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No. 19

EDITORIAL WANDERINGS

The Graphic Man Spends
a Few Days Viewing
the Ranches and Orchards
of the Mimbres
Valley.

A VAST EMPIRE OF NATURAL WEALTH

Immense Quantities of Fruit
Being Marketed by the
Farmers of the Valley-Rich
Returns from the Mines of
the Santa Rita District.

Last Wednesday morning the Graphic man started off on a tour of investigation through the Mimbres valley and the mining camp of Santa Rita, Hanover and Fierro. Leaving Deming the first place was Wilson's ranch about five miles out; here we found a beautiful home like place with substantial buildings, grand old shade trees and large corrals with branding pens and every convenience for handling cattle from the range. Unfortunately however we found no one at home, so after watering our team at the tank in corral we continued our ride up the valley to the home of Hon. W. M. Taylor, where we remained that afternoon and night visiting, while there the ranch of Mr. Taylor's father, Mr. W. M. Taylor and the one owned by Mr. J. Billingslea just north of Mr. Taylor's place. At these places we found the people busily engaged gathering the early fruit which is now ripe. Mr. Taylor informs us that he and his father are each of them loading one wagon per day with peaches, plums and apricots and the quantity will increase as the later fruit and the apples begin to ripen, thus giving them all they can do till cold weather. While looking over these places we saw some bearing English walnuts grafted on the native black walnut which are in fine thrifty condition and yielding large crops of nuts, and as rather a novelty for this country, a nice little fig tree in full bearing and as he has a fine vineyard we may truthfully say he is dwelling under his own vine and fig tree. At the Billingslea place like all others we found all hands busily engaged taking care of the abundant fruit crop, this is considered one of the finest places in the neighborhood but has not been improved to as great extent as some of them.

Leaving Taylor's on Thursday morning we journeyed up the valley towards the town of Dwyer which is about four miles distant; the first place we came to being that of A. L. Foster better known as Cap Foster, here we found a combination of farming and stock growing as Mr. Foster has a fine bunch of cattle and makes a specialty of fine horses having one of the finest bunches of saddle and driving stock in this region. His ranch is composed of two former holdings; one known as the McIntosh ranch and one as the Tustin, he has a fine peach orchard and a large orchard of choice variety of apples. Mr. Foster was away on the roundup, but his estimable wife and her mother and sister who are visiting with her, entertained us delightfully while we regaled ourselves on luscious peaches of a flavor which could be found in no other country on earth and in quantities apparently unlimited. Here we found a delightful home with the air of thrift which is born of love for the surroundings and during our short stay told us of many improvements they were intending to make to add to the beauty and comfort of their place.

Just beyond the Foster place we came to the home of R. C. Miller noted for its beautiful alfalfa fields, which, at the time we were there, presented a scene of life as the second crop for this year was just being cut and uncle Bob, as Mr. Miller is familiarly called by his friends and neighbors, said it was the heaviest he ever saw, and this cutting will probably make 24 tons per acre

When the question of raising tomatoes for a canning factory was mentioned Uncle Bob said no, I will furnish peaches but the younger men can raise the tomatoes, yet he liked all we talked with believes in the practicability and necessity of such an institution at some convenient point in this valley. Before leaving this place we must make mention of the neat appearance of the ranch although Uncle Bob is now past 74 years old, he retains to a remarkable degree the strength and vigor of his younger years and keeps the best of condition the fence corners and ditch rows which are usually grown up to unsightly weeds being mown clean and close, while his orchard of 1000, bearing trees apple, peach pear, plum and apricot are set in straight rows each way and nicely trimmed so that it is a pleasure to look at them loaded with fruit as they are.

