

MESA FREE PRESS.

Vol. 6.

MESA CITY, ARIZONA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1897.

No. 6.

HERE, AND STILL COMING!

Dry Goods, Dress Goods,

CENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,

Hats, Boots and Shoes, and Choice Groceries.

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FARMERS' EXCHANGE.

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Manager

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SKILLFULLY CUT, GO TO THE

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ARIZONA'S PLACER DIGGINGS.

In an article on the placer mines of Arizona the Los Angeles Times says: In making an examination of the occurrence of the precious metals it is hardly necessary to more than mention the placers, as they do not vary from those regions, and have often been described in the detail of their environment and methods of working. That they are here of very great extent is well known. They extend all along the Colorado river, and a large part of the Gila river plains; a large part of Yuma county, north of the Gila; the Big Sandy and Santa Maria streams, and all the streams flowing from the Bradshaw range, the principal of which are the Hassayampa, Black Canyon and Agua Fria, with their principal tributaries. Farther eastward they occur in the neighborhood of Riverside, on the Gila at Greaterville, at the foot of the Santa Rita mountains, and Oro Blanco district. Large fields are reported in the southwestern part of Pima county, but little is known of them. The explorers paid much attention to the placers of the small streams in the early days, but soon exhausted them with small sluices and rockers; at least they took off the "cream" of the deposits. At this time only solitary washers remain, but they may be found in every stream and gulch, and never tire of relating stories of the riches of the past. In Skull Valley and in the Weaver districts a dry washer is being now successfully used. Some good workers profess to like them better than the old rocker method. The absence of water at sufficient heights has prevented the attacking of the large fields by the California hydraulic method. But two attempts have been made to use heavy machinery (Bucyrus machines), one on Lynx creek, eight miles from Prescott, and one near Stanton, both in Yavapai county.

The Lynx creek placers are said to go fifty cents per cubic yard, while a claim is made for the Black Canyon district of from eighty cents to \$1. Much of the ground in Yuma is reported to go \$1.25 per cubic yard. A company has been formed to take waters from the Big Sandy for these latter fields.

Clerk Lee Gray yesterday turned over to the territory the amount collected from the leases of school lands in this county, \$1,000. Mr. Gray is also engaged in the preparation of a report showing the amount of taxes to be turned over for territorial purposes. The county valuation is \$8,791,942. The rate of taxation in this county is \$2.25 on each \$100. The total tax is \$107,818,69 1-2. Of this the territory's share at a rate of 87 1-2 on each \$100, will amount to \$76,029,49, nearly one-third of the whole amount derived from the territory for territorial purposes.—Republican.

An effort is being made by County Superintendent Woods to arrange a joint county teacher's institute to be held in Tucson some time near Christmas. He is sending notices to the several school superintendents of the counties in southern Arizona. The counties included are Cochise, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma.—Tucson Star.

C. F. Shilling, who has valuable mining property on Mineral Creek, in this county, returned Tuesday from Milwaukee, where he succeeded in interesting a number of prominent citizens of the Wisconsin metropolis in his ventures. Active development work on the Milwaukee and other claims on the creek will commence at once.—Tribune.

The St. James Gazette referring to the formal announcement of Great Britain's declaration to take part in the Behring Sea conference, to which Russia and Japan might be parties, says: "There will be a feeling of relief that Great Britain, on behalf of Canada, has finally declined to walk into the trap which was being arranged at Washington. America has never paid indemnity for the illegal seizure of Canadian sealing vessels, and has exhausted every diplomatic artifice to evade the award, finally demanding a new conference. The Marquis of Salisbury consented, when upon America proposed that Russia and Japan should have seats at the conference, with the obvious intention of outvoting England and upsetting the Paris award." The Globe, commenting on the same subject this afternoon, says: "As a mere matter of business, it is put upon the United States in dealing with that country. There is no cause to adopt the idea that the Marquis of Salisbury almost regretfully refuses to participate. In the interest of Canada, it is well to let the United States understand that no settlement of the question will satisfy Great Britain which will sacrifice one jot or tittle of the just and equitable rights of the loyal Dominion of Canada."

