

The Entrancing Tale of Nevada's "Second Growth."

BY H. H. BARTINE

THOSE who have but recently arrived in Nevada can hardly realize the marvelous business and industrial change which has come over the state during the last five years. From about the year 1893 until 1900, Nevada was literally wallowing in the "slough of despond." What may properly be termed the period of decline began much farther back than the first named date.

The state had been settled and built up mainly upon the basis of its silver mines. There was little else within its borders that was considered to be of sufficient value to justify the expenditure of much time, labor or money for its development. Silver mining was the basic industry, everything else was regarded simply as an adjunct. Neither the lofty, snow-capped mountains, nor the far-reaching sun scorched deserts were in the least attractive to those who were seeking homes in the west. Indeed, it was hard to make the traveler believe that with any effort or expenditure the state possessed agricultural or manufacturing possibilities worthy of the slightest consideration.

THE CATTLE KINGS.

A few enterprising men engaged in the cattle business and some of them became "cattle kings." A few more invested in sheep husbandry and threw, while along the river bottoms a limited number established farms and made for themselves primitive homes upon the frontier. But all of these were mere incidents. It was silver mining upon which the state depended for its existence, and without which no star representative of Nevada would ever have shone in the blue field of our national ensign.

THE WAR UPON SILVER.

In 1873 the warfare upon silver began, and it is one of the strangest of anomalies that the most potent factor in striking the white metal from its monetary pedestal was the nation which was the largest producer of the metal, and consequently the most deeply interested in maintaining its value, as well as the value of everything that is measured in terms of money. For a time the great riches of the Comstock, the Base Range, Pioche, Austin, Tuscarora, Candelaria and other districts kept the state in a fair but constantly lessening degree of prosperity. The enactment of the "Bland-Allison law" of 1878, and the "Sherman law" of 1890, checked the decline of the metal, and enabled our mining industry to struggle on although under a most serious handicap. But in 1893 the last crushing blow came. The mint of India was closed to silver coinage on private account, and the so-called "Sherman law" was repealed by the American Congress. In less than a week after the British order in council stopped private coinage in India silver lost nearly one-fourth of its value in the markets of the world, while the repeal of the "Sherman law" not only prevented a recovery, but forced the price to a still lower level. In Nevada silver mining was almost paralyzed, and the people were in despair.

ITS BANEFUL EFFECTS.

No other state in the Union, and probably no other part of the inhabited globe, suffered as Nevada did from

this great monetary change which virtually revolutionized the finances of the world. Every country which aided in the demonetization of silver felt the strain inseparable from an attempt to adjust its business to the gold standard with silver wholly or partially eliminated from its monetary system. The nations adopting the gold measure at valuation in effect endeavored to make one dollar do the work for which two dollars had previously been required and employed. Necessarily there was a tremendous shrinkage of prices in all gold standard countries, with lessening profits, business stagnation and hard times as inevitable concomitants. These conditions lasted from 1873 until 1895. That they were the direct result of the monetary change is conclusively proved by the circumstance that they existed in gold standard countries only, while silver using nations enjoyed unusual prosperity; and by the further fact that not the smallest measure of relief appeared until the extraordinary increase of gold production in South Africa, Alaska, and other parts of the world in a degree relieved the monetary stringency, gave prices an upward turn and made business once more profitable.

RUIN WROUGHT IN NEVADA.

But Nevada suffered peculiarly because she was essentially a silver producer. Not only did she lose heavily through the shrinkage in the value of the silver actually produced, but the production itself was greatly diminished from the same cause. None but the richest ores could be worked, and the exhaustion of the high grade deposits was practically contemporaneous with the decline in the price of the metal.

Under the conditions then existing, to direct the energies of our people into other channels was impossible. All men are controlled to a greater or lesser extent by their environments. The most energetic and progressive men in the world would never think of cultivating orange groves in Greenland or Alaska. It seemed almost as unnatural for a Nevada miner to undertake the development of the state upon new and untrodden lines. The results were a more or less general exodus, a rapidly dwindling population, and a widespread, almost hopeless impoverishment of the entire commonwealth. Men of assumed intelligence, but who knew nothing of the cause of Nevada's decay, spoke contemptuously of the state and its meager population. It was characterized as a "rotten borough," unfit to be a state, inhabited by a few "wild-eyed fanatics," and a few more "thieving silver barons," whose highest ambition it was to swindle the widow and the orphan with "fifty-cent dollars."

DURING BARTINE'S SERVICE.

