

## ARIZONA MATTERS.

THE Wallapai (Mineral Park, Mohave County) *Enterprise*, of July 21 and 28, has a number of items of interest concerning matters and things in and connected with Arizona, and particularly with the northern and northwestern portions, from which we extract and condense the following—

B. L. Duncan reported that Al. Huntington and Cy. Hancock had very rich gold quartz from Wallapai district, and claimed to have found some rich placer mines, with plenty of wood and water. They were going to construct a ferry across the Colorado at the mouth of Grand Gulch. Mr. Duncan expected to soon run a line of buckboards between Mineral Park and Pioche.

A correspondent of the *Enterprise* says of the mountains of Mohave County—

"Many of the best mines are owned by San Francisco incorporation, who have bought up many valuable properties, have done the yearly assessment and nothing else, waiting for what it is impossible to tell, most likely to bilk the poor stockholders out of their shares as they have already done in more than one case. Often they have sent out inefficient superintendents or foremen who have managed wretchedly and in some cases almost ruined the mine, trying only to make a few hundreds for themselves and not caring in the least whether the property was increased or decreased in value, or whether the men who did the work were paid or not. Bilks we have had, and not a few bilks, of all kinds. Sometimes they came out as mining superintendents, sometimes as experts representing capital, as they said, and often in other various capacities; indeed we have been cursed with bilks ever since the last settlement of the district, and we probably shall have our share (we have had more than our share in the past) for some time to come. They are arriving and departing all the time, sometimes they manage to keep up for a few months, but generally a shorter time lets them out. Let those who believe in a God and prayer, pray heartily that in the future Mohave County may be delivered from the bilks.

"I sometimes try to look into the future and see what these mountains will turn out. I see smoke arising from every cañon and the noise of almost innumerable mills and engines greets my ear. We have mines, that is no longer a question, that they will prove to be extensive and rich is also beyond question. There it is easy to see that before a very long time has passed we shall have here in these mountains a large and thriving population. In almost every cañon there are mines enough to support a good sized town, and as soon as they are systematically worked towns will spring up in every gorge, mills will be erected at every spring, and an era of prosperity will dawn upon us, such as the most sanguine hardly ever dreamed. Mark my words.

"In the days to come, and within the next ten years too, Mohave County will not only excel all the rest of Arizona, but all the Pacific slope, in the production of the precious metals, and will not be behind any other section in the extent and variety of her agricultural products."

Another correspondent writes from Rawhide City, Mohave county—

"If he has got a mine he intends to work it and pay cash down for everything he gets, and not pay men off on jawbone like a great many shoal water capitalists have done, who coming to the country with nothing expects the laboring class to give them their time and labor gratis. We have too many of that kind already. It would be a blessing for the country if a few of them would leave and make room for men with more money, enterprise and energy, of which latter class we cannot have too many.

"The great trouble is that the men who come here want everything done for nothing and try to make their speculations pay for themselves from their first start.

"One of the reasons that money is so scarce in Mohave County is

that a working man when he gets paid off has to discount his check before he can cash it, and the merchant has to send them to San Francisco before he gets his pay. But this thing cannot last forever; soon a different class of people will get in here. Capital from other countries is bound to come here, for the mineral is here and all we lack to make this one of the best mining countries in the world, is a little money judiciously expended. And I think that Mohave County can take her place as one of the richest mining countries this side of California, and its day is soon coming."

Of mail and stage matters in northern Arizona a correspondent writes—

"There is nothing so calculated to injure the material interest of Mohave county as the wretched system of mails and staging that obtains here. The stage company that advertises Concord coaches, and then puts the unwary traveler upon that infernal engine of torture yclept a buckboard, is a nuisance.

"Northern Arizona has been more imposed upon by stage company bilks than any other place ever was. The A. & N. M. Express Co. started in with a flourish of trumpets, but left between two days (leaving its bills unpaid), and is now in the region where twine the fragrant woodbine.

"The other stage company, that curses Mohave County and Northern Arizona generally, charges about twenty cents a mile for the blessed privilege of being scorched with the sun and choked with the dust, and fails to bring us our mails, and won't carry off our bullion and does just as it pleases. It hired politicians in Washington to help rob us of half of our mail and then fails to bring the other half.

"It is time that some investigation were put on foot so that we may discover what becomes of our missing newspapers and why our letters are delayed. Our mails are not to be depended on, nor will they be until we have competent postmasters and faithful contractors between here and Los Angeles."

Concerning the Muddy country, the *Enterprise* gives the following—

"Col. Isaac Jennings arrived here from St. Thomas, Nev., on Sunday last. He informs us that there are about twenty farms under cultivation in the neighborhood of St. Thomas; that the place is prosperous and that the population is steadily increasing. About 20,000 grape vines have been set out. The peach crop this year will be a large one. Not many apples will be gathered, and the most of them will come from Luther Lasell's place. The people of St. Thomas are beginning to realize that this county will be their best market for grain, vegetables and fruit. As St. Thomas is only ninety miles distant from Mineral Park, it is evident that farm products could be shipped from there here and sold at prices with which no other section could compete.

"The Colonel has made the necessary arrangements for the erection of a grist mill at St. Thomas, for the purpose of supplying this market with flour. O. J. Barnes, the Indian Agent on the Muddy, seems to be doing the fair thing.

"Col. Jennings is an old resident of St. Thomas, and he likes the country and the people."

