

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Scheme to Construct a New Transcontinental Railroad.

EX-MAYOR CUSHING ONE OF PROMOTERS

Rich Idaho Placers to Be Made Accessible—Invasion of Mexican Cattle—California's Olive Crop—Van Couver Indians—News of the Northwest.

R. C. Cushing, a well known railroad contractor of Omaha, and an ex-mayor of that city, has come to California, says the San Francisco Chronicle, to see whether or not it is possible to interest California capital in a transcontinental road, to connect Salt Lake City with the San Joaquin valley.

He has been figuring on the project for some time, and has traveled over what he considers a most practicable and easy route, and one which would insure plenty of business for the road when once completed.

In speaking of the matter, he said: "It is folly to try and interest eastern capital in a competing road to California if the people of California, who are to be most benefited, refuse to take an interest in the enterprise. The need of a competing road to run from Salt Lake to California is apparent without argument. I have studied the situation in California pretty thoroughly and I believe that a road from the coast to the San Joaquin valley, passing through that rich mining region in southern Utah, is what is needed. Nothing else will bring the relief for which the people of this state are looking. I do not believe a competing road down the San Joaquin valley will pay unless it can make connections with a transcontinental road such as I have outlined. A road to Salt Lake would give connections with the Union Pacific, Rio Grande Western and all the other roads reaching into that territory, and the problem of railroad transportation between California and the eastern markets would be solved. A road up the San Joaquin valley should be an after consideration."

A road from Bakersfield to Salt Lake could be built for \$16,000 a mile. There are several easy passes through the mountains. I have been over the ground with engineers and I think that \$15,000 a mile is a conservative estimate of what such a road would cost. It would open up a rich mining district in southern Utah and could be brought to San Francisco for \$4 a mile. There would be no lack of business for such a road."

HIGH PLACER SCHEME.

At a point on the South fork of the Payette, a short distance below its confluence with the headwaters of the Snake, a great bond. At the point of nearest approach where the river doubles back upon itself its waters are separated by only a few feet. The two streams, which are led up from either side, leaving a ridge about 200 feet wide and 200 feet high. The river flows a mile or more from the ridge, the great bend beyond this point of nearest approach.

The bed of the stream is known to be rich in gold. In 1892 parties having taken out large sums by working along the edges at low water. There are hot springs all along the horseshoe, from which gold can be scooped up in quantities. The placer ground has been located by J. S. Batches of Denver, president of the American Red Stone company. Campbell of Chicago, and Gilliam of Cedar Rapids, Ia. They have admitted L. E. Farnham of Detroit to an interest, and propose to cut a channel for the river through the neck of the bend. This will leave the river bed dry for the entire distance of one and three-fourths miles and it is believed the ground is rich in gold. It will be mined with water taken either from small streams that flow in or from the main river at the dam that will be built to drive the stream.

They have not decided whether they will make a tunnel or an open cut. If a tunnel be constructed it will be about 20 feet square. A cut be decided upon it will be for a short distance, be 300 feet deep. The work will cost fully \$25,000. It will be begun early in the spring.

Messrs. Farnham, Batches and Gilliam are now in the city. Mr. Batches has a bottle of gold which was taken out with a pan about ten days ago. It contained \$108, and the result of four and a half days' work of four hours each, by two men, working during the warm part of the day.

CASE OF ALL-ROUNDER.

A somewhat sensational case of mine salting has just come to light in this district, in which M. Finney of Denver was the intended victim, says the Denver Times.

The property in question is a placer mine, a location on Bull hill, or what was known to cattlemen as Bull hill before gold was discovered at Cripple Creek. The hill is south and west of Williams, and is a part of the district where mineral has not yet been found. On the Alice a shaft has been sunk to a depth of several feet, and in this shaft peculiarly colored quartz has been found, what resembling the gold-bearing quartz of the district, but yet a little different.

It was this rock that they salted and attempted to patent on Mr. Finney. After a while before he paid any money on the property he called upon Al Wuenesch, the well known mining expert, to make an examination of the property. Mr. Finney, Wuenesch and Mr. Wuenesch, the owner of the salted mine went there and secured a number of samples from the shaft, which, when assayed, ran \$123.40 to the ton. This was more than Mr. Wuenesch expected from the rock, and he at once became suspicious. That night he soaked some of the best looking of the rock all night in water, and in the morning took it to the same assayer who had made the former test. The shrinkage in value was something phenomenal. There was a shortage of \$11.80.

