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DEATH OF GEORGE A. KERNICK

In the passing away of George A. Kernick, southern Nevada lost one of its empire builders, one of that redoubtable class of men who never knew the word fail men who see opportunity in every turn of the trail and seem successful on every puff of the sage laden breeze. Taken from a rapidly broadening sphere of usefulness before the prime of life, George Kernick's loss can never be combated. With less than half a hundred years to his credit the deceased passed away in response to that call which must come to all some day and his passing leaves a void that will not be filled easily. By any of his associates who essay the feat of carrying his plans into execution. The life of the young pioneer reads like a romance, one starting with the lesson of applied geology that led to the thought of a private existence in the mountains, fully realized in 1885. He yearned for the activity of the great outdoors which he found in the trap hills surrounding his adopted town in Tonopah and he was not slow in taking advantage of the prize placed within his reach. Arriving in Tonopah without a cent but gifted with indomitable energy there was no hesitating looking back, for his thoughts were always ahead and in the trap season of a born optimist he saw the chance for wresting a fortune from the prodigal hand of Nature. Men like George A. Kernick were not born to fail and his loving widow will treasure the thought that in all his dealings her husband always held the esteem of his fellow workers, employees and moneyed associates. He was a man of lovable traits whose domestic life was a full realization of marital bliss. No one ever begrudged Mr. Kernick the fortune which he amassed, for in all his dealings he was actuated by the intentions as he would be done by and not a single transaction was commensurate with a lingering distrust on the part of the parties thereto. Rather than gain an advantage at the expense of his neighbor, the man who made the first regular shipments from the present Nevada region would have sacrificed his own possessions if the alternative was the loss of a friend's good will. The same Kernick became a potential factor in mining deals and it was understood that when Kernick gave his word the transaction was as well certified as though it had been written in indelible characters in the public records. He was never known to break a promise and his insistence on fulfilling an unwritten contract often called forth the criticism of others who were not so indifferent to the hazards of the game of promotion. His greatest pleasure was in giving pleasure to others and if the golden opinions of his acquaintances could be crystallized they would form a gem reading "The Man With out An Enemy."

KAISERISM IN THE U. S.

While the American people are fighting to dethrone a kaiser in Europe they were lending themselves to building up an autocracy in America that has never been paralleled. The rupture of the kitchen cabinet of the Wilson regime through the dismissal of Mr. Lansing from the post of secretary of state carries with it a lesson that should not be lost on the American people. Reading between the lines of the correspondence proferring the resignation of Mr. Lansing one can better appreciate the attitude of the republican senate in assenting to a divorce of the peace treaty and the government. The republican party has been subjected to unmitigated abuse for the many stand taken by its representatives in the United States senate in making out for reservations that were distasteful to the president when it is admitted that the official advisers of the chief executive thought at the same strain and urged their leader to reverse his course to the point that they would be more American and less un-American than what he chose to follow. The action of Mr. Wilson reads like the mutterings of an unstable invalid beset from a general. The position of his criticism and the ready resignation of other cabinet members will not add lustre to the campaign preceding the administration. It is another illustration of the un-American one-man power in authority vested in an individual who was so jealous of his prerogatives that he would not allow the vice president to wear the mantle of authority for a few brief months while the future of the nation was determined from lack of attention and the nation was staggering under a burden of obligations that demanded prompt action to prevent them from wrecking the good old ship.

The Philadelphia Record wants to know what's the matter with William H. Taft when he is president. The paper scarcely prevents telling it all.

Why is it that in spite of the payment balance of trade in favor of the United States—our exports with Europe the exportation of gold from the United States to Europe shows a heavy increase?

The time will come when the penalty of pain will be paid for inflation of the currency under the federal reserve system, and when the federal reserve banks, with their increasing domination of finance under administrative control, will become as much of an issue in politics as the United States bank was in Jackson's day.

