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ZOOM VERSION

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RETARDED BY FALSE REPORTS

THE RICHEST MINING REGION KNOWN

A Climate Fatal to Pulmonary Troubles—Temperature High but Sunstroke Is Unknown

YUMA, Ariz., March 27.—Very few people on the coast know that La Fortuna mine, the great property recently purchased by and now paying Charles D. Lane some \$30,000 per month, is almost in sight of and only 30 miles from Yuma—Yuma the Neglected.

There is not to be found a prominent locality more or less talked about all over the land, and reached by a transcontinental railway, that has been half so completely ignored by investors and enterprise as this same Yuma. Scarcely reports, which have placed the town, really wonderfully blessed by nature with resources unbounded, in a hole in the ground, usually as hot as hades, have doubtless done much to turn aside the natural march of progress. But the day is at hand when a change must come. Indeed, the handwriting of approaching change is upon the wall of her environments. A few weeks ago a region about 45 miles north of Yuma was found with a great vein of gold quartz across its bosom. Samples weighing 600 pounds were brought in, and assays showed an average value of \$2106 per ton, including \$30 in silver. Since then many mining experts have visited the region of this new find, and all fully verify former reports, that H. B. Gleason of Yuma and his partner have located two fabulous rich claims upon a 10-foot ledge, in a dyorite and porphyry formation. The ledge extends from 300 to 500 feet along the surface, and all the tests made indicate an average value of those surface faces of the ledge reaching \$2000 or over to the ton. This new discovery is in or beside the Piomas mountain range. The only water there is found in natural reservoirs, soon exhausted. The nearest permanent supply is eight miles distant. A stage line is established, but no stores are yet opened. One must take supplies from Yuma.

It is, like Randsburg, no place for men without means and a proper outfit for protection on the desert. They can be obtained at Haines' ranch, thirty-two miles away, and there a small store has also been opened. The famous mountain promontory, Castle Dome, one of the scenic wonders in the semi-circle of mountains which give Yuma its picture-que beauty, is some sixteen miles southwest of the great new strike.

But there are not all the active mining localities that are or ought to be directly tributary to Yuma. Up the river some fifty miles north is the famous Picocho country, where several hundred miners are now at work on different propositions; where several mills have been at work for some time profitably and where an entire new mining plant has just been shipped in for opening a new mine. It is in this region that Senator Dorney has twenty-six claims which he is developing and upon which he proposes to erect a 200-stamp mill this year.

Frank Guerra, the mining expert now located at Yuma, is in active charge of the ex-senator's operations.

All around Yuma there is a virgin country. Irrigation is necessary and ample water at hand, but aside from

the ditches connected with two pumping plants nothing has been done. Capital never had another such a chance. Nor will it soon have again.

Yuma has no bank. It has no fine hotel to accommodate the misguided pulmonary unfortunates who in San Diego and other coast points are sinking surely toward the inevitable, when 90 per cent would be cured in year here. Six or seven general merchandise stores, one lumber yard, some saloons and restaurants, two drug stores and a livery and feed outfit comprise about all there is of the business part of this city—said to contain from 1200 to 1300 white people, besides Indians galore and a big floating population going to and from the mines. There are a couple of houses and an important weather bureau, a penitentiary and a big Indian school across the river. Besides Yuma's county seat, a nice electric light plant is in operation and the city is abundantly supplied with water. After one is duly acclimated here the climate is healthful and delightful in the extreme. Really the heat in summer is no more intense than in Phoenix and such a thing as a sunstroke even among people working out in the hot sun the year around was never heard of.

SUMMER HEAT THAT CURES.

Dr. Mollar, a leading and skillful physician of Yuma, declares that people suffering with any kind of pulmonary troubles must stay in Yuma through the heated term in summer if they want to get cured. Indeed all old settlers here declare this is a fact, established by the obdurate and proven. It is also freely asserted that no sufferer ever came here strong enough to walk about and stayed through a whole year without being cured. Yuma is proud of this record and believes that some day it will make her the greatest natural sanitarium on earth.

ABOUT THE LAND GRANT.

The supreme court of the United States will soon decide as to the validity of the title to the 50,000 acres of splendid land adjoining Yuma, which have been practically withheld from settlement for long years because of an old land grant. Three years ago the case was appealed from the United States land courts to the supreme court and a month or so ago it was reached by the calendar and submitted. According to precedent, therefore, a decision may be looked for any day and certainly it will not be delayed later than June next. No man, his which was the decision goes the great tract of nearly 50,000 acres, all bottom land and capable of producing almost anything in the way of crops, fruits or berries and grapes to mention will be thrown open to settlement. Below and adjoining this tract at various points are large bodies of government land subject to homestead entry upon which water is from the Colorado river can and will be brought the moment the grant decision is reached. There is, therefore, no such an opening in the west to procure a home as will soon be offered in the vicinity of Yuma. A big rush is expected, and the city and country ought to double or treble the present population in a year.

