

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Los Angeles Oil Well Spouting Two Hundred and Fifty Barrels a Day.

BJTTCM KNOCKED OUT OF LOCAL MARKET

Oil at Fifty Cents a Barrel—Another Strike at Leadville—Colorado River Placers—Mining the Bottom of San Joaquin River—News of the Northwest.

The Metropolitan gusher, for so it may be called, was commenced three months ago and gave such trouble by caving, etc., during the work that the owners were sorely tempted to abandon it, says a Los Angeles specialist to the San Francisco Examiner, but they pushed on down to a depth of 1,025 feet. Oil was finally struck and it rose 300 feet in the well. After the pumping has commenced the yield was at the rate of five gallons in forty seconds. It was pumped all night and in the following morning filled a five gallon can in thirty-five seconds. The oil has now risen 600 feet to the well and it is strongly impregnated with gas.

It is believed that a large body of oil has been tapped, and it is estimated that it will yield 250 barrels a day and is pronounced the most productive well yet sunk in that section. It subsequently rose to a height of 609 feet and much difficulty was found in putting in a pump large enough to keep the well free from the sand which is being brought up.

It is alleged that some of the local producers are now selling oil at 50 cents and glad to get that, but none of them will admit that they are selling for that price. They are all very reticent as to what they are receiving. Some claim that they are not taking less than \$1.50, but this undoubtedly is exceptional. The best holding out for \$1.50 are apparently not selling much oil. Those who get \$1.25 are in luck, and it is probable that the majority are not receiving much over \$1.00 per barrel. A chief producer says an analysis of the Los Angeles petroleum shows that it contains from 70 to 72 per cent lubricating oil, about 7 per cent asphaltum. The lubricating oil about 33 per cent is neutral, that is devoid of small, taste or odor. The market at \$1.75 per forty-two gallon barrel.

Just how large the Los Angeles oil field is, is not known. As yet only a comparatively small area has been prospected. It is pretty certain that the oil sand extends from Second street to a point about a mile and a half from the lake Park and thence north to the junction of Temple street and the Edgewood road.

The Wallis Mainis company sank a well to the depth of 400 feet and a half beyond the terminus of the Temple street cable road. They passed three strata of oil bearing sand giving a total yield of about twenty barrels a day.

THE LEADVILLE GOLD BELT.

A strike has been made in the Spot Cash property. While it is not so important for the value of the mine as the Leadville Hercules, it shows the continuity of the gold ore bodies between the Eliza and Little Johnny properties, indicating an extension of the bodies northwesterly. The ore is contained in a depth of 100 feet from the surface and is reported to be very rich. The Spot Cash shaft has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet and has encountered runs one-half an ounce gold and nine ounces silver. The Spot Cash shaft lies northwest of the Golden Eagle property, and the property itself is composed of portions of the Lowland Chief and Idaho claims.

There is no longer any doubt in the minds of the people as to the extent of richness of the great Leadville gold belt. One by one the shafts are reaching the ore horizon, and the result is that the most sanguine expectations are being realized. Narrow veins of gold are being encountered. Mining is not conducted by following the usual methods, but by following the veins. Theories of the experts have been abandoned. The result is that every strike the ore is made, and it is not until the ore is exhausted that the shaft is abandoned. History will repeat itself. The men who get the richest ore will be the ones to receive the richest dividends. We know of no mining district in the country where so many favorable elements to tempt investment. A few years' development on the great gold bearing area will demonstrate to the world the true greatness and importance of this, the richest of the mineral producers of the Rockies.

AT COEUR D'ALENE.

A correspondent of the Engineering and Mining Journal says that the union is in complete control of the Coeur d'Alene district, from which the Denver smelters in former years received much of their lead ore.

The Bunker Hill and Sullivan company's mines continue shut down completely, and not even pumping nor other necessary work is allowed to be done. Some of the other mines are still working, including the Tiger, the Gem and the Peerman, but the future even of these is entirely uncertain. The union has announced its intention to permit no non-union man in the district, and has here strictly to the \$3.50 per day rate. In the morning mine, at Mullin, Mr. Huntley continues at work under the co-operative plan, but there is a strong possibility that will force the abandonment of this interesting experiment. There has been no open violence.

RICH UTAH PLACERS.

Colonel Ben R. Hite of Kansas, Texas and Utah is in Salt Lake City, the placers of the Colorado. A stay of four months at Utah has made him more confident than ever that the bars below Dandy are rich in gold. He reports, in the placers, and a revival of interest in the placers, and that the gravels are being worked to a greater extent than they have been for months.

About seventy-five men are at work along the river for a distance of forty miles below Dandy crossing. A good many of these miners have come in from Colorado, and they are permitted by the owners of the claims to go to work on the bars on their own account as they are there only on sufferance, they are not very frank in speaking of their earnings, but the best evidence that they are making money is the fact that they are writing to their friends in Colorado, advising them to come into the country.