GUNNISON GOLD.

That Gunnison county will soon be one of the foremost in the production of gold cannot for a moment be doubted, says the Great Butte Pilot. All along the belt from Poverty gulch to Cochetopee rich finds are reported, and accounts of extensive developments are given almost every week by the papers of that vicinity. Mills are erected, contracts let and properties bonded in almost every section. Not alone is gold mining assuming activity, but some of the oldest and most reliable silver mines continue to pour away, either shipping or storing their ore. Pitkin reports the Cleopatra, Fairview and Ben Franklin all silver properties, steadily working and shipping ore. In this neighborhood are the Forest Queen, Bullock King, Sylvanite and August. Reports from the Crystal Lance and the Times indicate considerable work on the silver properties at that section. To this can be added the steady output of lead from the rich and famous coal and coke from Crested Butte. That 1895 will bring more favorable returns to this section of the country is assured. The Baby mine is to open in the near future, again in the spring, which will add much to the activity of this place.

THE OURAY GOLD BELT.

Ouray does not, apparently, show how well off it is, says the Ouray Plaindealer. In August, 1933, 1,000 miners were thrown out of employment, yet not a business failure has occurred since then and the three or four saloons that closed have reopened. Every merchant weathered the storm and fully 700 miners are again at work and drawing wages.

"With an immense gold belt, which has yielded to every persistent touch, Ouray still clings to silver. From the other end of the belt at three or four miles southwest of town to another equally uncertain, twenty-two miles to the east, the belt is wide and of width varying between a half a mile to eight miles, runs the Ouray gold belt. Whether it is part of that one supposed to stretch from Leadville to the west through Breckenridge, Leadville, Telluride to

Manco, or an independent affair altogether, is immaterial here; the Ouray gold belt exists today there are only two great properties on it being operated, the Grand View and the American Nettle. Both these are worked by tunnel and the ore was reached near the top of the shaft. A vein of gold that ran by mill test eight ounces to the ton was recently struck where the Grand View mill was being erected.

"Two other very rich mines in this belt, the Bright Diamond and the G-14 in Calif., both of which have shipped valuable ore, are closed by litigation. The West View has made some light shipments, but not enough to count. Over 200 locations have been made and many are now being worked in a desultory manner, but none it would appear, with capital behind them. Probably one reason of this lassitude is that the ore is refractory and great difficulty has been encountered in extracting values. The Grand View mill, which has been running only three weeks, has successfully met the difficulty, saving fully 50 per cent. On the east side of the Uncompahgre river the American Nettle is in a flat ore body in the partite, and the gold is richly contained in the partite. There is a vein of that river the Grand View is in a true fissure vein."

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT.

The green mountain mining district, situated about fifteen miles southeast of Gunnison, is one of the most promising of the many new gold camps that are rapidly springing up in Colorado, says an special correspondent of the Denver News. The Lucky Strike and Only Chance, which were located in June, 1934, have shipped several cars of high-grade ore. The management is steadily pushing development. The ore averages \$100 to the ton in gold.

AT LEADVILLE.

Leban and Turner have erected a five-stamp mill to test the Mineral Hill ore and are much gratified at their tests. They are able to save \$20 to the ton and have thousands of tons of ore in sight.

Black Jack, who has a bond on the Black Jack, has leased a mill in Gold Basin and expects to commence work this month. This property is one of the best in the district.

Three postoffices have been established in different parts of the district, namely, Iris, Schlar and Chance. There is a daily stage line between Gunnison and Iris.

Lying in the big Evans gulch, about 1,200 feet north of the Big Six group, is the Great Hope, a claim which in the early days achieved considerable notoriety by sinking a deep shaft and making a rich strike in gold, says the Leadville Herald-Democrat. The mineral was caught at a depth of 200 feet, but after a few shipments the property remained in statu quo, the owners, who were the late John and Judge Allen of Denver, never working the ground. A short time ago, however, Messrs. Vivian, Old & Co. secured a lease on the property and have been working it ever since. A forty-horse power boiler and hoister have been put up, and the work of draining the shaft has commenced. When the shaft reaches 200 feet, it is intended to be explored, but it is the intention of the lessees to sink the shaft deeper, and develop the lower portion, which presents the characteristics of all the known gold-bearing veins in that they are all to be gold-bearing.

