

CRIPPLE CREEK MINES.

The Most Wonderful Gold Producing Camp on the Continent.

MILLIONAIRES IT HAS MADE.

W. S. Stratton Has a Mine Out of Which He Can Hoist One Million Dollars a Day.

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo., Dec. 24.—Cripple Creek is the most wonderful gold camp in America, and probably in the world.

It is hard to believe the most conservative and reliable statements about this wonderful gold camp. For instance: The postoffice department at Cripple Creek shows by its last quarterly report that it is handling more money packages and registered letters and doing a larger business than any postoffice in the State outside of Denver.

There are now two railroads running into Cripple Creek—the Florence and Cripple Creek and the Midland Terminal—both of which have been obliged to put on two extra trains for the accommodation of passengers in the last two weeks.

There are at least thirty to forty thousand people in the Cripple Creek mining district, which is about five miles square. Everything is run wide open. Gambling of every kind and nature is not hidden or obstructed from the view of the passer-by.

With the drop of silver the habitues of the dance halls, the typical dance-hall girls of the mining camps, and the oily gamblers who infest mining camps, left Creede, Leadville and Aspen for a more suitable place to ply their wiles and bunko the weak and unwary in Cripple Creek.

Dot Ford, the wife of the late Bob Ford, the murderer of Jesse James, and who himself was murdered in Creede, is advor-

ant, who has charge of assorting the valuable Independence ore, some of which is worth from \$2 to \$30 per pound, used to be Mr. Stratton's personal friend and companion in Colorado Springs, and had always proved a valuable and faithful friend to him.

Between Altman and Victor, a distance of only three miles, are three incorporated towns—Independence, with a population of 1000, and Gold Fields, with a population of 2500, who are mostly miners with their families.

The most prominent mining man of Cripple Creek to-day is Winfield S. Stratton, the owner of the famous Independence mine. He was born in Jeffersonville, Ind., in 1845. He learned the carpenter trade, and in 1872 moved to Colorado Springs. Stratton had several times in his life saved up a thousand or two dollars and spent a year or two prospecting, but never met with any success.

Mr. Stratton is not the keenest financier in the world. Most millionaires can tell you to a dollar how they stand with the world. Last November his money matters began to worry him. He had purchased five mines in two months, and had bought the controlling interest of two mining companies, in which he had been elected president.

He began to figure up his deposits and drafts, and was much worried over the possibility of owing a slight balance to the bank. Now, Mr. Stratton dislikes to overdraw, so he wrote to his bankers asking how he stood, saying that if there was an overdraft he would shortly fix it up.

William Clark, who is better known among the miners of the Cripple Creek district as "Billy Clark," was superintendent of the John A. Logan mine, which is owned by Mr. Stratton.

When Mr. Stratton found upon investigation that he had left his wife without resources, and had not been as prudent as he might have been, Mr. Stratton ordered his coachman to drive him to the mountainside. Arriving there he said: "Madam, pardon my intrusion, but I am a little slip of paper, and added, 'Send the undertaker's bills and funeral expenses to me.'"

When Mr. Stratton had left and she opened her slip of paper she was more than surprised to see that it was a check for \$5000.

Only a short time ago Mr. Stratton's horses became frightened, and it was with great difficulty that the coachman was able to check them, finally, after displaying a great deal of skill in horsemanship, the coachman brought the horses to a halt. That evening Mr. Stratton called him to his private office and presented him with a check for \$1000.

James N. Doyle, the original locator of the little fraction, 100x195 feet, which he named the Portland, on Battle Mountain, after his native city in Maine, is the youngest of all the Western millionaires. He is only 24 years of age, and is worth from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

He had been working on a salary of \$15 per week for a number of years in Colorado Springs. Finding that he was \$500 in debt, he decided to go to the new gold camp. Purchasing a burro he packed it, and driving it before him, started on his solitary and lonely journey to the new gold camp.