REPRESENTING YUMA TERRITORY.

Only 29 years of age, though for twenty years of that period a resident of Yuma, Althea Modesti is easily the leading merchant and most thrifty business man in the city. In fact, his is the most marked and notable character one often meets. Though in active business here since 1877, no one can be found of all the neighborhood to accuse him of unfairness or even suspect him of a single act of dishonesty. And all this time he has made money as rapidly as the more unscrupulous and rapacious, and saved thrifty until, without question, he is the best supplied with resources among the old-time residents of Yuma. He evidently holds full faith in the future of the city, for he holds large quantities of real estate, which he is all the while improving. The most modern and elegant of the brick business blocks in the town are his. He occupies a large structure with his own big mercantile establishment, and builds to rent both business and residence structures. He is identified with a building and loan association, and manifests a conservative spirit of progress that would soon make Yuma a great and flourishing city if half its residents would imitate the example of Althea Modesti.

GOLD MINING PROPERTIES.

There are few men better qualified to judge the value of a mineral claim of any

kind than B. A. Haraszthy, late chairman of the board of supervisors of Yuma county and for thirty-five years a practical miner. He is associated with Hon. J. H. Carpenter, now and for fifteen years past a member of the territorial legislature. They have hit with them for sale on the most open and favorable terms many choice and available mining properties which some day will yield ample riches at the touch of capital. Mr. Haraszthy has a typical Yuma home, located on a whole block containing four and a half acres, within the city limits and under irrigation, handsomely productive. This place is on the lowlands near the limits of the city, where the great grant, long in litigation, has its limits. His partner, Mr. Carpenter, is the resident manager in Yuma for the owners of this grant and as such conducts a considerable fruit and alfalfa ranch near by which is in possession of the grant company. They are standards of authority on the value of local real estate and mines in which they are so extensively operating.

WELLS-FARGO'S AGENT.

Yuma was not always the abiding place of the great Wells-Fargo bank, which it unquestionably is at present. There have been periods during the last quarter of a century when perhaps it resorted to many other places, but it is the only store of the sort in the place where as large, fresh and complete a stock of drugs is carried as is usually found in the best cities of the land, and also the only one in which a regularly graduated pharmacist is employed to compound medicines and fill prescriptions.

The two upper stories of the block are admirably fitted for offices. Dr. Cotter came to Yuma in 1887 as government physician at the Indian school across the river, fresh from hospital practice, and graduating from the Albany, N. Y. Medical college. His faith in the future of Yuma was such that upon retiring from his government position he made his home here, entering upon private practice, which has become large and profitable. His enterprising investment in the big block which has become a positive necessity to the citizens of this place, which has made Yuma in the past, as he is anticipated in the future, is a most able, worthy and effective factor.

A MODEL PRISON.

When ex-President Cleveland superseded his appointment of Hughes and made J. F. Franklin governor of Arizona in 1896, Hon. M. J. Nugent, one of the best-known and able residents of Yuma, became superintendent of the territorial prison. Among the clear-headed men of marked executive ability, who have in many ways shaped the territorial destiny of Arizona during the past twenty years, Mr. Nugent has few equals. He has served the people repeatedly with decided fidelity in the legislature. For six years he was sheriff of this county, and proved perfectly efficient. Several other important territorial offices at one time or another have been filled by him, and in his management of the prison here since the 1st of May last he has demonstrated a fitness, a capability and a clear-headed faculty for reducing expenses rationally, that ought to place him beyond partisan lines. He has taken hold of the institution as a man might take hold of a big enterprise of his own. Practically he revolutionized the prison service. For instance, formerly they were bringing down the girls across the river, throwing the wood in, and when it came down on the swift current, had it dragged out and corded up. Many cords of the wood are used to run the prison electric lights and to use for cooking and laundry purposes for nearly 350 men.