Next above Uncle Bob's place we found the Old Foster place, here also was a fine field of alfalfa and a good orchard of various kinds of fruit, as well as corrals, buildings and all conveniences for handling stock. From here it was only a short drive to the little town of Dwyer, the first place we visited was the store of Mrs. Dwyer, here we found a good stock of general merchandise and a general appearance of thrift and comfort. Mrs. Dwyer is a very pleasant lady and has a beautiful home near the store, which for comfort and beauty could scarcely be excelled. From here we went to the store of Macedonio Torres a progressive Mexican gentleman who successfully combines farming and merchandising, he has quite a large corn field looking fine and good orchard which should bring a handsome sum when all the fruit is marketed. Passing a few rods farther we dined with Rev. Dionicio Costales, pastor of the Methodist church, this church was built about three years ago through the efforts of Rev. Thomas Harwood, W. H. Taylor and others, the greater part of the money was raised by a subscription taken up by Uncle Gum, and five acres of land bought on which the church and a large parsonage were erected, and now the foundation is laid for a school building in connection with the church, with a view to organizing a mission school for the benefit of the native children of the valley who cannot go away to get an education. An orchard of choice varieties of fruit, the gift of Uncle Gum, has been set and many of the trees are bearing this year, and Rev. Costales has one of the finest gardens we saw on our trip. Just above the church is the fine orchard and cornfield of Juan Trujillo and adjoining this the home of Simoon Eby, government reporter of agriculture for the valley and one of the oldest inhabitants, having lived on the Mimbres 24 years. Mr. Eby took us to view his 35 acres of alfalfa, and corn field of 30 acres just beginning to silk out, then to his two acre orchard of all varieties of fruit including two large quince trees loaded almost to breaking with half grown quinces. When the subject of a canning factory and creamery for the valley was brought up, he became enthusiastic, saying it would be the making of this region, if the farmers of the valley would form an organization and subscribe enough to build small works to begin with, which could be enlarged as the business would warrant. Near the ranch of Mr. Eby is a neat little public school building nicely furnished and we were told that there are about 93 scholars who attend the winter term in this district. Going up the river from here the first place we found any one at home, was the ranch of S. Holstein improved by John Brockman about 25 years ago and one of the largest holdings on the river. Mr. Holstein informed us he had about 350 acres of land in cultivation about 125 acres of which is in alfalfa; yet, his farming operations are of less importance than his stock business as he owns great herds of cattle on the range to the east and south of his place in Grant and Luna counties, these cattle are bred up with Hereford blood until now they resemble more the grade herds of the Mississippi valley than the range herds of a dozen years ago.

Our next stop was at the little town of Swartz where we spent the night with Albert Schultz, a whole souled German

who has had many and varied experiences in the mining camps, and on the ranches of this region for the past 30 years sometimes being in the flood tide of prosperity and again by some sudden turn of fortune brought in an instant to the foot of the ladder where with the true German grit he would each time lay hold bravely and again begin to climb, and we found him nicely situated on a good fruit and vegetable ranch and prospering very well regardless of the loss of all his crops in the flood of last August, while here we visited the store and gardens of Hon. E. J. Swartz, assessor of Grant county, who keeps a store, and meat market and runs a large vegetable garden, from which he makes a good income selling mostly at Santa Rita 16 miles distant. While there we walked over the greater part of the place with Mr. Swartz and found his fields of cabbage, tomatoes, melon, in fine condition and saw a fine patch of early celery which was well advanced for the time of year and should bring him a handsome sum of money. From Mr. Swartz' place we went to the ranch of Edward Kimmick, a professional gardener and florist who received his education at Honheim Germany, graduating in what is known as the merit course working his own way through the school in the four year scientific horticultural course; after leaving college Mr. Kimmick followed his chosen profession in the old country and in Pennsylvania, believing with Washington that "Agriculture is the most noble, most healthful and most useful occupation of man." Some 12 years ago he came to New Mexico and chose the Mimbres valley as his home, finding climatic and other conditions here entirely different from where he had been, he set to work at once to find what fruits were best adapted to the soil and climate of his new home and what crops would be most profitable to raise for market here and as is always the case with a man who loves his business and gives his entire energy to the work he has made a success of it. During the 12 years that Mr. Kimmick has been farming and gardening here he has tested many varieties of fruits which were failures in this climate and has proven others which are perfectly reliable and good money makers and his experience stands as a guide for those who may begin farming in this valley as he is ever ready and willing to give others the benefit of his knowledge. He said that the greatest disadvantage here was the distance farmers have to haul their fruit to market and that when this is overcome, it will be an ideal spot in every respect. He stated that among his experiments and investigations, he had made special tests in canning fruits and tomatoes and that he is convinced that a small canning factory could be built and owned by the farmers of the valley, independent of outside capital, which would furnish a home market for all fruit raised and bring hundreds of dollars into the valley each year. He believes this would solve the question more easily and surely than anything else and that it is in immediate reach if the people will work together. When the question of a creamery was brought up he said he believed one should be built and that he was sure it would be a paying investment but he thinks this also should be owned and controlled by the farmers themselves.