On the second day he was overcome with fatigue, and he stopped five miles from the town of Cripple Creek. He found upon examining the stakes where he had camped that there was a fraction of 100 by 195 feet that was not taken up; he located this fraction and then went to Cripple Creek.

In a few weeks he ran short of money and provisions, and offered time and again to sell his fraction for \$100, but could find no purchaser. He met in Cripple Creek his old-time companion, James F. Burns, who had located a claim called the Professor Grubbs. After some conversation between the two they decided to share equally in both claims, although Burns was loath to do so at first because the Professor Grubbs was a full claim, rolled up their blankets, packed their burros and tramped on together.

Billy Semple, Stratton's trusted lieutenant, who attained sudden riches as quickly as Mr. Stratton who was as thoughtful and considerate of old-time friends and acquaintances.

Charles McKenzie, superintendent of Mr. Stratton's Independence mine, the largest mine in the district, was in New Mexico when the Independence proved itself a bonanza. Mr. Stratton sent for him and placed him in charge of his wonderful mine.

This was no mere happenstance, for Stratton and McKenzie, in the early days of the San Juan excitement, had prospected and camped together. They had slept side by side, rolled up their blankets, packed their burros and tramped on together.

In the Cripple Creek mining district there are a half dozen incorporated towns, Victor being the largest one outside of Cripple Creek proper. The town of Victor is almost as large as Cripple Creek. It is five miles distant and nearer the largest mine.

Anaconda lies between the towns of Cripple Creek and Victor, and has about 2500 inhabitants. All of the miners who work upon the famous Anaconda mine, the Doctor, Ingham, Moose, Eikon and other mines on Globe and Raven hills live there. It is an incorporated town, as is also Gillette, which is maintained by the miners who live in the eastern part of the district and by the large chlorination and cyanide mills which treat the ore there.

Gillette was given a National notoriety recently by holding a three days' fiesta of bull-fighting, which the State authorities either could not or would not prohibit, in which six bulls were killed by the gay Mexican toreros and bandilleros who came to the great gold camp for that express purpose.

Altman, the highest incorporated city in the United States—11,000 feet high—is situated at the top of Bull Hill and was the miners' stronghold during the late strike, which lasted nearly a year and in which were engaged 1000 armed miners, 1200 Deputy Sheriffs and the entire State

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When Mr. Stratton's Independence proved a bonanza, he made inquiries for Lenares, and wrote him that if he would return to Victor he could do all his assaying. Lenares replied that he had not suf-

icient money to open up an assay office again, whereupon Mr. Stratton wired him, "Madam, pardon my intrusion, but I am a little slip of paper, and added, 'Send the undertaker's bills and funeral expenses to me.'"

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Professor Grubbs claim has never shipped a pound of ore, while the Portland for nineteen months has paid an average of \$80,000 a month dividend, besides producing enough money to buy up 100 acres of patented ground surrounding the fraction, upon which there are seven regular shipping mines which now belong to the Portland Company and money enough to content to a finish or compromise thirty-seven different lawsuits upon the property. The property of the Portland Company is worth from six to eight million dollars, at a conservative figure.

I have only mentioned in detail two millionaires and two mining properties in Cripple Creek. There are 154 regularly shipping mines in the district, while W. S. Stratton, James M. Doye, James F. Burns, John Harnan, Irving Howbert, Eben Smith, Bertrand Brothers, J. N. Cone, David H. Moffat, and others have made from a million to twenty million dollars in Cripple Creek in the last few years, while the number of smaller fortunes which have been made, and I may as well add, have been very numerous.

There are eleven mills in the Cripple Creek district which treat the bulk of the low-grade ore, while there are two

large mills at Florence, which is twenty-five miles distant. The output of the low-grade ore of the camp is estimated to be from 450 to 500 tons per month, while a like amount is shipped daily to the smelters, the output of the Portland mine alone being 300 tons per month.

The whole of Colorado seems to have gone wild and crazed with Cripple Creek mining stock speculation. It is true that up to the 1st of December nine-tenths of the entire list of Cripple Creek stocks has doubled, trebled or quadrupled; it is also true that nearly nine-tenths of the stock companies formed since that time are selling above their real and intrinsic value, while there are many stock companies whose only property exists upon paper.