The Southwestern Stockman has the following concerning the late Irrigation Congress held in Lincoln, Nebraska. It cannot be said that the irrigation congress just closed was a very strong body. It will be noted however that it got off on the right foot when it advocated the construction of water storage reservoirs by the general government. Yet its recommendations were confined on the subject to endorsing two water storage propositions somewhere in Wyoming and Colorado. It is significant fact that the management of the congress has been completely changed. This is the third change that has been made in the ten years of the body. The first set of officials was headed by Wm. R. Smythe one of the ablest men in the country, but a man who was thought to be running the thing more for his own profit than for the good of the movement. So he was disposed, though the first years under his administration were the most successful ever known to the organization.

THE VERDE CANAL.

S. R. H. Robinson, president of the Minnesota and Arizona Construction Co., passed through Safford Tuesday enroute from Globe to Phoenix. He informed us that the contract is made for the finishing of the Verde canal, and that parties have gone England to secure the money for the enterprise, which will take two years to complete. The construction work of the canal and dam will be under the immediate care of Mr. Robinson, himself. He will send at once to Missouri for 400 head of fine mules, and these, together with the 200 head he now has, will make 300 teams with which to do the work.

The Verde canal will, when completed, be 215 miles in length and will cover hundreds of miles of the best land under the sun, where many settlements will grow up and thrifty farmers will make "the desert bloom as the rose," and smile in contemplation of drawing profits from their toil.

The dam where the water is to be diverted from the Verde river is just above old Ft. McDowell, while the main storage dam is at the head of the Verde valley, about 25 miles farther up. At this point a tunnel will be cut through which the water of the river will be converted during the construction of the immense dam. Where the water emerges from the tunnel Mr. Robinson will set up the machinery that will be used and will use nothing but the falling water to run it.

Mr. Robinson's industry is an immense contribution to the wealth of this country and we shall be glad if his efforts in this venture are crowned with success even beyond his present sanguine hopes.—Guardian.

SCHOOL LAND LEASES.

The following letter explains itself.
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL,
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, Oct. 5, 1897.

HON. A. P. SHEWMAN,
Supt. of Public Instruction, Arizona.
DEAR SIR.—Your letter of Sept. 27th, referring letter of the clerk of the board of supervisors to me, received. His letter reads as follows, to-wit: "Hon. A. P. Shewman, Supt. Public Instruction, Mesa, Arizona. Dear Sir. The board of supervisors having been called together in special session four days for the express purpose of attending to and leasing the school lands of Maricopa county, the question has arisen whether in view of the fact that they are compelled to meet as the board of supervisors for the administration of county business after the amount appropriated for supervisory work has been exhausted, and since the leasing of school lands in the county has increased the work of the board; is it not just and equitable that the expense of such extra sessions should be paid out of the fund derived from leasing school lands, together with such clerical hire as has been necessary and indispensable during the past month in the execution of the leases and the proper delivery and receipting of the same? The board has so considered the question and I submit the same for your consideration and opinion before auditing the regular monthly claims for this month."

Awaiting an early reply, I am very respectfully,
Lee Gray, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Replying to you on the above communication, I beg leave to say that the Territorial law under which the school lands are leased is found on pages 122-3-4-5-6 of the Session Laws of the 19th Legislature of Arizona. This law is authorized by a United States Statute passed by the 54th Congress in the early part of 1896. It provides that certain Territorial officials should lease and handle said school lands until the Legislature of the Territory should convene and pass a law for the leasing and care of said lands in conformity with said Congressional enactment. It also provides that such Territorial officials might pay all necessary expenses incurred in leasing said lands out of the proceeds derived from the same.