Then he set his prisoners to work and leveled a small hill that overlooked the prison walls too closely for prudence, improving the appearance of the prison grounds as well. Nothing has been allowed to fall into decay. The adobe manufacturing business is steadily pushed and good shrewd bargains made for supplies. In brief, in consequence of his management the prison was never in such a thoroughly satisfactory condition nor the prisoners better cared for or more contented and the cost per capita per diem of maintaining the inmates has been reduced from sixty-two cents in 1896 first to 45 cents, and during the last two quarters to 40 cents. No such showing has ever been made before in this prison or in any other prison in the country conducted under like conditions, and M.

J. Nugent by this record will hardly have to beg the favor of consideration of whomsoever President McKinley chooses in due time to make next governor of Arizona. It goes without saying that Mr. Nugent is prominently and materially identified with the present and future of Yuma, and ever holding out a welcoming hand to the advent of new capital here.

TO THE NEW YUMA FUND.

Messrs. Devore & Speese of Yuma are prepared to accommodate miners with outfits of any and all sorts to reach the mines—burros, pack trains, carriages or drays. They have also a stage line running from Tanna to the locality of the late newly-found gold field. Tanna is the nearest point to the new mines.

A TYPICAL YUMA VENTURE.

The only modern, three-story brick block in Yuma at present is that erected by Col. P. G. Cotter in 1893. It is a handsome structure, in the heart of the city. The lower story is occupied by the post-office in one division and the metropolitan drug establishment of Dr. Cotter, in the other. It is the only store of the sort in the place where as large, fresh and complete a stock of drugs is carried as is usually found in the best cities of the land, and also the only one in which a regularly graduated pharmacist is employed to compound medicines and fill prescriptions.

DEPOPULATION OF FRANCE.

A Frenchman's View of the Subject

The population of France is now definitely known, and as was to be expected, the increase since the last census is insignificant compared with that of neighboring countries. Is this a sign of weakness? Does it mean decadence? We will endeavor to supply an answer to these questions. Rural depopulation is general everywhere, but even in the most prosperous of our towns there is no augmentation worth speaking of. According to the last London census the number of inhabitants resident in the British empire was 4,411,270. That is to say about 300,000 less than the whole of Ireland. The increase during the preceding quinquennium was 200,428. Now let us turn to Paris. The prospect is by no means brilliant, notwithstanding the fact that the totals show an increase of 87,250 inhabitants. As the compilers are careful to point out, this result has occurred in spite of a diminution of natality. It simply proves once more that the mania for centralization causes a steady flow of immigrants from the provinces to the capital. Parslans may sleep in peace. The Seine will always be lined on both sides, even though the people lining it should have no children.

The death of children in France is due to the fact that the French people do not choose to have families. This is proved by the census in the most striking and conclusive manner. The old tale that diminution of population was caused by excessive mortality during infancy can no longer gain credence. It is not the high death rate that is blame-worthy, but the low birth rate. Neither can the defective natality be laid to the charge of poverty. The richer a Frenchman is the fewer children he has. This is equally true in town and country. The rich, the educated, the cultured, are the culprits. The census just taken confirms precisely the opposite direction. Should we not rather blame the decadence of an effete civilization in which refinement is pushed beyond the limits of reason? Materially it is an instinct; it is nature itself. Now there is nothing so hostile to instinct as education which is based essentially on hypocrisy and makes children

THE GOLDEN CROSS MINES.

The Golden Cross group of mines, twenty-two miles west of Yuma in San Diego county, Cal., embrace thirty claims and 500 acres of mineral lands. The ore bodies are numerous and immense, and low grade. One 100-stamp mill upon the property, fully equipped with all the most modern appliances, is in constant operation. Some 225 men are employed. Another mill of forty stamps is being overhauled and will start up soon. Only three claims are being worked to supply all the ore needed and more, for vast bodies of ore are in sight that might be taken out fast enough to feed another 100 stamps. This property was first taken hold of by the Golden Cross Min-

ing and Milling company, but had luck in the west, and after a rapid reflection, to substitute for them others which may conduce toward politeness, but are destitute of all sincerity. By the aid of a certain man from nature, its education will end in making him a purely artificial creature, unfit for his position and incapable of adding vigor to the race. Women, unsexed by luxury, will develop an increasing dislike to maternity. That will be the opportunity for less civilized peoples to invade us and make slaves of us, until they, too, in their turn, shall become tender and neurotic.—Scapell.

IN THE SUNK LANDS

What the Earthquake of 1811 Did in Two States

There is no stretch of country more gloomy or desolate than that vast territory in Southeast Missouri and Arkansas known as the sunk lands. The bottom seemed to have dropped out when the "big shake," as the natives call the earthquake of 1811, occurred. To a novice in woodcraft or swamp navigation, it is a most hazardous undertaking to penetrate far beyond the borders of this wilderness of cypress, elbow brush and other specimens of the lowland trees and tangled vine thickets. It is comparatively easy to move about when the cypress monopolizes the swamp, and when the season has been very dry, along in the winter the raccoon, fox, mink and muskrat perch upon them to sun themselves in the daytime, and at night they use the logs when in pursuit of their prey.

