

# RADO

## UTAH'S SISTER STATE—HER WEALTH AND STATUS



occupation of the Rocky Mountain region, forming the base of settlement and all the wonderful development of the past forty-two years. In the spring of 1849 a small band of Cherokee Indians, while en route to the Pacific coast, prospected the streams of Colorado and found gold. Failing to make a location in the West, they returned to Georgia and in 1858 organized an expedition for the Pike's Peak region, Green Russell being the leader of the party. Their destination was the Squirrel Creek pineries on the Divide, where the Cherokees had found gold on their previous journey. Thence they prospected Cherry Creek from its source to its confluence with the Platte, reaching that point June 23, 1858. There they found the solitary habitation of old John Smith, the trapper, a combination of a tepee and stockade, constructed for the protection of his Indian wife and half-breed children. September 9, 1858, a party of forty-one people, including two women and one child, arrived from Lawrence, Kans., and located on Dry Creek, five miles above the mouth of Cherry Creek, where they built temporary cabins. The first house to appear in the original Russell camp on Cherry Creek, for the exclusive use of white people, was a rude log cabin. The town company of Auraria (now West Denver), organized November 1 of that year, credits John Rooker of the Russell party as the builder, but, according to the testimony of many pioneers, including W. N. Byers, the founder of the Rocky Mountain News, John Easter and Ross Hutchins of the Lawrence party were the first builders on the ground now embraced by the splendid city of Denver. Such was its beginning, and from this point begins the history of a wonderful commonwealth.

trial and permanent industry, attracting population and forming the basis of all other enterprising development in the state, begins with the gold discoveries of George A. Jackson, at the site of Idaho Springs, Clear Creek county, January 7, 1859, and John H. Gregory, near Central City, in Gilpin county, May 6, 1859. Jackson was prowling through the mountains alone on a hunting expedition. A short distance above the confluence of Chicago and Clear Creek (now the site of Idaho Springs) he built a log fire, thawed the ground and dug with a hunting knife, using a large tin cup for a pan. In a little time he panned out \$9 in gold dust. Leaving his find till the end of winter, in May he returned with a party and the necessary implements. The proceeds of the first seven days' work was \$1,900, placer gold. With this first product of his discovery, Jackson came down to the Denver camp and bought up the provisions of the disgusted immigrants and prospectors who were preparing to return to the states, because "there was no gold in Colorado," and they had been "hoaxed" by the glowing stories of the Pike's Peak country. Thus began the rich gold and silver mining development of Clear Creek county, where the mines are yielding millions every year.

Before returning to his diggings on Clear Creek (or Vazquez Fork, as it was then known) Jackson met John H. Gregory, a poor Georgia miner, to whom he related his discovery. Gregory agreed to join him at the diggings, but mistook the directions and followed up the north branch of the creek instead of the south, and was thus providentially led to his great discovery, the now rich and famous Gregory mine in Gilpin county. He made his way through the mountains alone, and is said to have been the first white man

party, he arrived at the spot on the 6th of May, 1859, and immediately began to dig. His first pan of dirt yielded him \$1. Believing that the ground must be richer farther up the slope, the party abandoned even so rich a prospect as \$1 a pan, and moved up the little ravine which intersects the gulch from the southeast. Gregory pointed to a spot,

thousands of dollars a day were being washed out of the gravel and dirt by the increasing multitude. From that time for many months it was not unusual for four or five men to wash out from the Gregory, Bates, Bobtail Mammoth, Hunter and other lodes, then newly discovered, \$150 a day. The news of the great find rapidly spread, and soon a new tide of immigration numbering many thousands of people were on the roads from the eastern states, while thousands of miners swarmed upon the hillsides and throughout the ravines and gulches of Gilpin county. Thus, beginning with the rich placers, and later, when these were exhausted, turning to the richer lodes in the depths of the mountains, the mining industry of Colorado was established in a county which has from the first stroke of Gregory's pick to the present day, produced more than \$100,000,000 in gold. From these first discoveries the record of the succeeding twelve years is only that of heroic efforts to establish a foothold upon the soil by the discovery and utilization of its resources. The substantial development of the territory, and afterwards the state, followed the advent of the railways in 1870, when the two pioneer lines, the Denver, Pacific and Kansas Pacific, the Colorado divisions of the Union Pacific, were finished to Denver, connecting that city with the railway systems of the continent.