The law passed by our Legislature above referred to, places the leasing and management of said school lands in the hand of the board of supervisors, and specifies minutely and at length how such lands shall be leased and handled, and among its many provisions, it says just how the proceeds from said school lands leases shall be disposed of.

Section 18 reads as follows: "The supervisors SHALL at the end of each month pay into the Territorial treasury ALL money collected, and must state in their report to the treasurer the amount of funds received from school lands and the amount from University lands."

Section 11 provides that \$1 collected for executing a lease shall be turned over to the school fund. Section 13 also provides that any money collected for certified copies of records by the clerk of the board of supervisors, shall be turned over to the school fund as in section 11.

There is but one provision in this entire act which authorizes a cent to be paid to any official and that is found in section 17, which authorizes the payment by the Territorial Auditor for books and blanks either to the superintendent of public instruction or to the clerk of the board of supervisors upon proper requisitions. The idea of the Legislature seems to have been to sacredly guard any moneys received by the board of supervisors from the leasing of school lands.

So that I conclude after a careful study of this act, that it was the intention of the Legislature when passing it that the work of the county officials in leasing the school lands of the Territory is a part of their sworn official duties, for which they are to

receive no extra or additional compensation, and that all moneys received by them should be placed to the credit of the school fund.

Most respectfully submitted,
C. M. FRANKLIN,
Attorney General.

DR. SCOTT HELM

On last Friday night at about eight o'clock, Dr. Scott Helm, one of the most prominent physicians in the territory was killed. He had rode one of his favorite horses, a fractious, high spirited animal, such as the doctor always took pride in, down to the M. & P. depot to see the Elks of which order he was a member, off on their excursion to Tucson. There was a large crowd at the depot and when the train backed down to the depot the horse became frightened and the doctor pulled sharply on the reins. This caused the horse to rear. The animal lost its balance and fell backwards against a telegraph pole and then to the ground. The doctor was thrown to the ground striking on his head with the horse across one of his legs. It was found on examination by the physicians who were immediately summoned that the injury was at the base of the brain. Brain matter was oozing from the ears. It was apparent at once that no operation was possible that would save the life of the injured man and as soon as possible he was removed to his home where he died a little over an hour after the accident.

Dr. Helm was one of the best known physicians in the territory. He located in Phoenix in 1888 and in a very short time built up a large practice.

He was appointed Surgeon General of the Territory soon after his location in Phoenix and held the position for several years with honor and credit to the service. He was an honorary member of the Phoenix Fire Department and the National Guard of Arizona, holding the rank of Colonel in the latter.

The funeral on Sunday was by far the largest ever seen in Phoenix. Thousands of people thronged the streets and all felt that one of the most useful citizens had gone. The procession was over a mile in length, comprising a company of the National Guard and band, the fire department, the Masonic fraternity, the Odd Fellows; Workmen and Elks of which orders he was an honor member.

At the grave the beautiful rites of the Masonic fraternity were held and the detachment of the National Guard fired a last salute over the grave of their departed comrade.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the City Council held last week the following preamble and resolutions, were unanimously passed upon the death of D. A. Spragg, City Recorder, clerk and Treasurer.

WHEREAS The decrees of the Ruler of the Universe has removed from us our beloved and honored associate and friend David A. Spragg; and

WHEREAS in his death we realize that our town and community has lost a faithful friend and a useful citizen.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED That we deplore the irreparable loss which we have sustained. That this council in common with all the citizens of the town feel that we have lost a wise counsellor, a conscientious advisor and a never failing friend.

That the chair lately occupied by our deceased associate and friend be draped in mourning for thirty days; that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this council and that a copy thereof be presented to the bereaved family of the deceased and to the FREE PRESS for publication.

Signed JAMES R. TURMAN, Mayor
BRIG. M. JOHNSON,
H. S. PETERSON,
PHIL METS,
BENJ. F. LEBARON.
Councilmen.