Those of us who have been interested in the placers for several years, said Mr. Hite, "are arranging plans to conduct mining operations there on a larger scale than has ever before been attempted. We have a combination of forty-two men, who control 2,500 acres of the best placer ground in the world. Dandy Crossing down to Good Hope, a distance of sixteen miles, and comprising fully 500,000 cubic yards of ground. The gold-bearing bars are richly productive and are exhausted. I believe that 100 years from now Utah miners will be washing out the yellow metal from these placers."

"Some ground was reported about six miles above Dandy crossing, and I believe the properties are good. Below the crossing for twenty miles, and beyond further, say dirt was taken, and when the water was allowed to flow a fine gold was found. The flow is over 2,100 gallons a minute. Mr. Hite has prospecting parties, which are located on the most elevated portions of his farm, a reservoir covering about seven acres of land near the largest, has been commenced, and a small army of men are now engaged in turning the channel of the San Joaquin river at a point about twenty-five miles from Fresno, so that the water will flow into the San Joaquin river. So little was said about the proposed work that the people here did not know of it until the plan was made public. It is in the hands of the San Francisco Chronicle. It is being done by a company composed principally of the following names: George W. Vermon, Campbell, A. W. Thurman, ex-United States minister to Berlin, and several other well known gentlemen.

DIVERTING A STREAM.

One of the largest mining operations ever undertaken in Fresno county, if not absolutely the largest, has been commenced, and a small army of men are now engaged in turning the channel of the San Joaquin river at a point about twenty-five miles from Fresno, so that the water will flow into the San Joaquin river. So little was said about the proposed work that the people here did not know of it until the plan was made public. It is in the hands of the San Francisco Chronicle. It is being done by a company composed principally of the following names: George W. Vermon, Campbell, A. W. Thurman, ex-United States minister to Berlin, and several other well known gentlemen.

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SOUTH DAKOTA.

It is stated that the Milwaukee railroad will reduce its force at Yankton largely. The well borer at Harrison has struck water and the people of the town claim to have a gusher.

Hunters near Miller have shot about 4,000 Jack rabbits this season and shipped them to eastern markets. Two artesian wells were located in Spink county by State Engineer Fassett. One is in town and the other in Olean township, and both will be used for irrigation.

The Vermilion Plain claim claims that Vermilion is becoming a famous divorce center, rivaling Sioux Falls, Yankton and the other towns. There are now seven applications for marital release on file.

Deputy United States Marshal Jake Tschetter of Bridgewater, who has recently returned from the West, reports that the Indians "the rottenest lot of stock he ever saw."

The coal mines at Cambria are working a large gang of men. At present Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins have over 700 men at work and orders for coal are coming in so quickly that it is difficult to get a supply on hand.

The coke gang is rushed all the time and the company is loading about five trains per day with their black diamonds. The vein is a fine and almost pure anthracite.

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FAT SALARIES ATTACHED TO SOME OF THEM

All the Present Incumbents Except One Are Republicans and Several Likely to Be Reappointed—Other State Officers Name Their Desires.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Governor-elect William A. Richards and the other state officers will assume the duties of their respective offices today. There will be an entire change in every department and there is naturally considerable interest manifested in who will be the fortunate ones in securing the deputyships and other minor positions.

Gov. Richards will have a larger amount of patronage at his disposal than any chief executive since the admission of the state to the union. The best appointive office is the state engineer, who has supervision over the waters of the state. The appointment is made for a term of six years, and the salary is \$2,000 a year, with a liberal appropriation for traveling and other incidental expenses.

The engineer is authorized to appoint an assistant at a salary of \$1,200 a year and a stenographer at \$600. The term of office is four years. The incumbent of the office, does not expire until 1897, but he will no doubt be his own successor. W. H. Gilcrest will probably be the assistant engineer.

The attorney general will be appointed at once to succeed Charles N. Potter, who was elected to the supreme bench at the last election, and will take the oath of office with the other officials. The term of his appointment is for four years, and the salary is \$1,200 per annum. Hon. B. F. Fowler of Sundance, Crook county, ex-United States attorney for Wyoming, is the only candidate for the place. Hon. T. P. Burke, J. A. Van Orsdel and General Hugo Dondemolen, all of Cheyenne, are also candidates for the office.

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BY INVISIBLE RODS.

No Wonder This Merchant Complained That He Felt as If Pounded.

"I feel as if I had been pounded," said one business man to another as they were riding home after office hours. "I am sore from head to foot. I don't know what's the matter."

He had, in fact, been pounded, but not by any tangible instrument. He had been beaten from head to foot by the evil forces which lurk in the winter air. Not alone in the overheated dwellings and places of business.

The effect is woefully familiar, even when it is not accompanied by a headache, a feeling of lassitude, a diminished appetite, and a general soreness and stiffness of the muscles. The blood in the arteries is slow. A sharp current of air sends the blood from the trunk of the body to the head, and the head is the first to feel the effect. "Then the sufferer coughs and perhaps feels a little better, but the circulation of the blood is slow."