

temporarily placed or rather dumped into Utah, and a temporary reservation created around them. The government has the right to remove them at any time and if they desire to acquire title to other lands, they must pay for said lands out of money already received from the United States from the sale of their former holdings in Colorado or any other monies they may have. But apart from this this commission and the secretary have practically nullified the act of Congress of August, 1894, above referred to, in not declaring open at once those lands "unsuited or which will not be required for allotment" purposes. Numerous reports have been made from time to time as to the character of the lands within the Uncompahgre reservation and it is as well known today as it ever will be just what lands "are unsuited or will not be required for allotments," and these lands are those which it was the intention of Congress to open up to settlement without delay and without waiting the allotment in severalty to the Indians of the balance. The lands described as "unsuited and which will not be required for allotment purposes" are the lands valuable chiefly for their mineral deposits, and it was for the purpose of opening these lands that this bill of Aug. 15, 1894, was passed. It is not claimed by the present Indian agent, the Indian commissioner or the secretary of the interior that these lands will ever be required for the Indians. Why then are they not opened as provided for by the act aforesaid? If the Indians are not to be given this land and if it is not suited for allotment purposes, what good purpose can be subserved by tying them up any longer? Why do first (allot the Indians lands) what was postponed in the bill till after the opening of the lands unsuited for allotment? As far back as 1888 the department sent Special Agent Gordon out to this reservation to examine and report the character of the land in this reservation, and his report was that all the land lying east of the Green river except possibly some little bottom land lying along the White river, was entirely unfit for agricultural purposes and that neither man nor beast could find sustenance there. Other reports have since been made and all to the same effect. Yet this commission has been appointed—at the expense of over \$14,000—and practically nothing has been done except to carry out the ideas of the Indian agent, who states in a recent report to the Indian office, "that the cry that white home-seekers are waiting in disappointment and sickness the opening of the surplus lands, is simply clatter that was originated with the impatient greedy capitalists and their unprincipled employes who have for years been waiting and watching for expected events that would give to them the opportunity to grab and gobble up the asphalt mineral deposits that are located on lands that will not be required in locating homesteads for the Indians." Instead of doing what Congress required first to be done this commission and the Indian agent (it appears from this same report) have been digging ditches and canals, embracing a system capable of irrigating all the agricultural lands suitable for allotment purposes in this reservation, laying out

homesteads on section lines, enclosing them with cedar posts with barbed wire, erecting substantial log houses for dwellings, with paneled doors, double-sashed glass windows, shingle roofs and brick chimneys, and when every Indian has thus been comfortably housed at the expense of the government, then and not until then will the poor honest settler who carries "his all" on his back or at best in a wagon, be permitted to enter upon this sacred land and take possession of what from the start was known to be unsuited for the Indians and unfit for allotment to them, and even then will he be required to pay for the land according to its character and at the government price. How long the people of Utah and of the country at large will consent to be thus dealt with remains to be seen; but it is to be devoutly hoped not very long. Nothing could so benefit this new State as the opening of this reservation. It would add immediately thousands to its population and in time, millions to its wealth. It would give immediate employment to the unemployed, not only in this State, but in the neighboring ones, and bring about an era of prosperity never before witnessed in this section of the great West.

#### METALS AND COYOTES.

PAROWAN, Iron Co., Feb. 12, 1896.—A mild form of mining excitement is holding sway herabout, caused by accounts of discoveries and strikes that float through the ambient air and settle wherever a willing listener can be found. While Desert Springs, some sixty miles west, claims the greatest amount of attention and actual attendance, it does not monopolize the situation by a great deal; De Lamar is just now, at a distance at least, assuming the form and outlines of a new Eldorado, and despite the rigors of a trip thither at this time of the year, we can hear of not a few making it and a good many more having it in contemplation. Today a story, as well authenticated as such stories usually are, reached here, to the effect that some wood choppers and haulers of Washington county who were plying their vocation in the hills a short distance from De Lamar found some float which being tested was found to run high in gold; they immediately went to prospecting and found the ledge, samples from which assayed \$20,000 a ton! Why it is that one who brought the story in should stop at that point when another cypher or two would have cost no more, is not at present understood; nine out of ten believe it and it may be true, but it sounds so much like the same old story brushed up and smoothed out that a little bit of incredulity is not at all an improper indulgence. Nature has stood guard over her treasures with unflinching vigilance and tolerable regularity from the beginning; great caves of wealth in place with no barriers of stubborn flint and unyielding granite intervening occur as a rule only in novels, plays and the minds of those who are a good ways from where practical mining is carried on, and it is a safe proposition that the richer the discovery the harder it is to get at unless the less the quantity, most fre-

quently both. There are exceptions of course, but these occur only about as often as Democratic supremacy in the national government. There is more substantial, abiding wealth for the people at large in the inexhaustible iron deposits a few miles west of Cedar City than in all the gold that will ever be discovered, yet, paradoxical as the expression may appear, they are at present worthless and will remain so till capital comes along and places them in a position to be self-sustaining. They are greater, so far as may be determined from developments made and indications, than anything which Pennsylvania or Ohio can boast of—but who wants iron? Why, even silver is more thought of.

Coming south, after crossing the range of hills which stretch at right angles from the main body of the Wasatch range away out into the desert, the characteristics of the landscape change somewhat. There is an occasional spring, sometimes a cluster of them, and these constitute veritable oases. The habitations of man appear to an extent corresponding with the volume of water, and the dirty gray of the sagebrush changes to the more delightful and perennial green; but elsewhere the same sterile monotony prevails, the land being but little more than a coyote reservation. Speaking of the coyote reminds me that, considering the familiarity of the subject, but very little seems to be known of it. The only description of this vagrant of the plains, outside of books of natural history, is in Mark Twain's "Roughing It," and this, like pretty much everything else which that erratic author handles, is riddled with inaccuracies. The coyote is not exactly the useless thing that Mark and others put it up for; it is a scavenger whose efficiency and completeness make it the equal of a whole flock of crows. Passing along from Milford to Mineraville recently, behind an animal which caused us to reel off a mile every forty minutes and occasionally a yard or two more, no less than three coyotes were observed; two were pacing along the brush with that soft-footed trot which is fully as deceptive as Twain represents it be, the other was "sizing us up" and perhaps wondering why it was that its promised provender, which was our present means of locomotion, was still withheld. Coyotes live on rabbits chiefly, so long as there are any rabbits to live on, but the latter do not last long in the presence of that indistinguishable yearning for victuals which, like the worm, dieth not until its possessor is dead and even then is transferred along with its tenement to the next of kin in the same family. The coyote is the incarnation of appetite, but it is not true, as alleged, that all that it eats increases the appetite; nothing could increase it, and nothing ever diminishes it. When chance throws a horse, mule or cow in the way, as is often the case, the coyote has what to some other department of the wild animal kingdom would be a banquet; but not so here, for in this instance there is no cloying, no foundering, no satiating, and no other satisfaction than such as comes of mechanical indulgence in a natural propensity. The body of the "critter" is never