

THE CIMARRON NEWS AND PRESS

NOTE—The type used in this heading is from the old plant of the Cimarron News and Press and was used for a heading for the paper in the seventies.

VOL I

CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1907

NO. 1

SERIOUSLY INJURED

Mrs. Charles Springer met with a most distressing and dangerous accident on last Monday night, and was seriously injured. Mrs. Springer spent the evening at the Chase ranch, and at a late hour started home, with her driver, a trusted servant. When about a mile from the Springer home the spirited horses became frightened and at a bad place in the road turned the buggy over, throwing the driver out. Mrs. Springer was thrown underneath the vehicle and dragged along on the frozen road and in the snow for some distance, before she was released by another turn of the buggy. The team continued on their run to the home, but no one about the premises heard them, and there was no knowledge of the accident until Mrs. Springer, assisted by the driver, reached home.

When she was released from her dangerous position, Mrs. Springer was bewildered by the accident, and the pain from her many bruises, and started in the opposite direction from her home. She had gone considerable distance out of her way before she was found by the driver, who had escaped serious injury. She was assisted to her home, with much difficulty, where it was found she had sustained many severe bruises. She was also badly cut about the head and face. One shoulder was badly bruised, and both eyes were bruised. Mrs. Springer has recovered remarkably, considering her injuries, and is now about the house, and it is believed no serious results will follow the accident.

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The history of Colfax county, when fully published, will contain many a chapter devoted to the thrilling vicissitudes of the old Cimarron News and Press. The paper was established in 1870, and told of the joys and sorrows, the fortunes and failures, of those stalwart pioneers of the early days, who, realizing the massive fortunes latent in the hills and the wealth of the valleys and mesas of Colfax county, struggled against all the odds of fate, in the days when the land was young. The equipment of the old plant was not as complete as the present business needs would demand, and often the editor was office boy, compositor, stenographer, bookkeeper, pressman, local hustler and job man. At other times the paper flourished and boasted of a mechanical force, and an able corps of editors. The names of well known Colfax men at the head of the editorial columns of a period of the issues of the old paper, and some of the most able editorials we have ever read appeared in these issues. Some of the old papers tell of stilling events, now forgotten almost, by even the prin-

Wood-Preserving Plant For Cimarron

Cimarron will soon have a wood-preserving plant. In these days of rapidly decreasing timber supply, every effort is being made to preserve the forests from wasteful depredations, and to preserve the timber of all classes. Of late years railroads and large users of timber have striven to find a means of preserving timbers of all kinds, so as to get the longest life of usefulness out of the materials used. Tie-pickling, or timber preserving has been carried on, experimentally and practically by the large railroads and timber companies for the past few years, and found to be economical and practical, especially in the case of railroad ties and timbers. It has been conclusively demonstrated that the preservation of timber is an economical process as well as a necessity. The continually diminishing supply of that most important commodity has given those in

Some Interesting Facts Concerning the Cimarron Country--Land of Opportunity

Many inquiries come to the residents of the Cimarron Country from friends in the east concerning the resources, climate of the locality. The story cannot be told in one newspaper, but the NEWS AND PRESS will in each issue treat of some special feature of Colfax County

The climate is delightful. The summers are cool, yet warm enough for the maturing, each season, of all crops common to the temperate zone. With the altitude, the atmosphere is such that it is never too hot for comfort. The nights are always cool. In winter, while the sun shines nine days out of every ten, the air is fresh and bracing, and the occasional light snows insure a never-failing water supply for irrigation, to supplement the rains which under the improved systems of dry farming will in any case insure good crops without the necessity of irrigation. However, the fact that water for irrigation is abundant insures excellent crops. There are, of course, many advantages for the farmer using the irrigation system, over his neighbor who follows the dry farming method, but both are successful. With irrigation, a greater variety of crops may be raised, and the acreage is a great deal smaller. There is every advantage in the world in favor of the farmer on the irrigated farms of Colfax county, even over the farmer of the eastern states. The New Mexico farmer need never worry about the rainfall. He makes his own, and adapts the supply to the needs of the season and the soil. He need never fear a drouth, nor a deluge. Rainy seasons do not deter his planting, and crops mature thoroughly, watered at will.

The soil in the Cimarron country, and in fact, over the greater portion of Colfax county, is a deep, rich sandy loam, with a clay subsoil, and comprise some of the most fertile agricultural lands in the great southwest. The soil has been constantly enriched by the natural overflow water from the streams, and from irrigation. In the Taos valley, and the Moreno valley, to the west, only about thirty miles, the same soil conditions and the same irrigation possi-

