

THE DEMING GRAPHIC

ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY

N. S. ROSE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

That Custom House

IN TEN YEARS Mexico's output of gold has steadily increased from about a half million dollars to nine millions and a quarter in 1900-1901. Last year's figures are not as yet made public, but it is certain they will show a good increase. Large as the increase in the gold output is it is no greater than the advancement in all other lines, and the present year bids fair to beat the records of all previous years. During the past few years there has been a constant movement of capital from this country to Mexico, railways have been built to the most remote parts of the great republic and the vast mineral and other resources have been opened up to the traffic of the world with results which were astonishing, even to those who knew her best.

One of the richest parts, and one which bids fair to receive more attention and make greater advancement than any other, is the western part of the state of Chihuahua and the state of Sonora. This region, which has just been opened up by railroads during the past two or three years, is beginning to produce and ship to the United States immense quantities of ore, and thousands of head of cattle are brought across the line every year, while the trade in other lines is also large. In turn for these things provisions of various kinds are shipped from this country to the camps and ranches of these states, and the natural and most convenient point for this is the southern border of Luna county. The Mexican government formerly maintained a custom house at this point but through the influence of designing people who wished to turn this trade into another channel it was removed, and now Deming and Luna county are suffering from the effects of that removal. Now, this spring, would be a good time for every merchant, stockman and citizen of this county to go to work with the determination to have the custom house re-established at Las Palomas, as it would bring thousands of dollars into this county during the year which go elsewhere, and there is no doubt but that a concerted effort would secure its return.

On March 25th a boy by the name of Montana, who was a former employe at the Santa Fe store house in Albuquerque, was tried in a justice court in that city on a charge of larceny. It was claimed by the officers who arrested him that they had seen some suspicious actions, but the boy denied having stolen anything and an investigation with a search warrant failed to bring out any clue as to his guilt so the boy was sent to jail for fifteen days, apparently because nothing could be found against him. If that is the way they do things in Albuquerque it is surely a misfortune for an innocent man to have a hearing in a court of justice (?) in the Duke city.

Last Thursday a freight train on the Santa Fe stood on a crossing in this city for more than two hours, blocking travel at that point for that length of time, and no attempt was made to open the road although several teams were waiting to cross. This may seem to be a small matter to say so much about but it was no fun for the people whose business was being delayed. The fact is the railway companies, and to some extent the employes as well, appear to think they have right of way and that local laws or local conveniences cut no ice. We understand there is an ordinance in Deming which demands that crossings in town must be kept open. Similar ordinances have been enforced in other towns, why can they not be enforced here? If a train had to stand in the yards here for a few hours once or twice while the conductor and switchmen went to the justice of the peace office and explained their action there would be a way found to open the crossings afterward for a while at least.

Tried, convicted and sentenced in two hours. Such, in brief, is the history of the moot court case tried by the Twentieth Century Debating Society at their rooms last Thursday evening. And the entertainment, furnished to a few invited visitors, was first class in every respect. The making of citizens, true, able, patriotic, citizens, is the first and most important subject in any community. All the richest endowments of nature, all the foreign capital for investment and all the fine public buildings, shady avenues and pleasant parks which might be combined in a single city cannot make a prosperous community if it does not have able, honest, unselfish citizens to conduct its affairs. No one need be reminded that all Luna county gained in the legislature which has just closed was due to the fact that her interests were represented and protected by just such a man as that, and the school boys of today are the citizens of tomorrow; it is only the question of a few years until these boys will be in control of our institutions and to them we must look for the continued prosperity of our city and county. The object of the Twentieth Century Debating Society is mutual improvement, it is composed of earnest ambitious young men who are anxious to fit themselves for the responsibilities which will soon be placed on their shoulders, no place is given in its constitution and bylaws for social amusements and pastimes, its sole purpose being improvement. In view of the importance of the work that is being taken up by these young men and the earnest effort they are making to improve and prepare themselves for business life the people of Deming should do everything in their power to encourage and help them, and we hope the time may soon come when they will give public meetings in which the people can watch their efforts and judge of their improvement.

LUNA COUNTY

Its Resources and Future Prospects.

Luna is a new county in the southern part of the territory of New Mexico, formed of parts of the counties of Grant and Dona Ana. It is bounded on the north by Grant and Sierra, two of the leading mining counties of the territory, on the east by Dona Ana, noted from the earliest settlements of the Rio Grande valley, for her agricultural products, on the south by the great state of Chihuahua, belonging to our sister republic of Mexico, with its enormous wealth of natural resources as yet entirely undeveloped, and on the west by the southern extension of Grant county. Nestled in among such illustrious neighbors as these, she partakes to some extent of the natural advantages of them all.