There are more than 500 companies incorporated for the ostensible purpose of conducting operations in the Cripple Creek district. Of these fully a half have made no serious attempt to develop their ground, and may have hardly a show of title to the claims they profess to own. All the territory for miles on the outside of the district has been taken up and put into stock companies, and there a number of these companies that are selling their stock all over the country. They are "wildcats" pure and simple.

There probably have never been in any mining camp as many such companies formed as there have been in the Cripple Creek mining district in the last thirty to sixty days, and unless some steps are taken to stop the formation of these "wildcat" companies, or to expose them, the legitimate mining companies will suffer.

There are ten mining exchanges in the State of Colorado and a purchaser of stock should know that the stock he is purchasing is listed on the best of these exchanges. There are four mining exchanges in Colorado Springs, three in Denver, one in Cripple Creek, one in Pueblo and one in Victor. These exchanges are daily crowded, and a great deal of money changes hands.

When Washington Died. The Rev. J. Preston Fugette of the Protestant Episcopal church has a copy of the Georgetown Advocate of December 17, 1799, which contains the first announcement through a newspaper of the death of George Washington, which occurred December 14. This copy of the Advocate has been in the possession of Mr. Fugette's family since its issuance.

In commenting upon the death of Washington the paper states: "It is a long life devoted to the most important public services—if the most eminent usefulness, true greatness and consummate glory—if being an honor to our race and a model to future ages—if all these could rationally suppress our grief, never, perhaps, ought we to mourn so little. But as they are most powerful motives to gratitude, attachment and veneration for the living and of sorrow at their departure, never ought America and the world to mourn more than on this melancholy occasion."—Baltimore Sun.

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JAMES N. DOYLE, THE YOUNGEST WESTERN MILLIONAIRE. [From a photograph.]



WINFIELD S. STRATTON, THE CRIPPLE CREEK MILLIONAIRE. [From a photograph.]

tised as one of the attractions of a leading dance hall, while "Slanting Annie," one of the most notorious and at the same time popular dance-hall managers, advertised that she would like to meet all her old-time Creede friends, "Slanting Annie" was given notoriety and celebrity while at Creede by a poem written by Uly Warman, the author of "Sweet Marie," in the New York Sun.

As one walks up any of the leading streets of Cripple Creek it is impossible to proceed more than a block without hearing the rattling roll of the ivory ball of the roulette wheel and the indifferent call "17 on the black, low, black and odd," or "32 on the red, high, red and even."

I stood the other evening, as the Salvation Army, which is composed of at least sixty members, knelt down in the dust in front of the losers and the careless call of the dealer.

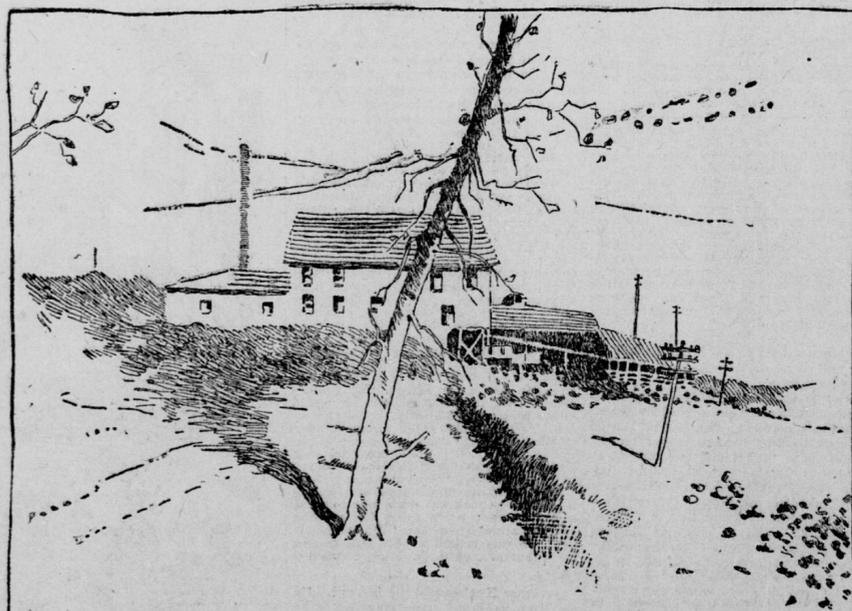
In Cripple Creek alone there are fifty-nine saloons, five dance halls and three variety theaters, while in the evening three brass bands and the Salvation Army vie with each other to obtain the most attention and draw the largest crowd, the bands playing in front of their respective theaters and the Salvation Army band in front of their large tent. To do justice to Cripple Creek I must add that there are also eight churches in the town, nearly every denomination being represented, and that as a rule Cripple Creek is peaceful and orderly.