The next place we visited was that of J. Goforth here we found everything fixed up in a comfortable homelike manner and a nice orchard although he gives more attention to corn and alfalfa than to fruit and garden crops. From here we visited the farms of Mr. Entzinger and George A. Perrault both of which were in fine condition and had thrifty fields of corn and many varieties of fruit well kept and in full bearing. Just above George Perrault's place is the old Perrault home one of the first places in the valley to be improved, it was one which caught the full force of the flood last year and of the old orchard of about 6,000 trees nearly half were torn out by the water.

The place is now leased to A. O. Perrault and W. H. Acklin who are farming it very successfully, and now have a prospect of a big crop this year. Passing on up the valley through the thrifty little village of San Juan

and by the side of extensive corn and alfalfa fields and orchards we came to the picturesque little town of San Lorenzo, where we visited the well stocked merchandise establishment of Mrs. H. A. Teel. We found Mrs. Teel an active business woman who tends the store and post office while her husband manages a ranching and stock business on the outside. After a very pleasant visit here we drove over the hill ten miles to the great mining camp of Santa Rita which is today the most active camp in the territory and growing steadily. The camp now has about 2,000 inhabitants and every one in the place is busy, on the road as we came in we found dozens of teams hauling ore and wood and as we looked over the hill into town all was a scene of life and hustle which reminded us of Butte City the great mining camp of Montana in its boom days, we found that the Santa Rita Mining company the principal company in the district is working about 300 men and running their concentrator and mine day and night, the mill treating about 180 tons of ore per day. In addition to the work of the company smaller companies and individuals are working in various parts of the district and shipping regularly among whom are: Crawford and company who are working about 15 men on the Chino, and Herbet W. Dawson who is working about 14 men on another part of the same claim.

Skinner and Barrows are also working a good force of men, one shipping ore. Kinney & Co., have just completed a 100 foot shaft on the Montoya and are preparing to drift 50 feet from the bottom of this shaft; McGreger & Co., are making regular shipment from the Romero claim and L. H. Bartlett is also shipping high grade ore from this claim, while in another opening on the same claim, Cole & Bartlett have just opened up a fine ore body; W. H. Ernest is also a regular shipper from this claim which is one of the largest producers in the camp.

As the mines are the support of the town the activity in them makes business in all lines good. We found a large force of clerks kept busy the entire day. While G. L. Turner and Son were doing an active business in their general merchandise store, and two blacksmith shops, a livery stable and bakery were all doing all the business they could handle and the boarding and rooming houses were full to overflowing. We also noticed several new buildings going up among them some cottages built by the Santa Rita company for their employes, a new bakery and an addition to the blacksmith shop of A. McKeen, to be used as a store house for storing iron stock, and P. J. Howe has just put in a new chair in his barber shop to accommodate their increasing trade. Taking everything into consideration we believe Santa Rita has as bright an outlook as any mining camp in the southwest.

As we look over the country we traveled through on this trip we can say without fear of contradiction that no equal amount of territory in the United States has greater mineral, agricultural and grazing possibilities adjacent to it and it only needs the erection of canning factories and creameries to furnish market for the farm products and a railroad to furnish transportation for the low grade ores to make it equal in population and wealth to some entire states in the east.