During the period of my service in the house of representatives—from 1893 to 1895—the people of Nevada, in a public way, thought of little or nothing but silver. On any line other than that which led in the direction of free silver coinage, no efforts of their representatives in Congress met with the slightest appreciation. In no proper sense was the question a partisan one, for Republicans and Democrats alike were of one mind with reference to it. And all this was the result of the conditions which prevailed. Our one great industry had been seriously crippled and there was nothing else to which we could turn. The general revival of business which began in 1897 was scarcely felt in Nevada, for we had no diversified industries to be affected.

LIGHT BREAKS IN THE SOUTH.

And so we struggled on until 1900. Then came a flicker of light upon the southern horizon, growing brighter and brighter, until the heavens in that quarter were all aglow, casting their brilliant reflections upon the dark clouds of business depression which

still hung heavily over other portions of the state. Tonopah with its fabulous wealth was discovered, and a new era in the history of our state began. The excitement following the developments at Tonopah was not to be compared with those of earlier days when the riches of the Comstock, of Austin, of White Pine, and other districts were first brought to light. Hope had been so long deferred in the hearts of our people that it was hard to arouse much enthusiasm at first. And it was just as well that it was so. A pell mell rush of vast multitudes of impetuous men to a new mining district is always productive of great suffering to many, and it is generally followed by a reaction from which recovery is a slow and painful process. In this respect Tonopah has been peculiarly fortunate. The rush was never so great but that the crowd could be fairly accommodated, while the values were so high, so near the surface and so widely distributed, that large numbers of moderate fortunes were speedily made and the crop put upon a paying basis almost from the first stroke of the prospector's pick.

THE DEMONSTRATION.

The later developments, proving the great depth and continued richness of Tonopah's mines, gave an assurance of permanency to the district and stamp it as one of the mining wonders of the



JUDGE H. F. BARTINE,

Who Has Pictured the Glories of "Nevada's Second Birth" for the Tens of Thousands of Readers of the Christ mas News.

the values are almost entirely in gold, while Tonopah ores run heavy in silver, the value of which is seriously affected by the law and fluctuating price of the white metal. But all these considerations apart, everything indicates that both districts have great futures before them, and that they are destined to yield a wealth of the precious metals that will stagger the imagination and astonish the world. In fact one is fairly dazzled when he contemplates the riches of a single gold mine—the Mohawk, and it is more than probable that we have many more Mohawks in this district.

OTHER PROMISING CAMPS.

And still the story is not told, for while Tonopah and Goldfield are stars of southern Nevada, which shine at present with the greatest brilliancy there are others—many others—having splendid prospects, and some of which are certain to develop into strong rivals and may even outshine the oldest camps. Nearly the whole state of Nevada is strongly mineralized, but I am dealing now with those districts lying in the southern parts of Nye and Esmeralda counties, and extending eastward into Lincoln. I am speaking of those discoveries which broke the clouds of distress that for so many years had hung over us like a pall, and spread the fame of Nevada everywhere throughout the mining world. Within this region lie Silver Peak, Kawich, Lida, Gold Mountain, Silver Bow, Gold Center, Bullfrog, Crescent, Caliente, Searchlight, Deer Lodge, Gold Butte, Pioche and other districts all pouring out their shining treasures in larger or smaller streams. This region is about 200 miles in length by 100 in width, and great as it is already proved to be, its widely extended surface has scarcely been scratched. But enough has been done to change the whole aspect of Nevada's business condition, and to justify boundless hope for the future of the state. It is not at all unlikely that the region which I am now considering is the richest in gold and silver of any equal area in the known world.

REVIVAL IN OLDER DISTRICTS.

It must not be supposed, however, that Nevada's recent progress has been confined to this region. The discoveries and developments here have stimulated endeavor throughout the entire length and breadth of the state. The grand old "Comstock" has felt their influence and is now making a showing in the lower levels, which a few years since would have been classed among the things impossible. Most encouraging reports are coming from Eureka, Austin, Tuscarora, and other mining centers famous in the days of long ago, while Ely is rapidly forging to the front as a copper camp of the first rank. Elko, Winnemucca, Virginia City, and Carson are all showing a healthy advance in their growth. Reno has been nothing short of phenomenal. If the tidal wave of Nevada's prosperity continues to rise as there is reason to believe that it will, within the next decade Reno should contain 50,000 people, and perhaps considerably more. It should be to this state what Salt Lake City is to Utah, and the greatest commercial center between the last name city and Oakland.

INCREASING VALUES AND RAILROADS.

