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# The Oasis

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to  
All the  
BUSINESS + +  
+ + INTERESTS  
Of  
Southern Arizona  
and Sonora.

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NOGALES, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1895.

Whole No. 112

## MINAS PRIETAS.

Special Correspondence.

LA COLORADA, Sonora, Mexico. )  
July 3rd, 1895. )

Doctor Howitt is about to erect a hoist on his mine.

Operation is projected of new mines named La Fortuna, La Blanca, Celio.

A private letter from Miss Burris, the Congregational missionary who has been conducting a school in Prietas, states that she will spend the summer in Oklahoma City, O. T. She will be sadly missed by her host of friends.

Many new buildings are going up in the camp, and the new hospital building for the benefit of the miners is almost completed. It is a handsome and convenient structure. It is said that in the near future the camps can boast of brick buildings as a brick-kiln is being established.

Four or five contemplated resignations from various prominent positions in camp are reported on account of the warm weather which is said to be an omen of increase in contagious diseases. By older residents this theory is said to be a fallacy, as the camp is healthy at all seasons.

A new and very valuable gold ledge has been found in the "San Juan" ground, a property belonging to the Colorado-Creston Co., and an extension of the Colorado claim. It was discovered by some Yaquis, who were clearing some ground on which to erect their cabins, and in doing so they uncovered a ten foot ledge, croppings from which yielded assays rich in gold.

At the old Prietas mill work on the new roasting furnaces is progressing rapidly. Two furnaces of the White-Howell patent of daily capacity of sixty tons each are being put up, and the building is being erected on a scale which will admit the location of two more of the same capacity when needed. Those now in course of erection will soon be in operation and will treat daily 120 tons of Creston ore.

The popular and enterprising Pedro Negro has recently incorporated seventeen mines hereabouts under the name of "La Union Minera de las Prietas." The headquarters of the company is in Guaymas, and it is reported that the shares were taken up in Guaymas and Hermosillo soon after being placed on the market. G. Hunsiguel is the director, and Pedro Negro is superintendent. The working of these new mines will increase the demand for labor.

Mr. Ignacio Bonillas, the well and widely known engineer for the Colorado-Creston Co., has just completed an accurate general and topographical map of the Minas Prietas mining district, showing all the mining claims, camps, mills, etc., as well as the general topography of the country. It is on a scale of one to 10,000 meters. It will be approved by the general government at the City of Mexico, and adopted by the State of Sonora as the official map. Mr. Bonillas will furnish blue prints to those who want them, and when approved the map will be published in regular form.

All who have sat at the festive board of a typical Mexican restaurant are cognizant of the fact that their food is generally highly seasoned with

red peppers, but the whole truth might surprise even a Missourian—that is, to learn just how warm these little peppers are. The other day a man here who has a reputation for always telling it all—the whole truth, we mean—was seen gazing fixedly at the ground, and when questioned as to what he saw, replied, "I have just eaten supper in that restaurant and was just trying to burn a hole in that sand stone there, but so far have only made a slight "smoke arise." And then the little stars whispered together and looked glad and the man in the moon sadly coughed up a lung.

Your correspondent visited Prietas one day last week, to secure mail. The boy in charge, after much controversy, reluctantly looked for said mail, saying all the time that there was nothing. After a search of about a minute, two letters and as many papers were brought to light, addressed to parties who had requested him to inquire for their mail. One paper was THE OASIS and bore the date mark of April 20th. This kind of work does not "take," among the miners, with as much facility, as a vaccination; and as it is difficult enough, at best, to secure one's mail, it is thought that a protest will be made—in fact, numerous complaints have already been heard, coming from men whose positions can ill-allow them to fail in receiving regular mails. It is to be hoped that a reliable postoffice will be established at both the great gold camps in the near future, as we, though living in a Sonora mining camp, are far from being in Alaska, where mails arrive but once every half year.

A Notable Occasion.

Tuesday morning Messrs. Ricardo Fleischer, Jose Lamarque and Demetrio Velasco returned from Hermosillo, where they went last week to attend the reception Saturday evening given Governor-elect Ramon Corral by the clerks of the Sonora capital, in honor of an enactment erected into law during his former administration, providing for the closing of stores on Sundays, in which Señor Corral was greatly instrumental. In honor of that event annually a grand reception is given some one of the leading statesmen concerned in its adoption. This year Governor Corral was the gentleman on whom the honor was conferred.

The Nogales young gentlemen present describe the event as most noteworthy. It was at the palatial mansion of General Luis Torres, and was attended by a large representation of the elite of Sonora. Governor-elect Corral seemed in his happiest vein, and was showered with hearty congratulations of good will.

The young men from Nogales express great gratification at the courtesy and kindness shown them—all of Hermosillo appearing to vie in making their stay pleasant. They freely assert that some Arizona governor should have the manhood and courage to emulate the example of Governor Corral and secure adoption in this territory of a Sunday closing law.

Wanted to Exchange

A Smith Premier Typewriter, No. 27464, in good condition and used for two months only, for a pneumatic tire safety bicycle. Address,

J. AULD,  
Guaymas.

## CALABASAS GRANT.

A Bit of Very Interesting Local History.