### INDUSTRIAL ERAS.

The industrial history of Colorado comprises several distinct periods, each forming a successive era of its progress. The first era was that of gold, then came the live-stock industry, and with it the vast herds of cattle upon the range. Following in due time came the railways. Next came the silver mines, yielding fabulous fortunes and starting afresh the tide of Western immigration. Following naturally, agriculture, which had been restricted to the maintenance of the home in the scattering settlements, grew rapidly into one of the leading industries of the people, and the towns and cities founded in the agricultural divisions of the state have grown rich and powerful. Manufacture, which had scarcely progressed beyond the experimental stage, in the early years, suddenly sprang forth as a leading factor among the self-sustaining industries, and has grown and flourished until many of its products, notably among them mining and smelter machinery, find growing markets in all parts of the world. Lastly, the era of gold has been restored, and the mines are pouring out their increasing millions of treasure. Such is the wonderful combination of Colorado's boundless resources. Not upon gold alone, nor upon silver, nor agriculture, nor any industrial basis, singly, will Colorado henceforth measure the periods of its prosperity, but upon the foundation of all this combination of material wealth it will build upward and outward, and its course will be onward and irresistible to the goal of its greatness in all that human industry and intelligence in the possession of boundless wealth implies.

### THE STATE'S AREA.

The state has an area of 103,845 square miles, and is divided into fifty-seven counties. Its average length,

east and west, is 380 miles, and its breadth, north and south, 280 miles. That their readers might realize in some degree the vast extent of this area, it has been frequently stated by writers, in their descriptive accounts of Colorado, that it is larger than all the New England states combined. A glance at the map shows the many

advantages of its location in relation to the commerce and the industries of the western half of the republic, occupying a central position in the community of western states and territories, forming a great portion of their geographical area, and exceeding each of them in natural resources. It is the land to which all the industries of the

of the West now come to pay tribute and exchange the products of their labor and their enterprise.

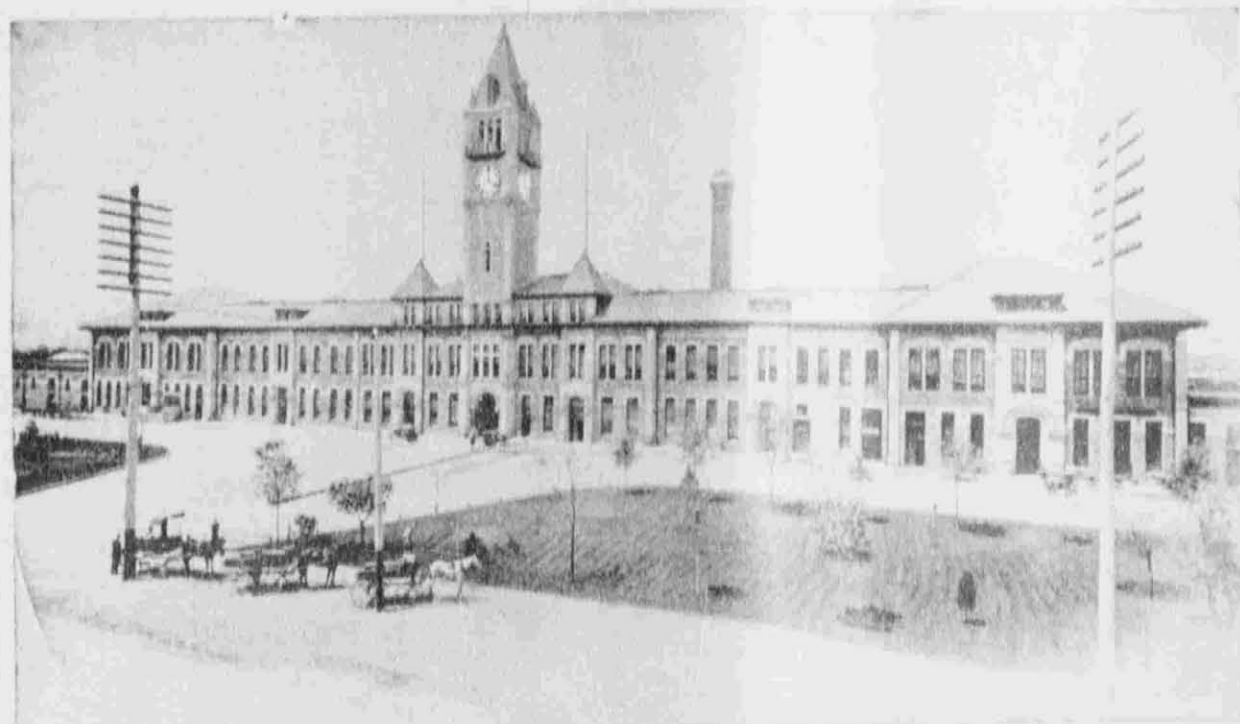
### PHYSICAL FEATURES.