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INDEPENDENCE MINE NEAR VICTOR. [Reproduced from a photograph.]

NEW TO-DAY. The Fur and Fur Goods Trade-Makers.

MONDAY'S TRADE MAKERS.

Trade-Makers in Dress Goods.

Black or Colored Boucles, 50c. All-wool Tartan Plaids, 25c. Navy and Black All-wool Crepon, 46 inches wide, \$1 grade, 50c. Scotch Mixtures, new, 25c.

Trade-Makers in Silks.

Brocaded and Figured Evening Silks, 50c and \$1 a yard. Fancy Silks, for street wear, 50c and 75c.

We have had bargains in Dress Goods and Silks heretofore to offer, but none will equal these; see them.

Black Dress Goods, 50c.

These are trade-makers; English and French Figured Mohairs, fancy weaves of different textures, Serzes, Henriettas, Brilliantines and 54-inch Cloths.

54-inch All-Wool Ladies' Cloth, 37 1/2-c.

When the Dingley tariff bill is passed this quality will be advertised as a trade-maker at 65c.

"La Cigale" Powder and Perfume.

It is the "acme" in both. The powder sells at 35c a box, the perfume at 50c an ounce. You can try them. If the powder isn't better and purer than any you've ever used or the perfume more fragrant and lasting, get your money back.

MISCELLANEOUS. CRIPPLE CREEK MINING STOCKS AND CRIPPLE CREEK INVESTMENTS!

Information furnished. Correspondence solicited. Write for our weekly market letter. Best of Bank references furnished on application.

ALEX. C. FOSTER & CO., Bankers and Brokers, 621-622 MINING EXCHANGE BUILDING, Denver, Colo.

WALL PAPER! JAS. DUFFY & CO. Have REMOVED to No. 20 Geary Street. GREAT REDUCTION TO CLOSE OUT LAST SEASON'S PATTERNS TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW WINDOW SHADES!

GRATEFUL-COMFORTING. EPPS'S COCOA. BREAKFAST-SUPPER. BY A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATURE OF THE FOOD WHICH GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF DIGESTION AND NUTRITION, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa...

SKIN DISEASES SWAYNE'S OINTMENT. ABSOLUTE CURE. "Swayne's Ointment" without any internal medicine, will cure any case of Tetter, Skin Rheum, Ringworm, Piles, Itch, Scabies, Pimples, Ringworm, and all other eruptions of the skin.

Trade-Makers in Jackets.

Black Pilot Cloth Jackets, \$5, value at \$10. Black Niggerhead Jackets, \$10, value at \$15 50. Tan Melton Cloth Jackets, \$10 50, value at \$16 50. Fur Capes, \$12 50 to \$25. These are cut prices.

You can't make a mistake on these items. They are all below normal prices. We will sell you Fur Capes at 50c on the \$1 of their value. Bring a furrier with you if you will. We wish to sell out our entire stock of Furs, Electric and Wool Seals, Conseys, Astrachan, etc. Bargains for the asking. No trouble to show them, even though you do not purchase.

Trade-Makers in Waists.