connected with a number of exciting events during the seventies—the times which tried men's souls, and brought out all the good or all the bad in the character of the individual. In some manner the News and Press incurred the displeasure of this gentleman, and one night, accompanied by some half a dozen of his friends, Allison paid the town a visit. They stopped a few moments at Lambert's hotel where they put a few marks on the blackboard, and then went across the plaza to the newspaper office. The editor and those connected with the paper at the time were absent, but the door yielded to a few well-directed jars from a pole, and the party entered. When they got back to Lambert's again they were covered thoroughly with printers' ink. Whether they believed in the efficacy of this medium or not, they were daubed with a goodly quantity of it. Lambert's facetious query as to their having been to the printing office was cut short by the threat that something would happen him if he mentioned the occurrence, and the party left. The press of the Cimarron newspaper was found battered to pieces, and every movable thing in the office, including cases, stands and type, were found dumped in the Cimarron river. Years after, when the youth of Cimarron wanted ammunition for their bean shooters, they went down to the river and gathered up the silent messengers of thought, ruthlessly scattered among the sands. Even this rude criticism of the paper did not deter the publishers of the paper, and we find the paper continued for some time after with new material and part of the old. Some of

and familiar with the timber business considerable anxiety. The old, extravagant methods have been relegated to the past and preserving plants are now the order of the day.

The Continental Tie and Timber company, one of the largest companies operating in the southwest, have decided to put in a plant at Cimarron, for the treatment of ties and timber from its extensive forests in Colfax county. Grounds have been selected for this purpose in East Cimarron, and work on the plant will begin in a short time. We have not been able to learn just what the capacity of the new plant will be, but it will require one thoroughly modern to handle their extensive timber interests.

It is a happy coincidence that among the many modern developments launched and contemplated by the people of Cimarron, this preserving plant should be a feature.

abilities exist, and in these valleys the Pueblo Indians who have inhabited the region for centuries, have for the past three hundred years raised abundant crops of wheat, every successive year, without the use of phosphates or other fertilizers, than the water used.

The lands in the Cimarron country lie at an altitude of some 5,100 to 6,000 feet, and slope gently away from the heavily timbered foothills. Good streams, with never-failing water supply cross these lands at intervals of every few miles. The lands are protected from the storms and blizzards by mountain chains rising to altitudes of from nine thousand to fourteen thousand feet. The Cimarron country is on the sunny, southern slope of the range.

Farmers raise good crops of wheat, maize, oats, kaffir corn, alfalfa, blue glass, sorghum, sugar beets, and in fact, all grain and vegetables common to the climate of the temperate zone. Fruits are particularly fine. No locality in the world can surpass this vicinity in the growth of apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, and kindred fruits. The country is particularly adapted to the culture of sugar beets. Experts have for years pronounced the climate, soil and general conditions ideal for this crop, and analysis by experts covering many localities and many grades, show the percentage of sugar in the Colfax product to be from four to fifteen per cent greater than the product of the Colorado fields, which are attracting the attention of the world.

As long ago as 1894, Colfax county fruits were attracting national attention. An exhibit of fruits raised by J. B. Dawson, on the Dawson ranch, received the world's first prize at the Columbian exhibition at Chicago in that year, and their excellence was a source of wondering comment. Other fruit growers all over the district are keeping up the reputation of the country. No other localities can lay such title to the claim as the "Land of the Big Red Apple" as our own Cimarron country. Apples from the different ranches this year were of excellent flavor and enormous in size. Varieties were exhibited in Cimarron weighing more than twenty-five ounces each.

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MINING.

The mining regions of the Cimarron country have for many years been a source of great income, even though the methods employed were crude and the means of transportation limited and extremely expensive. In the earlier days the placers of the district produced millions in free gold, and some of the older mines, worked even in the most crude manner, turned their tide of wealth toward the old mining and cattle town of Cimarron. But getting out a few hundred pounds of high grade ore and packing it on burros off to the nearest shipping point, or milling it on the property with the laborious arrastra, is not mining, in the modern sense of the word, and it is an absolute fact that the mining resources of the county have never been touched. The territory, aside from a few easily accessible points has not even been well prospected, and one of the needs of the country now is a number of experienced prospectors.

Long before the days of the modern dredge the old system of sluices and rockers was taking out millions in gold from the rich gravel of the Moreno valley, Ute creek, Ponil, and other streams and basins. The gravel of these districts is now richer than the placer grounds of California. Only a few rich pockets in these districts have ever been worked, and the great area of medium and low grade grounds yet remain untouched. Placer mining in the district has always been done in a desultory manner. The old-time miner was content to make a modest fortune, sell out and leave the country. No large amounts of capital have ever been expended in the county, and no extensive development, such as makes great mines out of low grade propositions, has ever been done. In placer mining, the Oro Dredge company cleared up a great many thousands of dollars in a short time, but owing to internal dissensions in the company the property went into the hands of a receiver, and has lain idle for a long time, in the midst of a wealth of rich mineral.

There remain in the Ponil, at the head of Ute creek, and in the Moreno valley, immense deposits of placer gravel, hundreds of feet deep, adjacent to an unlimited water supply, which can be handled either with the material of the seventies now forms a part of the Raton Range plant, where we understand it is carefully preserved, for the good it has done in years past. The heading of this paper, though rather unique and old-fashioned, was set from the original type in which the heading of the paper of the seventies was set. Some of the letters are somewhat battered, but the head appears very much as it did more than thirty years ago. Old residents of the county will, we hope, recognize the old heading.

DAWSON ITEMS.

From the Raton Range.

