

WONDERS OF PERU, MINING AND OTHERWISE, ONE OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA WHICH IS SURE TO THRIVE IN THE FUTURE

South America is one of the countries that are of great interest to many people in Butte, for the reason that South America is a land where mining is very extensively carried on and where new mining

Paseo region, which the Inter Mountain was fortunate enough to secure copies of, and which are presented to its readers in this issue.

Following is the description of the Peruvian country, written by Mrs.

quantities, silver, copper and other minerals.

"The Western Cordillera rises like a wall on the eastern side of the coast belt, with passes from 15,000 to 18,000 feet high and peaks 20,000 feet in altitude. The surface of the plains is uneven and traversed by lower ranges of hills, which surround large lakes, rolling pampas or fertile valleys, through which run great rivers. The whole country has a high altitude, varying from 12,000 to 16,000 feet, and sloping gradually north and east toward the Amazon, into which drain its waters. On the mountain slopes are seen picturesque and precipitous ravines, often thousands of feet deep. Flowers and fruits grow in abundance in proximity and in contrast with the barren plains above and below them.

"In the south of Peru is found the Arequipa-Puno railroad. From Callao to Oroya, across the Andes, there is a railroad which we hope soon to extend to Cerro de Paseo. Other means of travel are by mule trails and a new wagon road between Oroya and Cerro de Paseo.

"In all parts of this region are deposits of valuable minerals. Gold and silver have been mined since the earliest periods, and the quick-silver deposits were once famous throughout the world. Lead and copper ores are worked to some extent, and salt and coal are found at many points.

"Notwithstanding all the drawbacks arising from want of roads, proper methods of mining, skilled labor and capital, this region has produced \$15,300,000 in gold and silver.

"Cerro de Paseo, the capital of the department of Junin, is situated in latitude 10 degrees and 46 minutes south. It is surrounded by high hills, familiarly known as 'The Cerro,' and of a low central ridge, the site of the town. This central ridge, called 'cerro de Paseo,' is about one and one-half miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide. The town is laid out on its backbone and eastern slope. Its western slope is occupied by a series of open quarries or 'Tajos Abiertos.'

"Mines have been worked over all parts of the ridge and on some of the hills. Some mines open into the yards, some in the streets, and many open into the tajos.

"The altitude of Cerro de Paseo is 14,192 feet. The population is about 8,000. The buildings are stone or adobe, with tin or thatched roofs, and one or two stories high. Some of the houses are comfortable.

"The dwellings of the working class consist of one room, without a window, and are heated by miserable peat fires. The better class uses soft coal, burned in grates.

"The streets are roughly paved cobble stone, an open drain running through the center. There are two unattractive hotels and many very good stores or shops. Drinking places are very abundant, all kinds and conditions of people keeping ruin for sale.

"There are many Catholic churches and one hospital.

"The most striking feature of Cerro de Paseo is the huge open quarries, or 'Tajos Abiertos,' which pass into and through the town limits, threatening its very existence, as is indicated by ruined buildings around the edge of the pits or tajos. Huge cracks in the ground attract no notice from the residents, except in the case of the special family whose dwelling commences to fall.

"The tajos were formed originally by the caving of the mines. For the past 250 years the miners have been burrowing like moles under the surface, making no attempt to secure the ground except for the present moment. They excavated huge chambers and left them to stand or fall as may chance. Many have failed, but some still stand. Some are from 150 to 200 feet long, 50 to 75 feet

wide and 15 to 25 feet high—a strange sight to behold.

"The climate of Cerro de Paseo is moderate, and extremes of cold or heat are unknown. July, August and September are the coldest months.

of design and railway engineering skill it has not since been surpassed. Many of its patrons are tourists, who make the trip to Oroya solely to view the grandeur of the scenery and this wondrous display of the skill and

the head as if the blood was trying to force itself through the skull, and these symptoms are followed by bleeding from the nose, vomiting as from seasickness, fainting and monetary blindness. The Spaniards term



STREET CERRO DE PASEO, ALTITUDE 14,192 FEET.

fields are being opened all the time by Americans. There are a number of people in that part of the globe who once lived here.