All throughout the sunk land districts are islands from a half to twenty acres in dimensions. The larger ones contain oak, hickory and smaller growths of birds, from the horse down through natural history to the bones of ducks and geese. Of the latter great heaps of them can be seen at different places. These bleaching bones tell of merciless slaughter of wild game for their pelts and feathers.

It seems strange that men should destroy thousands of ducks and geese just for the plumage and quills. Every year when the weather is too warm to ship game three men, who make "Bone and Geese," strip them of their feathers, and throw the carcasses in heaps for the buzzards to feed upon.

The beautiful wood duck, which rears its young in the great swamps and is the first bird to be slaughtered. The feather-hunters begin in August to destroy these birds, and never stop until they have made the spring. Later in the season, when the big flight of wild fowl moves southward, the slaughter is something unprecedented.

The birds are "poiled" in the night, when big guns are used to do deadly work among the flocks, as they rest in the patches of open water. Not far from Bone Island there is a ridge on which many oaks grow that are prolific in acorns. There the mallards go to feed in countless numbers. The writer has seen a moving mass fully 100 feet wide and 300 yards long, of ducks in the gray of the morning along this ridge, struggling to secure some of the acorns that fell from the oaks. One of the hunters on the island was laying for a shot, and when his big gun sounded the pandemonium that followed was indescribable. The roar of 10,000 wings and the cry of frightened, squeaking, fleeing game were absolutely startling. The hunter's double gun left thirty-five killed and wounded mallards in the water when the rest had flown. Inside of an hour the ducks had massed again, when forty-seven were added to the thirty-

five. Four double shots during the morning resulted in 103 ducks being killed. At night seventy-five more fell before the murderous weapon of the pot-hunter.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The English Speaking Race

The following is an extract from the address which Lord Salisbury delivered at the recent dinner in London to Mr. Bayard:

While wars and rumors of wars are going on, while the waves are troubled up there, there is a silent process of creation going on which some day or other will show itself in great continents and mountains. While we are discussing and diplomating, by the steady operation of natural causes and the superiority of the English-speaking races, that language is becoming dominant in the world.

It is spreading not only in the United States of America and in England, but over vast territories in Asia, Africa and Australia; and think—think well—what it means, that all those distant races of the world should speak each other's language.

It is a great stumbling-block and a great opportunity. If they are well guided, it means the rule of good feeling, Christianity and peace. If they are not well guided, it means a perpetual opportunity of taking offence at each other's words and actions, which adds indirectly to the danger and difficulty of their relations with each other. The progress of the English-speaking races is the most marvelous phenomenon of our time. It means a great machinery for the manufacture of the public opinion that is to guide the world. As in all times, there have been two forces that have contended with each other the power of governing the society of men—the official, organized government and the public opinion, by which, more or less, that organized government has always been controlled and influenced. But in our time the organized government is distinctly losing force and the public opinion is distinctly gaining in power; and as that process goes on, more and more important does it become that that public opinion should be rightly guided.

Those whose voices are heard by the English-speaking nations have a tremendous power and bear a terrible responsibility. It is with them that the real shaping of the future destinies of the world lies; and if I look back with admiration to the official life in this country of the distinguished ambassador who sits here tonight, it is not mainly because of his high position, but because of his official distinction and for the work he has done in his office; but in this country he has shown himself with great zeal and power and indefatigable effort to the duty of presenting American and English opinion to each other, and moulding them in a common and a blessed form. In that he appears to me to have deserved highly, not only in this country and of his own, but of English-speaking races all over the world, and not only that, but of the English-speaking races the world that is to be. If there are no men to take up the torch that he hands down, if no effort is made to present the public opinion of the two nations to each other, to enable them to understand each other, and to overcome some temporary causes of offence, it may well be that all the power that is given to them will be given to them only for their own destruction and the calamity of the world, and all that force will be utilized in injuring each other; but if, on the other hand, the high standards which he has held forth, the noble influence which he has impressed, the unwavering zeal for the public good which he has uniformly displayed—if they can impress themselves on the public opinion of our time, then the growth of the English-speaking races and the vast influence which they exercise may well be a more powerful machinery than has existed yet for bringing to us the reign of justice and of peace.

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