

DENVER AND ITS PEOPLE

By E. NELLIE BECK

Denver and its people are very much like other American places and people in the ordinary characteristics of their type. But, in many respects, each differs from its prototype elsewhere.

Denver, "City of Lights," has, in several senses, more dark, not to say black, spots, than any town of its size anywhere, probably.

As "Queen City of the Plains" it has encountered and has overcome more mountainous obstacles than are visible in the range of Rockies extending along its western horizon.

Its people are at once the broadest on the commercial calendar—for Denver is, first, last and all the time commercial. Commercial in spirit, in ambition, in inspiration and in execution.

"As the 'City of Gees' Denver takes the top," exclaimed an eastern capitalist, one of the "left-overs" from the National Democratic convention. I stayed here believing this a good field for investment, but by all the shades of 'Adam's cat,' I've never happened on such a jungle of grab, grab, greed and graft as I've struck here. Talk about "tips" on the other side, or in New York! Why, say, the meanest Pullman porter is a gentleman compared to some of the professing members of Denver's business circle. If they believe you are a poor man they're too confidently busy for the ordinary courtesies of eastern business life, where we accomplish more in a day than they can think of in a week. Then, when they do find there is money back of you, they loosen up in manner, but tighten up so much an inch in information, till they see up your wad.

"Are you then leaving without investing at all?" He gave a graffed chuckle, hesitated a bit, then said evasively:

"Say, I'll tell you something if you won't give me away. My partner and one of our attorneys while here recently were much impressed by the eventual outlook for certain piece of property supposed to be for sale, and for which I had had a deal on hand for several months, but for some inexplicable reason I couldn't get him to close the deal. The boys chaffed me considerably, for I'm supposed to be an expert in closing up a deal. So, after they left I made a special effort to reason that chap into definitely accepting or declining my offer. But, no sir, he kept me dangling on his blamed hook until a few days ago a woman called on me at the hotel and asked:

"How much will you pay me if I close up the deal between you and Mr. Blank?"

"How much will you take?"

"Did you not tell a friend yesterday that you'd give a thousand dollars to

have the deal pulled off at once?"

"I did, but that was in jest and yesterday. Today I'll promise to give you \$500 if you'll have the matter closed at my figure by tomorrow noon."

"I'll do better than that. I'll meet you in your attorney's office with the necessary papers at 2 o'clock, this afternoon."

"And she did. The property was ours and the deed recorded before night."

"At your own price?"

"Well—not exactly," he said, reflectively, his face and neck flushing. "It was five hundred dollars less than he asked, but—it was—the price paid him was what I had been offering—but—the five hundred I paid his wife."

"Yes—you see, the woman turned out to be his wife."

Many Religious Organizations.

Denver has more religious organizations and less religious restraint; more public philanthropists and more poverty-stricken residents; more public alms giving and more unnoticed objects of charity; more grand, good people and more mean citizens; more aggressive public workers for moral uplift and more vice enmeshed men, women and children; more abandoned husbands, wives and children; more active women politicians and meaner politics; more educational institutions and more sordid ignorance; more willing workers out of work and more idle rich; more evident spiritual effort and less evident spiritual result; more variegated moral standards and more open immorality; more vigorously healthy people and more pitifully sick ones; more "society" and less social culture; more "organized charity" and less help for the needy; more workers and less work; more big industries and more paltry wages; outside the labor organizations and their are poor enough, probably, than is so glaringly contrasted in any city of its size.

In Hands of a Few.

The salvation of Denver rests as does that of other places, in the hands of a few. The splendid moral stamina and progressive intelligence of Denver's great burden-bearing minority is composed of aggressive, optimistic, ambitious citizens—both men and women—who intelligently realize that municipal prosperity and business success are practically dependent on each other and both on attractive, liberal and truthful advertising. And, with this earnestly in view, these up-to-date leaders have always succeeded in finally calming the mainstream of diverging opinions, or doing it anyhow, in the real interest of the majority, the results, so far justifying their decision. For, the real Denver-

ite knows when "the fighting is over."

Invalids are Many.

The appalling total of invalids and semi-invalids who come here in the hope of restoring their health, but without means to sustain them after they get here, is the great continuous tragedy of Denver. The more one sees and learns of these unhappy victims the more heartbreaking the tragedy becomes. The moneyless stranger in rugged health has a hard time getting a living just now, yet there are scores of frail, lonely, homesick, superstitious and penniless invalids here, unfit to earn a bare existence among friends trying to do so among strangers.

Many of them would undoubtedly recover their normal health in this marvelous climate if they could have rest, nutritious food, suitable clothing and shelter, with the resulting peace of mind. But, some of them would have none of those things if they returned home; others have no home to return to; none have a return ticket nor the price of one; some long to die; a few take their own lives; while a surprising majority cling to their miserable existence in increasing mental torture and physical agony, half starved, wretchedly clad, wandering from one poor shelter to a poorer one, less and less welcome, more and more unwelcome, till at last even their hopeless hope dies, and their clinging spirits and their worn frames fall apart.

Another Pathetic Feature.