To begin with, while not like Grant and Sierra counties distinctively a mining county, she has two mining districts which are fast becoming noted as among the leading mining districts of the territory. Of these, one is situated in the southern part of the county in what are called the Tres Hermanas, or Three Sisters mountains. Some of the mines in this district have been worked for many years and have yielded immense quantities of rich ore, considering the manner in which the work had to be done—entirely by hand—on account of the great distance from a railroad. But now the El Paso & Southwestern, which was completed during the past summer, brings transportation to their very door, thus making it possible to handle ore which has heretofore been unprofitable, and also facilitating the bringing of heavy machinery for working the properties on a much larger scale than they have been worked in the past. In this district there are not only minerals such as gold, silver, copper and lead, but also caves containing large quantities of guano of a high grade, and a citizen of Deming, H. H. Kidder, is now working these very successfully and has a market in California, where he ships one car load each week regularly. There are now four or five companies operating in this camp, with abundant capital, and there will be an immense amount of development work done during the coming summer, some of the companies having machinery already ordered for conducting the work on a large scale. The other camp is at Cooks Peak, a few miles north of Deming, and this, while not being so well developed as the other, is making a very satisfactory showing both as to the amount and quality of the ore being produced, and it, like the other, will advance rapidly during the next year or two.

Turning from mining to agriculture we find that in the Mimbres valley near the northern border of the county is one of the finest fruit and farming regions in the southwest. Here the apple grows to perfection. While attaining the great size of the apples grown on the Pacific coast the Mimbres valley fruit retains all the rich color and delicious flavor of that grown in the north or east, and are eagerly sought in the markets wherever known. Here too, grass and grain crops grow to such perfection as is seldom attained in less favored localities, and the farmer of this region may well feel that he has reached the nearest point mortal man is permitted to approach to paradise.

Outside of this valley and two or three small groups of mountains the county is almost entirely made up of rolling prairie lands upon which immense herds of cattle find abundant feed the year round, and on these prairies the ranchmen of the county cut thousands of tons of hay annually. This of itself is quite an important industry, as will readily be seen by the following figures of the amount of shipments during the month of February of this year. On the Santa Fe railway alone over one hundred cars were shipped during the month, which, at twenty tons to the car, would make the very considerable amount of 2,000 tons from the one station of Deming. This, with a similar amount over the Southern Pacific and perhaps a less amount over the El Paso & Southwestern, with large shipments from the many small stations throughout the county, would make a showing that could scarcely be believed by persons not acquainted with this fertile region.

While we do not claim the gift of prophecy, we think we can venture a few predictions as to the future development of this wonderful region without fear of it being considered a pipe dream by anyone who has studied existing conditions.

To begin with, no country of limited extent, however favored with natural resources it may be, can exist and develop its resources within itself. It is

bound to be dependent to some extent on surrounding countries. This makes the question of transportation one of first importance and one on which depends the rapid development of the resources of the country. In this respect Luna county is especially favored, as it is situated in the natural course of trans-continental railway lines, both east and west and north and south, as they reach out for the trade of the great empires of wealth in our own country to the west of us, and to the states of Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico to the south of us. Of these we now have three crossing the county from east to west, and another, the Rock Island, is now pushing its line this way as fast as possible, and will doubtless be completed to Deming before the close of the present year. It is only a question of a short time when a north and south line will be built. This will open up the rich coal fields and timber regions of the western part of the territory to the north of us and reach into the great stock and mineral country of Mexico to the south of us. With a through north and south line from Colorado to the republic of Mexico and four east and west, all crossing Luna county and centering at the county seat, Deming will be the leading railway center of the southwest and the great distributing point for the richest mining, stock and agricultural region in the west.

The progress which has been made in mining matters during the past year and the fact of Deming being the most convenient point for procuring fuel, water and fluxing ores practically assures the building of two large smelting plants here during the present year. This would give us a wage earning population of nearly double what we now have.

As we are crowded for space we will have to leave the discussion of other questions for a future time, but enough has been said to show that any person looking for a place to invest or build a home can make no mistake by coming to Luna county—if they come early and avoid the rush.

Found, on Monday morning, near this office, a bunch of keys. Owner will receive same by calling at this office and paying for this notice.

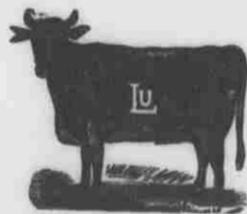
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