Nothing could give more satisfactory evidence of the state's forward movement than the rapid increase of values as shown by the assessment rolls, and nothing could give stronger proof of outside capital has in the commonwealth's future than the railroad construction which has already taken place, which is now in progress, and which is in contemplation. This work not only betokens confidence but it begets confidence as well, and creates wealth of a permanent character, which the owners are bound to protect and make more valuable by the steady and consistent upbuilding of the section through which the roads wound their way.

IRRIGATION WORK IN PROGRESS.

In the complexity of modern industrial life no state or nation can be

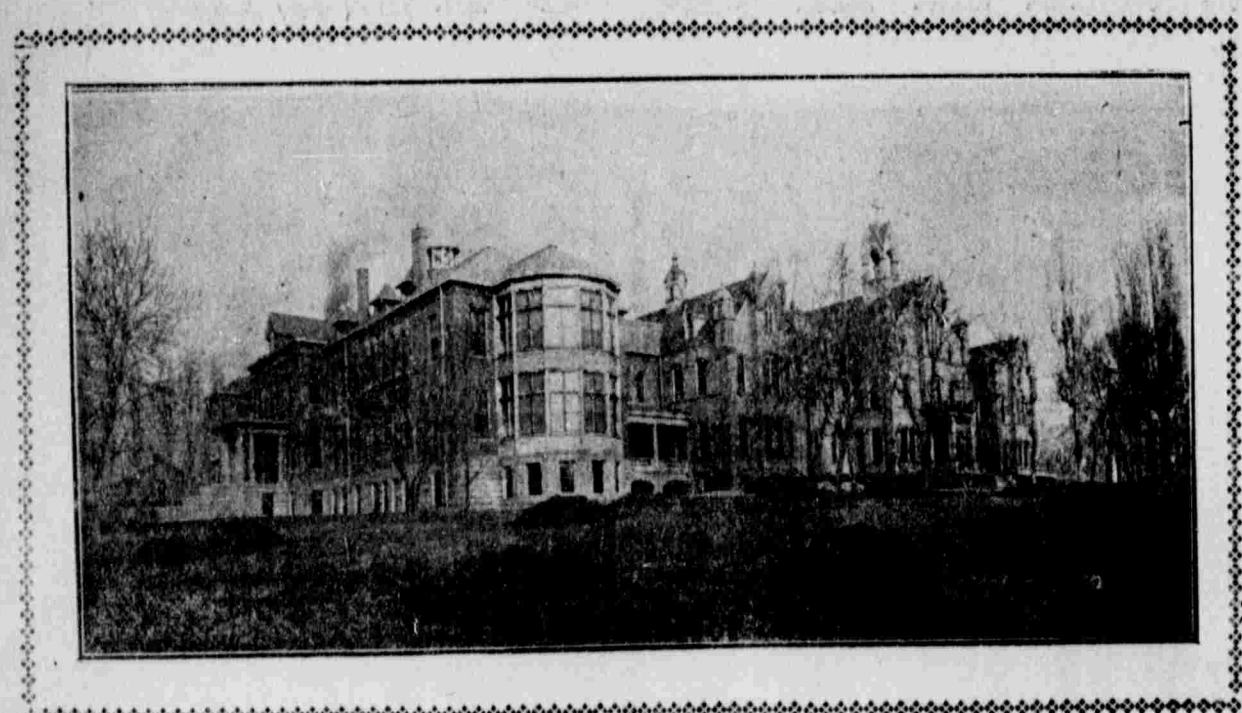
truly great which depends wholly upon a single product, for should the output greatly diminish or the price seriously fall the consequences must be disastrous in the extreme. The famine in Ireland when that country relied almost entirely upon the potato crop, and the crop failed, and our own later experience with the silver mining industry was virtually wiped out, partly by the failure of the silver mines, and partly by untimely legislation. Therefore it should there be no doubt of our state that its present resources, by taking a diversified turn, to grow the crops of the desert, to develop the state's various resources. A striking feature of the development is the remarkable irrigation work in the Truckee and Carson river basins under the provisions of the "New River" law. By this great system a million acres of desert is to be reclaimed, and converted into a veritable garden of Eden. It will make 100,000 acres of fertile land, and will support a permanent population of a hundred thousand people, with a more living harvest and a more abundant supply of food than any other land in the business of agriculture. The carefully tilled farms of Europe are better than a thousand years ago, and more proper husbandry the farms of Nevada will never outdo.

A SUPERB COMBINATION.