Another pathetic feature of Denver as the great American health resort, is the number of invalids whose restoration is obstructed by their knowledge that "the folks at home" are denying themselves of every comfort to keep these in this health-giving altitude. These—especially the hopelessly diseased husband, wife, parent or child—though supplied with sufficient food and clothing and funds to "pay their way," are harassed by the hard mental torture and physical agony which, perhaps, suffer from homesickness, yearn for the tender ministrations of loving hands and the companionship of sympathetic spirits.

Only those who have suffered the agony of ill health, broken spirit, loneliness and homesickness among indifferent, perhaps rude strangers, can fathom the depths of misery in which these unhappy creatures wear out their lives. Their judgement warped, their wills weakened by despair and suffering, life's whole perspective seems out of drawing. They so desperately long for home but, to their distorted fancy, it seems ungrateful to "go back" after all the self-denial in their behalf. "And—who knows,

maybe—of course, they are just as dear and good—but—but you know an invalid is a lot of trouble, and—maybe they'd rather I'd stay—away."

And thus, all the self-denial "at home," like so much of the well-intended acts of life, really helps to defeat its own object, for once that suspicion enters the invalid's mind, the decline is rapid unless some good Samaritan detects it and notifies "the folks at home."

Most invalids are sensitive and most poor folks are proud and when an individual is both sick and poor the pride becomes abnormal and the sensitiveness become supersensitive, and his mind seethes with alternating hope, despair, doubt and suspicion which undiverted leads to death or mental disaster.

Happy Another Side.

Happy there is another side to the picture of Denver and its people. It is not only a place of picturesque beauty and of intense human interest, but in their normal condition the people are fairly bubbling over with the very joy of living. So that, notwithstanding or because of these striking lights and shadows, both city and people are among the most fascinating, inspiring, invigorating and delightful.

There are innumerable free attractions that have cost the people millions of dollars. Among the newest is the half million dollar auditorium where free concerts are given every Sunday night, to continue the year around; a public bath-house said to be one of the most completely equipped in the world; the Carter museum in City Park, which recently was made free every day instead of on Thursday only. Here are the Campion collection of minerals with a billion value of \$50,000, and the greatest collection of beasts and birds of the Rocky Mountain region ever assembled, mounted in natural poses with natural surroundings. In the basement of the capitol is another collection of marvellously preserved flora of Colorado and a museum of historical relics of the cave dwellers, Indians and white pioneers that are invaluable.

Hint to Pensacola.

In addition to the great system of parks and boulevards already completed, there is now under way a plan for beautifying the city generally which began with the purchase of several blocks of improved property adjoining the capitol grounds to be cleared a d' made into an exquisite park. The plans for this magnificent "civic center" were formulated by Frederick MacMonie and require an expenditure of two millions or more.

Pensacola will, of course, take the hint and secure a ample public space now and save a million or two.

The federal government has pur-

chased a site and is clearing it for the immediate erection of one of its most imposing buildings, while the new mint is one of the up-to-datest in Uncle Sam's possession. Ft. Logan, which now has but about 600 men, is to be enlarged to a brigade post with three thousand men.

Then, there are the great industrial plants, the smelters; the stock yards; the Pullman car shops, where are constructed the palace sleepers (of which the poor boy Pullman is said to have first dreamed as he laid in his rude bunk on a ranch southwest of Denver); the great power house of the city tramway system, and the wonderfully intricate and ponderous machinery of the Denver Gas and Electric Co., which enables Denver to boast of being "The City of Lights" (also of dividends.)

Among many other projects for further beautifying this picturesque city, under way or about to begin, is the proposed banishment of bill boards, replacing them by advertisements formed of beautiful plants and flowers in artistic designs.

Only Business Sense.

All these costly efforts to make Denver the most beautiful city in America are not the result of mere love of the beautiful, but of the hard-headed business sense of the successful business men of Denver, who, have learned from both experience and observation that beauty is a commercial factor, just as they have learned that sobriety, morality and general personal cleanliness are valuable business assets.

In Denver the cleaning, beautifying, and improving the city, are not relegated to "the ladies," but have the continuous and serious consideration of the municipal executive department as well as of the business men's organizations.

And yet there are people who believe that "Denver is under petticoat government." On the contrary the masculine element is in control "by a large majority" and shows no disposition to divide the power, though liberal with the "honors." And, while the women do hold the balance of power, all friction seems to have worn away, for in the recent campaign the sexes mingled, and on election day voted and worked together as unconsciously as they do in the public schools or department stores.

Woman Suffrage Established. It is as sure to become universal as is co-education. Whether, personally, it appeals to us or not, we might just as well accept the fact and make the best of it.

Nowhere has the conviction of this fact and its possibilities taken such deep if silent hold and made such rapid growth, as among the really

educated men and women of the South.

Like prohibition, as it is in the south, where it is most needed, in the north it will find its first general acceptance. Southern men more than others need and must have the practical political co-operation of their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters to peacefully carry out the wise legislation, and the fair enforcement of law and order, necessary to harmony progress and prosperity.