A gold strike is reported in the Rosebud claim, three-quarters of a mile south of Rex, demonstrating the fact that the gold belt extends to a considerable distance south of hitherto unknown limits. The formation of the Rosebud is a continuation of the great belt beyond this point of nearest approach.

WILSON BILL CATTLE.

The cattle trade between Mexico and the United States is fully up to expectations as to the number of cattle. Colonel Albert Dean, agent of the bureau of animal industry for the southwest, has just completed his report of the number of cattle that have been imported into the United States from September 28, when the shipments first commenced, up to December 31. It shows that 45,890 cattle were admitted from Mexico during the year from the states of Sonora and Chihuahua.

NOVEL LABOR EXCHANGE.

A novel and so far successful means of solving "the unemployed" problem has been inaugurated here, in a form of co-operation, says a Los Angeles correspondent of the Francisco Examiner. A number of persons of both sexes who found themselves without resources and unable to obtain employment got together, and have formed what is known as the New Era Labor exchange. They number 27, and will publish an appeal for assistance in the city papers. The exchange is organized and ideas assisted themselves to a great extent, and they only ask the opportunity of increasing their methods of self-help.

INDIAN JUSTICE.

The Indian mission three miles from Vancouver has its own laws, and they are better suited to the Indians than the laws of the white man. It is thought that the mission are educated by a Catholic priest, make their own shoes and stockings, build their own houses and till the ground. They learn to sing and play musical instruments, and write English and to read and write shorthand. They have a fine brass band, and all the population nearly are expert singers. An accomplishment which enables them to read shorthand journals from Italy, France and Germany.

WOMEN OF BEATRICE.

Women of Beatrice on February 14 will be allowed full control of the editorial, news and advertising columns of the Beatrice Express.

WYOMING.

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THE CITY OF SHERIDAN.

The city of Sheridan expended nearly \$270,000 in improvements last year. A specimen of grass from the Big Horn basin measures eight feet in length.

THE MESA HACIENDA COMPANY.

The Mesa Hacienda company was incorporated at Phoenix, Ariz., with a capital of \$200,000, in 10,000 shares of \$20 each. It will engage in viticulture, horticulture, and build canals, packing and storage houses.

freely. The well is only 155 feet deep. It is thought when Mr. Archer, the superintendent, arrives today there are only two great properties on it being operated, the Grand View and the American Nettle. Both these are worked by tunnel and the ore was reached near the top of the shaft. A vein of gold that ran by mill test eight ounces to the ton was recently struck where the Grand View mill was being erected.

BIG OLIVE CROP.

The olive crop of southern California is being harvested now and is expected to be one of the best in several years. In Fomona valley, where olives have been made a specialty, the crop is the best yet known, says a Pomona special to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The total olive crop of southern California is estimated at 250,000 gallons. Of this Santa Barbara covers 70,000 gallons and Pomona valley 40,000.

A feature of the industry this season is the fact that more orders from wholesale fruit dealers and processors for olive oil will remain for use in making olive oil. Prices so far are high for pickled olives.

OREGON FIR.

It is not generally known that Oregon possesses certain types of wood which, if not better, adapted to the construction of musical instruments than any elsewhere. Prof. J. A. Wesco of Portland, says the Oregonian, that a good instrument is made by an amateur and member of the Handel orchestra, says that for the tops of violins, guitars, etc., and for the sounding board of a piano, Oregon fir is superior to any other wood of Oregon, which is remarkable for its straight grain and the great size it attains.

For piano soundboards it is especially valuable. The improved American river at Pierre and Fort Pierre, Trepanier arrangements for the commencement of this work are already being made.

A creamery is to be opened a few miles west of Astoria. The firm has decided to put in a large creamery, and the co-operative stock plan. The plant is to be put in by Prof. Wheaton of Brookings, and will cost \$5,000.

There is a movement in consideration by the business men of Gary to increase the population of the townships adjoining the town. The scheme is to obtain an option on the land of the townships, and then cause an immigration and sell the land as cheap as possible.

For a number of years the using of hay as fuel and the lessening of the coal expenses in the shops of Gary has been a matter of concern to the farmers in the vicinity of Gary. There has now been invented a stove which successfully has been constructed, and is being sold in Gary. The stove is made of sheet iron and is built to the outer room and packed full of straw. This being placed on its base and ignited it keeps a small four room warm from fifteen to twenty-four hours. A great quantity of hay is being sold and they are giving immense satisfaction.