Christa Clark, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark, died Tuesday morning, Jan. 1, of a complication of measles and spinal trouble. The funeral was held Thursday evening and the remains were taken to Walsenburg, Colo., for interment.

T. C. Hill, manager of the S. W. M. Co. store, left Thursday morning on a two weeks business trip to Kansas City and other points.

The work on the excavation for the \$20,000 opera house has started and the work will be pushed rapidly to completion.

L. W. Storm, C. E. and wife, expect to leave soon for Denver, Colo.

Joe Serrano has resigned as salesman for the S. W. M. Co. and expects to leave about the tenth for El Paso, Texas.

D. L. Lucas has returned from Las Vegas and reports a pleasant and profitable session of the teachers' association. Gypsy Jack

gredges or under hydraulics. These placer beds, miles in extent, are practically untouched, and excel in richness the beds of the famed hydraulic fields of California. They only await the investment of sufficient capital to assure economical production.

Low grade dykes of immense width and miles in extent traverse the various mining districts. These dykes are crossed by a myriad of true fissure veins, forming a net work of dykes and seams, all ore-bearing and all easy of access for mining on the most economical basis. There has been enough prospecting and mining in a small way upon these vein systems to define their location, trend and value, but the great resources of the region have scarcely been scratched.

Copper is also found in abundance, and in values sufficient to make mining profitable, even under the conditions, existing in the past, without transportation facilities either for supplies, materials or product. Now that supplies and materials may be shipped by rail into the very heart of the district, and the ores may be loaded onto the cars in many instances from the mines, and in any event, after a short wagon haul, the resources of the Cimarron mining district will be soon opened to the world.

The News-Press will, in a special issue to be printed soon, tell specifically of the mining industry, past and present, and give a history of some of the most famous mines of the Rocky Mountain region. This issue will be announced through these columns, and will be one of the most interesting of a series of specials which will inform the world of a territory which has lain without development for three centuries while the resources of the entire nation have been developed and in many localities exhausted.

COAL.

A special issue of the News-Press will be issued in the near future, covering the coal resources of the county. Colfax county coal fields are the greatest in the southwest. The foothills are underlaid for many miles with three seams of the finest coking coal in the world, and the supply is absolutely unlimited. All this coal is

Continued on last page.

The Sullivan Trust company of Goldfield, Nev., is reported to be financially embarrassed, several drafts made on it having been protested. In the stock market there were heavy declines in the shares of the Lou Dillon, the Silver Pick and other companies promoted by the stock company.

Railroad Into the Ponil Country Soon

Another railroad for Cimarron. This is the latest happy news to the residents of the western part of the county. The Continental railway will be built into Cimarron from the north, tapping the wonderful resources of the Ponil, and opening a new territory to commerce.

Surveys and estimates are finished and actual work will commence on the building as soon as contracts can be let and men and material secured.

The unlimited resources of the vast area of the country to the north of Cimarron, especially the Ponil Park district, in the way of timber and agriculture, have long been realized. Lack of transportation facilities alone has delayed the development of this vast storehouse, and the development now will be rapid, indeed.

The new railway is to be built through the Ponil Canon, into the Ponil Park, thence in a northerly and

REPORTED PURCHASE

Closely following the departure of William H. Bartlett for his home in Chicago has sprung up the report that he has sold his handsome home and extensive holdings at Vermejo Park, north of here, to United States Senator William A. Clark of Montana, the consideration named being \$2,000,000. Although the report, originating in Trinidad, gives Raton as the source, nothing confirmatory can be learned here concerning the alleged big deal. The Vermejo ranch contains about 216,000 acres, or nearly ten townships, of land. On it stands one of the largest and finest residences in the United States, the stone for which was cut away up in the timber district, and brought down in gunny sacks and placed in position with the beautiful moss still attaching to it. Including the fine road extending to Merco, Mr. Bartlett's total investment for improvements must have been something near \$1,000,000, of which \$250,000 to \$300,000 is in buildings. The fact that insurance policies on these structures running five years were taken out would seem to indicate that no sale had been contemplated, at least until recently. Another negative factor is that Senator Clark is a man who would demand a clear title, free from annoying incumbrances or rights belonging to others that would in any way interfere with his peace or privacy. It is known that up until a recent date extensive coal and timber concessions were held by other parties, Mr. Bartlett's title being only to the surface. Whether or not these rights have been absorbed by either seller or purchaser cannot at this writing be learned. The rumor of the sale is therefore given for what it is worth—it may be a fact, but there is no direct supporting evidence available here.

NEW PLANING MILL FOR CIMARRON

One of the industries which will be established in Cimarron immediately will be a planing mill. The plant will be installed as soon as the building can be finished, as the machinery is on the ground and the building started. The mill will be equipped to do all classes of general mill work, building material, sashes, doors, cabinet work, and in fact will fill all the needs of the contractors and builders of the town and vicinity. With the excellent shipping facilities the mill can supply a large territory. One of the greatest needs of the contractors here at present is the class of mill work the new establishment will turn out, and the work of building will be greatly facilitated. The new mill will be built and operated by the Cimarron Lumber company, one of the progressive business concerns of Ci-

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