Special Correspondence to Globe-Democrat.

An old Mexican land grant, with a strange and bloody history, but with no title, is the Calabasas. It has just been wiped off the map of Arizona by a decision of the Court of Private Land Claims. When the news officially reaches Boston counting rooms there will be \$75,000 and upward to credit to profit and loss. This old grant is called the Calabasas because that is the easiest pronounced name of the three which belong to it. In reality, this is the Tumacacori, Calabasas and Huebabi grant. It had no title; it had been nursed into the semblance of something real; it had grown to many times its beginning, and finally it had been unloaded upon timid Yankee capitalists at a round figure. So, in several respects, the Calabasas is a good type of a certain class of land grants which has cursed the Southwest. One of the largest and best appointed hotels in Arizona, a handsome brick structure, stands on the Calabasas grant a mile from any other house. Why it was put there is one of the mysteries to be charged to the mental vagaries of the boomer. This hotel has electric bells and all of the modern conveniences. The Santa Cruz river flows through the grant. It is a very respectable stream in the eyes of the irrigator, but in the mind of the navigator it would inspire our contempt. Yet, when the grant was unloaded on Boston moneyed men, the deed was accompanied by pictures showing steamboats puffing along upon the bosom of the Santa Cruz. There was once an Arkansas Commodore who vowed his sternwheeler was so light of draft she could run on a heavy dew. That was more probable than the pictures of water transportation in the Calabasas grant. The lonesome hotel and some other improvements made by the company are accounted for by a story. It is said to have been the purpose of these rich men of Boston to make a profitable plaything of the Calabasas grant. The cattle investment was expected to furnish the profits. The hotel was to be part of a great hacienda on the Mexican plan, where the capitalists and their families could go to enjoy the finest climate in the world and where by irrigation they would feast on fruits and products of two zones.

The walls of the old mission church at Calabasas still stand, but the roof is gone. In the cement floor excavations have been made to some depth, and a fairly well authenticated legend belongs to them. Knowing their danger from Apaches, the priests of the early period of mission work among the Pimas buried the gold and silver which the Indians brought them as offerings. The hiding places were beneath the floor of the church. When a deposit was made in the primitive bank, a diagram was drawn and the secret place was shown on this diagram by measurements from the altar. A copy of the diagram was forwarded to Rome, so that, if the mission was wiped out by the Apaches at any time, the church authorities would have a guide to the location of the treasure. This forethought resulted just as intended. Forty years after the Apaches came down "like a wolf on the

fold," and destroyed the mission, a Roman Catholic Bishop with an escort traveled from Santa Fe to Calabasas. He carried papers sent to him from Rome. The ruins of the old church were found. The measurements from the altar shown by the map were taken. The cement floor was cut and the buried treasure was found exactly as described in the reports sent in by the mission fathers. As much gold and silver as would load two of the two-wheeled carts common to that period was taken from beneath the floor of the old mission, and the holes are there today as evidence of the search that was made.

In 1807, as the story goes, the Indians of the mission of Tumacacori appeared by deputation before the Governor of Sonora. These Indians were Pimas, a peace-loving, grain-growing people, who were gathered into the Catholic church by the all-conquering and all-converting Spaniards. Then they were called Papagoes which means simply baptized Indians. The deputation of Indians from Tumacacori told the Governor they had lost the titles to their mission lands, and asked for new titles. They say they wanted a town site at the mission and certain other tracts for a stock farm. The Governor granted the prayer of the Indians. He sent an order to the commandant of Tubac to make a survey. But before the survey was taken these Indians presented themselves before the commandant with an additional request. They told him that the mission of Calabasas and that Huebabi had been abandoned. They asked that the lands of those two missions be included in the lands granted them by the Governor of Sonora. The Indians presented witnesses to show where the original monuments of the lands of the two missions were located. As the missions of Calabasas and Huebabi had been dependencies of the mission of Tumacacori the supplemental petition of the Indians was altogether proper. The commandant of the garrison at Tubac went ahead with the survey. His report was forwarded to the Governor at Arizpe. The Governor approved the proceedings and a title was given to the Indians. This title was in the form of a permit. It authorized them to use the land surveyed, and stated that the amount thus conveyed to them was six square leagues. That was 28,040 acres. The matter of acreage is interesting. It affords an illustration of how many of Spanish and Mexican grants "spread" as time passes. In the permit no area was given beyond the estimate of "about six square leagues." No consideration was mentioned. The outlines of the lands were designated, as was usual in that day, by natural landmarks. A starting point was given, and from there the lines ran to these landmarks.

In the survey for Tumacacori, to be used for the town site, the commandant's report said that he started from a point in the old cemetery hill. He ran a line north to "Lookout Hill." Then he came back and ran east to "a mesquite grove." The west line went to "a flat mesa," and the south line to a point "near the boundary line of the old Calabasas tract." The survey mentioned the distances to these landmarks, but when recently the attempt was made to verify the old survey the