There is a clash of authority between the county and the city of Astoria in regard to the land office in Pierre. H. E. Cutting was appointed caretaker on the abandonment of the post and instructed to eject all intruders from the site. The city of Astoria has a copy of the act of congress, approved August 23, 1894, which clearly gives settlers a right to take possession for entry, but Mr. Cutting has refused to do so.

COLORADO.

The Smuggler mine at Aspen has discharged thirty miners.

A ten-ton shipment from the Wilson lode at Ophir melted \$110 per ton.

The Silver Star packing firm is feeding 18,000 sheep at Col. Collins on wheat and alfalfa.

A movement is on-foot to start a canning factory at La Junta. A large part of the product will be for export.

The Rico silver mines are showing increased values in gold as depth is gained. This is true in the Rico-Aspen, Enterprise and the Shoshone mines.

An English syndicate is about to invest in the Cripple Creek district. The purchase price is stated at \$500,000 and the property which is about to change hands is a dividend payer.

A report comes from Colorado Springs of a recent discovery in the Argentinum mine at Aspen. It is described as a large body of ore ranging in value from 200 to 1,500 ounces of silver per ton.

Shipments of low grade gold ores, by the cars and by team, from Gilpin county to Idaho Springs are steadily increasing. The amount of ore shipped by rail is \$100,000 material offered than they are able to handle.

A new gold find of considerable importance has attracted the attention of the Silver Cliff people. The new strike is about four miles east of the old one, and the ore has close resemblance to that found on Bull Hill at Cripple Creek.

The cross-cut on the Robert Emmett, Telluride, in the Shoshone mine, which is in the county, is in 235 feet. Mill runs on the Telluride give \$25 per ton. The Shoshone runs from a few dollars to \$2,000 per ton and the ore is being shipped to the mill.

Deep mining has proven to be successful in Mineral county. A rich strike was made in the seventh level of the New York and New Jersey mine. A large body of ore was produced in the state, and consumed in Butte, fourteen ounces of gold and 490 ounces silver. Considerable enthusiasm prevails among local mining men.

The copper mine in Colorado is located near Salida, Chaffee county, and from the date of its discovery up to the first of the year, has produced 23,630 tons of ore or 1,000,000 pounds of copper. The property is still being worked and from thirty to forty men find steady employment there.

WYOMING.

Eastern parties are arranging to erect a \$25,000 woolen mill at Sheridan.

The city of Sheridan expended nearly \$270,000 in improvements last year. A specimen of grass from the Big Horn basin measures eight feet in length.

The average number of cars of coal mined at Rock Springs is now about 200 per day.

A number of cattlemen are getting things in a hurry to get the legislature in reference to a wolf bounty.

Over 200,000 trout have recently been hatched at the state fish hatchery and 600,000 eggs are on the way.

The state of Wyoming is the owner of an antelope head with two sets of horns fully developed, one set being buck's horns and the other doe's.

The coal output is the different mines of the state is 5,740,000 pounds of coal. The property of fatal accidents was thirteen out of 2,453 men employed.

There are now about 250 families located in the town of Sheridan. There will be a large influx of settlers in the spring, and a little city will be built there.

The bondsmen of N. E. Burns, the late coal treasurer of Cheyenne, who was compelled to resign about a year ago on account of a shortage of about \$1,500 in his accounts, held a meeting at Douglas Junction last week. The meeting was held in connection with the county. Each bondsman was compelled to pay \$54.20 on every thousand for which he qualified on Burns' bond.

portions an interesting appearance. The leading editor, a carefully prepared column with a half light on the causes of the war between Japan and China, is assigned to J. F. S. The first number of the paper that left the press sold for \$7.

Dawes County Agricultural association elected the following officers and directors: President, Charles Main; vice president, William Wilson; treasurer, W. W. Wilson; secretary, B. F. Pitman; directors, James M. Young, Theodore Augustine, A. C. Putnam, T. L. Wilson, John Stokes, A. C. Fowler, Willis Campbell. The report of the treasurer showed a balance in the treasury of \$157.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

The school population of Deadwood is 624 and that of Lead City is 752.

A joint stock company has been organized at Huron to operate a creamery.

It is stated that the Milwaukee road will reduce its force at Yankton largely.

The DeSmet well is now 1,610 feet deep and no artesian flow has yet been reached.

An Indian marriage has been annulled at Cheyenne. Who says Lo is not being civilized.

Hunters near Miller have shot 4,000 jack rabbits this season and have shipped them to eastern markets.