Mining and agricultural development moving thus hand in hand are a superb combination and cannot fail to make a magnificent state. The two together are incomparably more advantageous than either alone. Ordinary agriculture, the richest of mines may be exhausted, and there is no method by which their wealth can be stored. But here in Nevada the mineral field is so vast in extent, that even allowing for the exhaustion of certain mines, there are bound to be new and multiplied discoveries to take their places, and it is altogether improbable that the entire field will be worked out for many centuries to come. So that in point of permanency gold and silver mining in Nevada may fairly be placed on a parallel with

MINING RESULTS MORE IMMEDIATE.

But for immediate development mining is by far the most potent because of its quick returns. The successful miner will make more money in one year than the successful farmer will in many, and the profits of the mining are, in turn, used for the upbuilding of the state in various other ways. This is why the rich mineral discoveries of southern Nevada have been so prolific in results, and have contributed in so marked a degree to the reawakening and regeneration of the state. The location of the mines of Tonopah was the turning point in Nevada's industrial era. The name of Butler will be classed with those of Marshall, and Sutter and Comstock and gleam upon the pages of Nevada's history for all time. To them, earnest, daring, self-sacrificing men who formed the vanguard of that pioneer army which has opened up and demonstrated the mineral wealth of southern Nevada, the entire state owes a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. Over the waterless, desolate deserts and up the rugged mountain heights, they stepped, with patience, a fortitude and a courage surpassed. Some found fortune, some are still seeking it, and some found it, but all are now in the land of the living. But as they pressed onward in their steady march, they carried with them the banners of American civilization. "Still full high advanced, and to those men, the living and the dead, is in large measure due what may aptly be termed the "second birth of our state."



HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL.

This well known institution is one of the public institutions of which Salt Lake City is justly proud and in which every citizen feels a deep interest. The hospital is in charge of the Sisters of the Holy Cross whose kindly care of those requiring surgical or medical treatment or nursing is recognized by all, especially by those that have had occasion to become patients in this benevolent institution. Increased facilities for the care of patients have been the order of events during the past year, so that at present no hospital of the country is ahead of the Holy Cross in room, equipment and apparatus, to say nothing of the efficient corps of eminent physicians, nurses and attendants that are to be found therein.

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Perhaps the quickest returns from any form of mining investments are those paid by Goldfield leasing companies. Just a few weeks ago the Francis-Mohawk Leasing Company declared a dividend of 5 cents a share for three months' work, and it is reported that they are again to pay another dividend of a much larger amount. The Mohawk Leasing and Development Company announced a dividend of 25 cents a share on Friday, September 28, 1906, and many others will soon be in a position to give profits to their stockholders. Among the latter place would be the Nevada Leasing Company (one of our promotions), the first Goldfield Leasing Company to offer stock for public subscription. We are now offering shares in another winner—The Jumbo Leasing and Development Co.—the best leasing stock on the market at 15 cents a share.

GOLDFIELD'S BIG LEASING ENTERPRISE—THE JUMBO LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

The Jumbo Leasing and Development Company owns a lease on The Cornishman Claim, adjoining the famous Zion Lease that helped produce some of the \$5,000,000 that Jumbo Leases are credited with. Immediately adjoining on the north is the Jones Lease, which is shipping rich ore. On the west, immediately adjoining, is the Peer-Pugh, another producer. Several of the rich ledges from the producing leases have been traced into The Jumbo Leasing and Development Company's ground.

PAY ORE NOW BEING ENCOUNTERED.

In the crosscut from the 155-foot level a ledge was broken into over a week ago, and an average sample across eight feet gave returns of over \$40.00 a ton, which is ore than can be mined at a profit. In the north crosscut from this level a very promising vein has been found. Mining experts predict that it will develop into a very rich body of ore, and the assays now being taken seem to bear out this statement. They increased as each foot of work advances. There is another crosscut from the 115-foot level, and it has also produced a ledge that gives values of a milling grade. No time is being lost in making this one of the big Goldfield leases. Startling high-grade values can be expected at any time.

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If you are anxious to secure quick profits, we would advise the immediate purchase of this stock at 15 cents a share. A payment of one-fifth cash will secure your reservation; the balance can be paid in four equal monthly installments. We are only offering 100,000 shares, and a large portion of that amount has already been subscribed for. The entire capitalization of The Jumbo Leasing and Development Company is for 1,000,000 shares, 500,000 of which have been placed in the treasury, the remainder being pooled stock.

Buy Jumbo Leasing and share in the profits from this lease (which has nine months to run), other leases, and their property in the Ramsey District.

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