turn up your nose at light things. Think of bread and taxation.

Don't be too sentimental. A dead heart properly cooked, will make a very savory meal.

The Chicago base ball club has been beaten in everything but drinking out meal water.

When a man parts his hair in the middle, the crease is very apt to strike into the brain.

Don't ask the Lord to keep your garments unspotted. He isn't renovating old clothes.

Don't linger where your "lovelies dream"ing. Wake her up and tell her to get breakfast.

Notices are posted in the St. Louis street cars announcing that "this car can't wait for ladies to kiss good-bye."

A New York paper says it is a mistake to suppose that champagne is made of old boots. One by one the roses fade.

Sam Bowles knows all about agriculture, and he says they can't fool him into soaking his dried apples before planting.

How very appropriate that the Havana authorities, in pitching upon a place for a penal colony, choose the Isle of Pines.

"Change cars!" is what a city beetleblack said to a courtman the other day, when he had finished blacking one of his brogans.

Wm. Uncles, of New Jersey, shot his head off the other day, but there are thousands of uncles not one particle so considerate.

A Florida paper says that "watermelons as large as a nail-kleg go begging in Tampa market at fifteen cents apiece." Oh, water melancholy fact.

Iowa is the State to live in. A whole Sunday School picnic can be thrown over a bridge twenty-six feet high and no one but a red headed girl hurt.

It is well that Marshal Concha is dead. It is said that he could make an ordinary man double up like a case of cucumber colic by merely glaring at him.

One of the most vexatious things in the world is to have your wife's uncle kicked in the stomach by a horse, will you \$20,000, and then dell'e vety get well.

A coquette girl in Delaware has been the cause of five suicides among the young men at her neighborhood. However, it is better to be a coquette than a fool.

Circumstances alter cases. For instance, when a Virginian arose in church and said: "Here's a hundred dollar bill for the old boss behind the pulpit!" no one thought of having him put out.

One reason why Wisconsin hired girls get four dollars per week is because they have to go down stairs at midnight to investigate strange noises, while the man of the house takes up a position under the bed.

A Cleveland youth of rather fast proclivities fell in love with a parson's daughter, and, as a clincher to his claims, said to the reverend gentleman: "I go my bottom dollar on pioussness, and I will pray for stamps on the spot."

It has been asked by one curious in the causes of things, "why two thirds of the hotel clerks are bald," a keen observer gives it as his opinion that it may be "because the forces of nature have been diverted from the scalp to the cultivation of supernatural cheek."