A creek county had \$5,000 in Treasurer Taylor's bank at Hot Springs, but the day before it failed drew out \$5,000.

Cattle shipments from Belle Fourche last year amounted to 2,500 cars, of an aggregate value of \$2,000,000.

The new \$10,000 school house at Howard is rapidly approaching completion and will be finished by the middle of February.

Stockmen from the Bad Lands section of the state are reporting stock in the hands of the sheep. Thus far cattle have attained their living upon the prairie, as but little snow has fallen on the ranges.

Congress at its last session appropriated \$100,000 for the improvement of the Missouri river at Pierre and Fort Pierre. The river arrangements for the commencement of this work are already being made.

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At the city election in Laramie, which occurs next week, the question of issuing \$40,000 refunding bonds to take up the outstanding indebtedness of the city, will be submitted to a vote of the people.

Among the bills introduced at this session of the legislature will be one for the protection of hotel keepers of Wyoming. The new bill provides that when baggage has been left for a board bill it shall be held for a certain time and then advertised and sold by a constable.

OREGON.

The annual cut of wood at Meacham is 8,000 cords.

On tract of land 500 feet square, near Pendleton, 8,000 sheep are being fattened.

A merchants' carnival, to raise funds for road improvement, is proposed in Baker City.

The movement to establish a creamery at Albany is not meeting with much encouragement.

The Astorian predicts great activity in road construction by the Clatsop county farmers next spring.

Salmon fishing on the Rogue river is in order, and one big one taken out in Sam's valley is said to have weighed a tripe under forty pounds.

A big ball of gold bullion, worth \$12,200 to the ounce and amounting to \$17,000, was brought to Baker City from the Virtue mine. It was the result of a month's run.

The negroes imported from West Virginia to dig coal at the Heaver Hill mine in Coos county have quit work and say they will not make a living digging coal at 45 cents per ton.

A rich and new ore vein was struck west in the 150 foot level of the White Swan mine, and from a vein of three or four inches it has increased in width until at the present time it is about thirteen inches.

The Lake County Examiner gives a graphic account of a rabbit drive in that section recently. A tight board corral was made and everybody turned out to enjoy the sport. The first day 1,700 rabbits were killed and the next day 1,800 more were gathered in.

A long petition by "taxpayers, water consumers and laboring men" is being prepared for the Astoria water commission, asking them to require contractors bidding on work to pay not less than \$2 per day for labor and charge not more than \$3.50 per week for board, and that excavating be done by day labor.

An unknown hunter at Brinnon, Wash., recently killed twenty head of elk and left the carcasses at the bottom of a ravine.

Heavy snows in the mountains drove the animals down to the beach, where they were mercilessly slaughtered. The settlers organized a vigilance committee and started after him, but he had gotten wind of the matter and fled.

A rancher living on Sutton creek, a few miles from Baker City, sold some chickens in that city recently. In the crow of one of them the purchaser found some particles of gold. The rancher was informed of this and at once began prospecting in a gulch near his house, with the result that he discovered diggings yielding 25 cents to the pan. He is of the opinion that the poultry business is very profitable when the chickens engage in prospecting.

WASHINGTON.

There is a movement on foot at Oakesdale to establish a creamery there.

The Monte Cristo mine will issue \$150,000 in bonds for development work.

The Northern Pacific has begun the construction of a new depot on the wharf at Tacoma.

The farmers of Marsh, Snohomish county, will put flood gates in the Williams and the Shoshone rivers, at a cost of \$100,000, and reclaim much valuable land from overflow.

A hunting party in the Olympic mountains report having seen 500 elk in a single day, without attempting to shoot any of them, because their pack animals were already laden with game.

During the month of December the Everett smelter shipped bullion to the amount of \$107,000. The product of the smelter included 3,000 ounces of gold, 60,000 ounces of silver and 500,000 pounds of lead.

David E. Durrie, who went east with Eugene Semple and Julius F. Hahn to secure \$5,000,000 with which to build the Lake Washington canal, has returned to Seattle and reported that the money has been raised. After discussing the matter with the Olympic money will be paid and the work commenced.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anthrax coal has been discovered in the vicinity of the San Lake City.

According to Librarian Albert's report, the state library has over 20,000 volumes.

The average number of cloudy days in Arizona during the year is only fourteen.

The population of Santa Fe was increased by the birth of three children on New Year's night.

While digging a well at Helena, Mont., nearly one hundred gold was taken out of the dirt to pay for the well.