While the ignorant woman may be more stupid in her blind prejudices than the ignorant man, she is less brutal in illustration. And, however ignorant she may be of scholarly attainments, if her wealth, her family, or her family's business connections enable her to socially mingle with more intelligent, broad-minded women, she is bound to acquire some ambition to at least seem intelligent.

The ignorant man, on the other hand, is in such mortal dread of appearing to be "led," that he shows his "independence" by an exaggerated contrariness so noisy in expression as to drown any access of knowledge otherwise possible to him. And there is no essential difference in the life aim of the really intelligent woman in Florida and in Maine, Alaska or Panama, though their different environments require different methods.

In connection with the terms "intelligent" and "ignorant," it should be remembered that some of the most painfully ignorant women and men somehow, have managed to "go through" school and college. While, on the other hand, there are women and men who, deprived of those advantages have studied nature, have read men and women and those great educators, the newspapers, until they are more thoroughly educated in the knowledge of human interest, are capable of fairer, more critical judgement of human affairs than thousands of their contemporaries who treasure the bits of parchment that marks their graduation from, not their commencement, of studious thinking.

Poverty, with its vivid sense of injustice, when doubly enslaved by ignorance and envy, leads its hopeless victims to such depths of degradation as to bar them from all but divine justice. But ignorance enslaved by greed for wealth and social power, is the more formidable barrier to the general intelligence which must precede general progress and prosperity, because it is too densely self-satisfied to realize any need of a greater knowledge than how to accumulate money and hold on to it.

Encouraging Light.

However, things are moving with increasing momentum. Where, a little

while ago there was only a thread, there is now a broad ribbon of encouraging light which promises to become a national mantle at almost any hour, and the south will probably be the first to assume it as a matter of self-preservation morally and politically.

But, to clear our minds of prejudice, to throw off the trammels of tradition and look at the naked truth as the "born artist" looks at the naked human form, requires more than ordinary self-effacement.

Mr. Lord looked so grave one evening that his wife, a very young one, noticed it and asked what was the matter.

"I suppose business is troubling you," she surmised shrewdly. "If you're struck a snag, why don't you tell me, and perhaps I may be able to help you?"

After more affectionate adjuration Lord admitted that his payroll bothered him.

"I've made it up as far as the workmen go," he said, "but if I pay the stenographer there won't be a penny left for Davis and me. Davis says he can't stand that. He must have some money this month."

Lord's wife was momentarily grave, then her face brightened.

"Why don't you give the stenographer a month's vacation," she suggested eagerly, "then drive what there is with Davis? It seems to me," judicially, "that would be fair all round."—Youth's Companion.

The Story of Starlight.

"Once there was a group of sportsmen who were all quite broke," said a Jockey club official. "They must, however, get in to the races, and one at a time they presented themselves at the paddock gate.

"I am the owner of Starlight," the first said. He was well dressed and imposing. They believed and passed him in.

"I am Starlight's trainer," said the second. His red face and bluff manner bore out his story, and they admitted him.

"The third man, small and thin, next appeared.

"Starlight's jockey," he said shortly and hurried through the gate.

"The fourth and last man of the group was very shabby indeed.

"Well, who are you?" they said impatiently when he presented himself.

"I am Starlight," was the meek reply.—Los Angeles Times.

SAUNDERS MILL COMPANY

Manufacturers of Rough and Dressed Lumber, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Grills and Mill Work.

Paint Brushes.

We carry a full and complete line of Paint Brushes, Painter's Supplies and White Wash Brushes, Kalsomine Brushes, Painter's Dusters, Putty Knives, Brick Liners, Striping Brushes, etc.

Contractors Wanted.

All Contractors in Pensacola and West Florida are wanted to get our special prices on their needs. Dressed Lumber, Ceiling, Flooring, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Turned and Scroll Work, Lathes Shingles, Ruberoid Roofing, Lime, Brick, Cement, Hair, and a complete line of Builders Hardware. The prices we quote you mean a positive saving of money, they'll add to your profit.

The following editorial appeared in "Collier's" of November 28, this year.

BUILD NOW.

This paper does not often take the risk of volunteering financial counsel. Just a year ago, based upon economics and the times, we advised those who had idle money to put it in standard stocks and first-class bonds. We now venture another bit of advice based upon the coming end of the era of depression. If you intend to build soon, do it now. Borrow, if necessary, whatever, under your own circumstances, is a prudent portion of the cost. All the elements for such an operation are cheap. Money loans at the lowest rate for years; labor is a little less costly than it has been for years, much lower than it will be for a long time to come. The materials for construction, especially lumber, are very cheap. Flooring in most localities, is twenty per cent. below its price a year ago; and hardwood may be had for the former cost of soft woods. Build now for your own advantage; you will employ idle labor, relieve dealers of their stocks, and help along prosperity for all.

We sell every single article that enters into the makeup of a home.



Our bed-rock prices are but the natural result of buying large quantities, and if you wish to put better material into the structure than you had figured on, and for the same cost, our prices will enable you to do it.

21 EAST GARDEN STREET
TELEPHONE 717
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

SAUNDERS MILL COMPANY