The London Mail thinks the American people have failed to live up to President Wilson's promise to "throw all we have and all we are" into the European situation. It might have been well to look into President Wilson's claim that he owed all he was promising not only during the war but forever afterward.

The democratic politicians who are denouncing congress for not having straightened out the mess they have made of national affairs in ten months must believe that the power to perform miracles has descended upon the legislative branch of government. The immediate problem is not that of repairing the damage, but of saving the pieces.

BENTON MINES UNDER BOND TO AMERICAN PROSPECTING CLUB

(Continued From Page One) Prospects and developed properties. The history of Benton is quite as alluring as any of the old camps of the west. Its greatest production was prior to 1881 when the price of the old camps of the west. Its greatest production was prior to 1881 when the price of silver got to the point where it was impossible to continue with their operations and little had been done until now.

In talking with Mr. Curtis he reports that a number of lessors are now working on what is known as the Blind Spring Hill, whose production in a very small area was over \$7,000,000 while some of the lessors are just getting started, several have been shipping ore for some time and all are most enthusiastic over the future of their operations. In addition to the lessors' work, one of the old properties has been recently acquired by Tom Taggart, a well known politician of Indiana and he expects to begin operations in a big way very shortly.

Some southern California men are driving a tunnel some 1,200 feet under their known orebodies and are now close to where they expect to strike their first ledge and have every reason to believe that they will cut several ledges that are exposed on the surface. Some of these ledges have been worked down to as low a depth as 500 feet, in other tunnels they would have over 700 feet of backs of virgin ground.

In addition to the operations on the Blind Spring Hill the mineral zone is very large in extent. We found one of the old Tonopah residents, Mr. Al Stevens, had opened up a very promising property which is now under bond to the Watterson brothers of Bishop. This property is located close to Benton, just inside of the Nevada line, in fact, the mineral zone is about half and half in Nevada and California. In addition to the properties that are adjacent to Owens valley there is a virgin country back of Benton that is now covered with snow that offers wonderful opportunities to the prospector and new discoveries were made just before winter set in that will cause considerable excitement as soon as the prospector finds the snow has banished.

One of the new sensational discoveries has been taken under bond by the American Prospecting club and is located about nine miles south of Benton and known as the Joe Main property. He has shipped several carloads of ore averaging better than \$100. On one of the ledges that was opened up a carload of ore was taken out without even a winze being operated—practically what might be termed obtained from the grass roots. On this property a ledge of 35 feet has been sampled averaging better than \$3 with a pay streak undetermined as yet just how wide, averaging \$110.25 and with specimen ore running as high as \$241. This property is now opened to lessors and Mr. Curtis says he has never seen such an opportunity for lessors since the early days of Tonopah, and unlike Tonopah in the early days, \$29 ore can be shipped at a profit, for the property is only six miles from the railroad and ore can be hauled from the mine to the railroad for less than \$3 per ton. Wood and water are obtainable, in fact, the mining conditions are what might be termed, ideal.

Mr. Forman expects to move to Benton within the next few days and Mr. Curtis plans to follow him shortly, so this is an indication that these two gentlemen feel toward the outlook of this section of the country and as they have found a cutoff that brings this section of the country within 75 miles of Tonopah and as Benton is on a direct line to the Yosemite valley, in fact, only a two and a half hours run to the valley, it will probably be visited by a number of Tonopah citizens not only from a business standpoint, but on a pleasure trip when they are taking a few days off to visit the Yosemite. Good hotel accommodations are obtainable in Benton and in addition to this there is a hot springs that offers wonderful inducement for those looking for a health resort. In fact, from every angle it appears to all that much will be heard from this section of the country of interest to all interested in mining.

OPIMUM SMUGGLERS LOSE BIG STAKE

(Correspondence of Associated Press) TIENTSIN, China, Jan. 19.—Opium valued at \$100,000 was taken from three Chinese smugglers who were caught with seven packages of the drug several days ago at the Tientsin Central station after they had boarded a train for Peking. The three smugglers escaped.

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