Ladies' Plaid Cloth Waists, \$2 25, \$3 75, \$5, elegantly trimmed with small buttons and velvet reverses, made up in the very latest styles. You cannot make them at home and put these materials in them for the price.

Trade-Makers in Suits, \$8.50 and \$10.

We'd like to possess a dragnet that would bring you into our Suit and Wrapper Department to show the wonderful value and style we give for the price.

Trade-Makers in Wrappers, \$3.75.

We'd like to possess a dragnet that would bring you into our Suit and Wrapper Department to show the wonderful value and style we give for the price.

RAILROAD TRAVEL. LOW RATES BY RAIL TO PORTLAND, OR. MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, AND EVERY FIFTH DAY HEREAFTER. Leave from S. P. Co.'s Ferry landing, foot of Market St., at 8:00 P. M. Including berth in Pullman Tourist Sleeper.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY. (PACIFIC SYSTEM). Trains leave and are due to arrive at SAN FRANCISCO.

SANTA CRUZ DIVISION (Narrow Gauge). 11:15 A.M. Santa Cruz and Way Stations. 11:30 A.M. Santa Cruz and Way Stations.

CHICAGO LIMITED. From Los Angeles to Chicago. Solid Vestibule Train Daily, with Dining-car, under Harvey's management. Connecting trains leave San Francisco at 8 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. daily.

CREEK ROUTE FERRY. From SAN FRANCISCO—Foot of Market Street (Ship's Wharf) 11:00 A.M. 11:30 A.M. 12:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M. 2:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M. 9:00 P.M. 10:00 P.M. 11:00 P.M.

Trade-Makers in Flannels.

Printed Imported French Flannels, 35c. Printed Imported German Flannels, 20c. American Printed and Woven Flannels, 8 1/2c to 10c.

If you've seen the French Flannels shown downtown in some of the shop windows at 60c and 65c and can detect any difference between theirs and ours in quality or designs, we'll quit crying about the virtue of ours. With 30c difference in our favor we're entitled to a little croak.

Trade-Makers in Underwear, \$1.

Ladies' Natural Gray All-wool Underwear or Balbriggan Union Suits of really astounding value for the price. Up or down the scale of price you'll find our underwear meritorious.

Trade-Makers in Hosiery.

25c, 3 for \$1, 50c, Fast Black. Ladies' Hosiery—none superior, few equal; that's all. Gents' Natural Wool Sox, the finest ever known in the world for the price, 25c.

Toys and Holiday Goods.

We prefer to sell them at a reduced price prior to New Year's rather than pack them up or keep them over.

Send for our Illustrated Catalogue, Mailed Free.

RAILROAD TRAVEL. SAN FRANCISCO & NORTH PACIFIC RAILWAY CO. Tiburon Ferry—Foot of Market St. San Francisco to San Rafael.

RAILROAD TRAVEL. SAN FRANCISCO & NORTH PACIFIC RAILWAY CO. Leave San Francisco, In effect Oct. 28, 1895. Destination. San Francisco. WEEK DATES. SUN. DAYS. WED. DAYS. FRI. DAYS.

Atlantic AND Pacific RAILROAD. Trains leave from and arrive at Market-Street Ferry.

SANTA FE EXPRESS. To Chicago via A. & P. Direct Line. Leaves every day at 8:30 P. M., carrying Pullman Palace Sleepers and Tourist Sleepers to Chicago via Kansas City without change. Annex cars for Denver and Omaha.

NORTH PACIFIC COAST RAILROAD. (Via Sausalito Ferry). From San Francisco, beginning October 27, 1895. WEEKDAYS. For Mill Valley and San Rafael—7:50, 9:15, 11:00 A. M.; 1:45, 3:15, 5:00 P. M. For Sausalito—7:30, 9:15 A. M.; 1:45, 5:15 P. M. Extra trips for San Rafael on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:30 P. M. SUNDAYS. For Mill Valley, San Rafael and San Quentin—8:00, 10:00, 11:30 A. M.; 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:15 P. M. \*10:05 not run to San Quentin.