In its general aspects Colorado has two natural divisions—mountains and plains. To the mountains belong the park system and the foothills. The broad ferns and extensive valleys of the

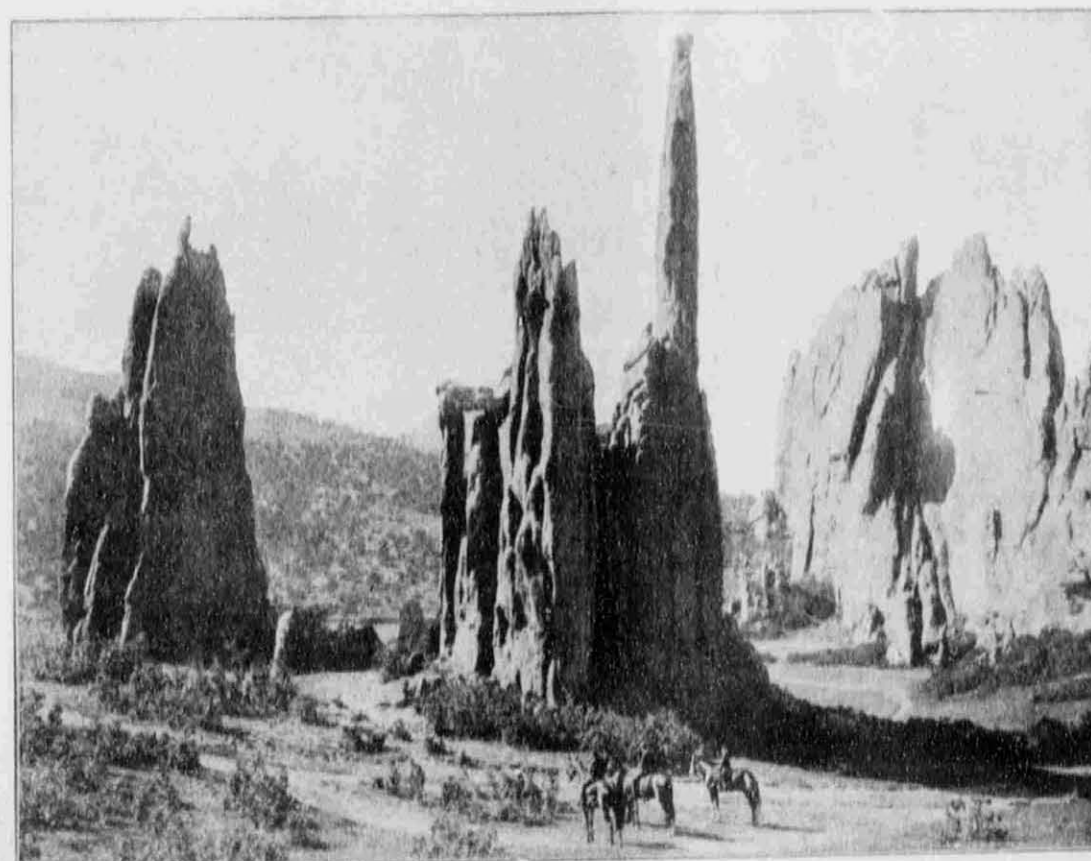


RIFT IN THE ROYAL GORGE

Showing passing of a D. & R. G. Engine and said to one of his men: "Dig there." The first pan yielded half an ounce of gold. This find was made on the 10th of May. On that date there were only seventeen men in the gulch. On the 19th there were 150, mostly from Jackson's diggings. On that date the rudely-constructed sluices had been running only three days and Gregory had washed out \$1,000 in gold, while



UNION DEPOT AT DENVER.



CATHEDRAL SPIRES IN THE GARDEN OF THE GODS.



RUINS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

developments at the Denver site, the town of Boulder was founded, and rich gold diggings opened in the neighboring foothills.

FIRST GREAT DISCOVERIES. The history of mining as a substan-

who had ever penetrated that section. Seven miles above the forks he left the creek and wandered up the gulch which bears his name to the vicinity of the Gregory lode. A snowstorm drove him back to the valley. Returning with a



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF SALT LAKE CITY, 1901—FOUNDED BY MORMON PIONEERS UNDER LEADERSHIP OF BRIGHAM YOUNG, 1847.