Peru is a particular part of South

Blackford:

"The great mining region of Peru is a mountainous belt of country running nearly the whole length of the republic and comprising the two



MINE OPENING INTO TAJO.

America that is especially interesting, because it is a country which is very rich in mineral resources and has attracted many Montanans to the various mining districts.

grand ranges of the Andes, with the elevated tablelands between them. On the east of this belt are the extensive plains and fertile valleys of the Amazon. On the west is a narrow



ESPERANZA WORKS SHOWING PATIOS FOR WORKING SILVER ORES.

Mary Layton Blackford of Cerro de Paseo, Peru, last summer wrote an entertaining letter to a correspondent in this city, and accompanied it with photographs of the Cerro de

strip from 20 to 50 miles wide, for the most part a sandy desert, yet producing abundant crops where irrigated. Here are found petroleum, salt, nitrate of soda in enormous



A HERD OF LLAMAS.



TAJO SANTA ROSA, 300 FEET DEEP.

December to March are the warmest. Hailstorms, snow or rains are likely to occur at any time and are very disagreeable. There are heavy frosts at night. Snow falls to the depth of two or three inches and a mere skim of ice falls on still waters, but it soon disappears under the sun. Rains are prevalent from November to March. The rainy season is warmer than the dry, but fires are needed for comfort during the entire year.

"The newcomer is troubled with shortness of breath on account of the altitude. However, the air is tonic and bracing.

"There is but little sickness in Cerro de Paseo, and such sickness as does exist may be attributed to evil habits of living, principally intemperance. Colds are very general. There are Englishmen in excellent health who have been in Cerro de Paseo for 50 years.

"People can work as long here as they please, but the custom of the country is opposed to long hours of labor; in fact, it is opposed to any labor at all.

"There is remarkably little wind, nothing more than a mild breeze usually. Taken as a whole, the climate of Cerro de Paseo is wholesome for those having comfortable homes.

"In ages past there lived another race of people, and their descendants still cling to the strange customs of their forefathers. You see the Indian woman today bearing burdens upon her back. The men, in odd attire, drive their huge herds of llamas, carrying their produce and ore in this manner. Many, many things are as they were in ages past. Water is carried in small casks strapped to their backs. Here is life primeval.

"The railway that crosses the Andes begins at tidewater and attains an altitude of 15,665 feet at the Galera tunnel—within a distance of 100 miles—the highest altitude attained by any railway in the world. The route lies up the Rimac, or 'Laughing river,' the rise of which far exceeds that of the grade of the railway. To increase the distance sufficiently to enable the road to reach the summit on a grade of 4 1/2 per cent, or 238 feet to the mile, the engineers introduced 'switch-backs' at frequent intervals, and twisted and turned the line from side to side of the canyon and ran it up each tributary that afforded the least chance of increasing its length. Often it is headed down the canyon, to be turned around at some projecting ridge, or by a 'switch-back,' but always ascending as fast as the grade will permit. The engine, with its small train, turns and twists from side to side of the canyon like some heavily laden team tacking up a steep hill. This road was built in the '70's, by American engineers, and for boldness

labor of the engineer and the builder.

"As the traveler nears the altitude of 13,000 feet a peculiar sensation gradually creeps upon him. First there is a little headache, then a dizziness, followed by severe pains in

this sickness 'soroche,' and a few instances of 'soroche' have been fatal. The stage coach journey of two days from Oroya to Cerro de Paseo is a hardship. The wagon road is new and the mules travel slowly."



OLD HACIENDA, NEAR CERRO DE PASEO.



GENERAL VIEW OF CERRO DE PASEO LOOKING SOUTH



OLD SILVER MILL AND PATIOS NEAR CERRO DE PASEO.

\$100 Reward \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt had a limited train on the Southern railway stopped and brought back 25 miles so that they could get aboard. Probably they were travelling on gasses, to's.