The Rhodes Scholarships.

The conditions under which American candidates for the Rhodes scholarships must qualify have been made known in a memorandum prepared by the trustees of the will of the famous South African. The first election of American scholars will be held between February and May 1904, and those who are successful will begin residence at Oxford in October of that year. A committee has been selected for each State and territory, and each committee is to make an appointment from the list of those successfully passing the qualifying examination. The latter is not competitive, but must satisfy the examiners that candidates are acceptable to enter upon the course prescribed at Oxford. A list of the subjects is published. Applicants must be unmarried, and must be American citizens between nineteen and twenty-five years old. No candidate can compete in more than one state.

IMPORTANT TO MINING MEN

Immense Exhibit of Minerals From every Part of the Territory to be at the Territorial Fair this Fall—Will be a Great Advertisement for the Country.

WORLD'S FAIR MINERAL EXHIBIT.

The Grand Collection of Minerals Gathered and Arranged by Dr. F. A. Jones Will be Exhibited at Albuquerque Before Shipping to St. Louis for the World's Fair, Next Year.

Dr. F. A. Jones, world's fair commissioner, has personal charge of the mineral exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and has sent a circular letter to the mining men of the territory and calls their attention to the importance of having a grand display at the fair.

The letter of Dr. Jones reads as follows:
To the Mine Owners and Operators of New Mexico:

New Mexico is preparing a great exhibit of its vast resources from its various mines and quarries to be displayed at the City of St. Louis, next year. This exhibit will attract the attention of investors from all over the civilized world; and every mine, quarry and prospect should appear on the printed list, which will give a detailed description of each property in New Mexico.

The plan is that each sample, whether of ores, precious gems, building stones or other mineral products, shall each be properly labeled and numbered when placed on exhibition; this number will refer to and correspond with the number in the publication, where a description of the property, with name and address of the owner, extent of development, character of deposit, etc., will be given. Any good photographs furnished that you may have of your mine, mill or croppings will be included and reference given to the mine to which it belongs.

We do not care particularly to have a display of small and pretty pieces of minerals, simply because they glitter; but, with what may be considered average samples of the ore or deposit. Samples should be as large as conditions will admit in the mining and handling of the same; smaller pieces varying in sizes should be sent, also, in order that a small sample may be given to any one who might feel an interest in any particular property. Samples weighing a ton or more will be greatly appreciated. All samples should be substantially wrapped before they are sacked, boxed or crated, in order to avoid injury during transit; full and complete labels giving name of mine, owner, locality, approximate assay values or chemical analyses should accompany each lot. Specimens of the wall rock are desired; accompanied, also, by pieces of the characteristic country rock.

Any printed literature and reports, made by mining engineers and geologists, of the district, or any particular mining properties, are much desired and needed in making the publication complete as possible.

The Territorial Board of World's Fair Managers designated Albuquerque the collecting point of the mineral exhibit, at which point the same will be displayed at the annual Territorial Fair next fall, previous to its shipment to St. Louis. This arrangement will doubly display the exhibit and thus provides a way for those to see the collection who would not be able to visit St. Louis. It is therefore necessary that all shipments be consigned to the undersigned, at Albuquerque, during the last week in August; and only in extraordinary cases should shipments reach Albuquerque later than September 10th, in order that sufficient time be had in which to place the exhibit in proper shape, ready for the opening of the fair on October 12th.

Valuable specimens and private collections will be looked after under a special surveillance and guarantee of the safe return of the property in as good condition as when received.

We wish to include in the exhibit everything of mineralogical, geological and metallurgical importance in the economy of the territory.

All railway freight will be paid and adjusted by the World's Fair Commission. A hearty response is expected from every mining district in New Mexico. Some of the mining camps have already met and selected committees to see that they are fully represented with a creditable display of their mineral resources at the greatest exposition the world has ever known.