H. C. Hodge writes from Prescott, July 18—

"Immigration continues to pour into Prescott and Yavapai county from all directions, and large bands of horses, cattle and sheep are being driven to the different locations selected by their owners for stock ranges. The favorite locations now seem to be in the region of the Tonto basin, on the Little Colorado and in the country around the San Francisco and Bill Williams mountains, in all of which localities there is an abundance of pasture.

"The second portion of the 'Boston Colony' are now within a few days journey of Prescott, where they will soon be. Judge Cozzens, who got up the Boston Colony, has done a great wrong to them and to Arizona by his unwarrantable representations about the great opportunities for settling large colonies on the Little Colorado and elsewhere in the Territory. A large portion of the first party who arrived here some weeks since, have

returned from whence they came, mad and disgusted. They will no doubt give very damaging reports of Arizona and its people. Some few of the company who are made of the right material remain here, and are fast assimilating to the ways, customs and doings of the country, and will no doubt succeed in their efforts to build up homes in the country.

"Wheat and barley crops good in the country; corn and potatoes inferior to former years. The rainy season has just commenced, and late crops may improve.

"John H. Behan, census marshal of the county, has completed his labors, and the proper officers have finished up the census work, and it is found that the total population of Yavapai county is 13,738, which is a wonderful increase over the last census. The marshal has been very energetic and has visited every portion of the county. Could the time have been extended one month or more the number would have been from one to two thousand more. The census will no doubt make Yavapai the first county in the Territory in point of numbers."

J. Lillie Mercer writes from Boston, Mass., that he is getting up a company of emigrants for Arizona, not so large as it would have been but for the disappointments of the two previous 'Boston colonies.' Mercer gives his plan thus—

"Mutual benefit; we divide all expenses and share equally all benefits. Our fare by railroad will be about \$45 to El Moro (170 miles further by rail than Cozzens took his men), and our ponies or wagons will cost us in the neighborhood of \$30 more. We have nothing to do with any moneys except sufficient to defray office expenses, some \$2 each. By this method I get my own fare reduced, assist those who need it, enable those who have money to retain it for use in the Territory, and benefit Arizona by taking only good men into it. I have been careful in my selection and refused those I have deemed unworthy. Nearly every man has a trade at his hands, and is willing to work. A relative of Gov. Safford will accompany us."

He speaks of things and prospects in Boston thus—

"Everything is at a complete stand-still here, and there is a great deal of suffering. God only knows what the poor will do, should no improvement take place. There is no sign of any improvement for the next two or three years. Many of those who go with me, have conducted businesses of their own, but finding them unprofitable, have determined to venture to Arizona."

Mr. Mercer says some hard things of "Judge" Cozzens, who got up the two disappointed "Boston colonies," and whom he represents as a fraud, but "a good talker, a brilliant word painter, and just the man to trap the unwary." Mr. Mercer thinks Cozzens' plan to take the colonies to the San Francisco Mountain region was "a diabolical plot," and says—

"I have endeavored to impress the members of my party that they must expect the worst, and I am satisfied none go for child's play. Some may get fainthearted and halt by the way, but I will take as many with me to the Territory as will go."

Of the Cozzens' colony speculation Mr. Mercer says—

"No doubt you will be interested to know how Arizona stands in Boston. The first public interest in the Territory was awakened some eight months ago by a man by the name of S. C. Cozzens, an unprincipled speculator, who has made considerable money the last few years in publishing and preaching up the different localities to which he sought to draw the unsettled.

"His first Elysium was, I believe, Montana, where he appropriated the title of 'Judge.' Then Nebraska was a second Eden, Idaho a Paradise, and, finally, Arizona—the San Francisco Mountain country, on the mesa, in particular—a perfect Heaven.

"If I am rightly informed, his every scheme has proved a fraud; and he is greatly desired in the several States and Territories above mentioned.

"His plan is to hire halls and paint wonderful word pictures and get others to do the same. The

latter he either hires or gives an interest in his companies. By liberal advertising he induces the press to notice his speeches and writings, and induces the unwary by promises of town lots, Government assistance, and bonanzas for the taking.

"In his Arizona scheme, as in others, he offers to take men out at less than half fare. He says: 'The fare is \$230 (this is first class fare), I will take you out for \$140, first class, and give you a town lot; the Government will provision you at \$9 per month, and the region is,' etc., etc.

"In the first place he gets the \$140, then he contracts wholesale with certain mercantile houses for arms, (and by painting danger gets each to supply himself well in this line,) ammunition, clothing, boots, blankets, provisions, tools, agricultural implements, etc., etc., in fact everything, even to the smallest articles, which they are likely to need, at a trifle below regular retail rates, on which he receives a commission for himself of from 20 to 40 per cent. In the latter matter, he has obtained from \$50 to \$150 per man, whereas my party will be as well supplied with necessities as his was, at a cost not averaging more than \$30 per man. He charges for fare, \$140, pretending it will be first class all the way; he gives them railroad passage, which costs him about \$30.50, and carriage from the railroad terminus for baggage only, which costs him some \$13 more (no conveyance for themselves, they must buy their own or walk). Hence, on the fare alone, he has a clear profit per man of \$80 to \$90, besides the profit on outfit. And this out of a class that cannot afford it.

"Cozzens has cleared some \$8,000 or \$10,000 on the men he has sent out, and this will probably satisfy him should he not succeed in entrapping any more."

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