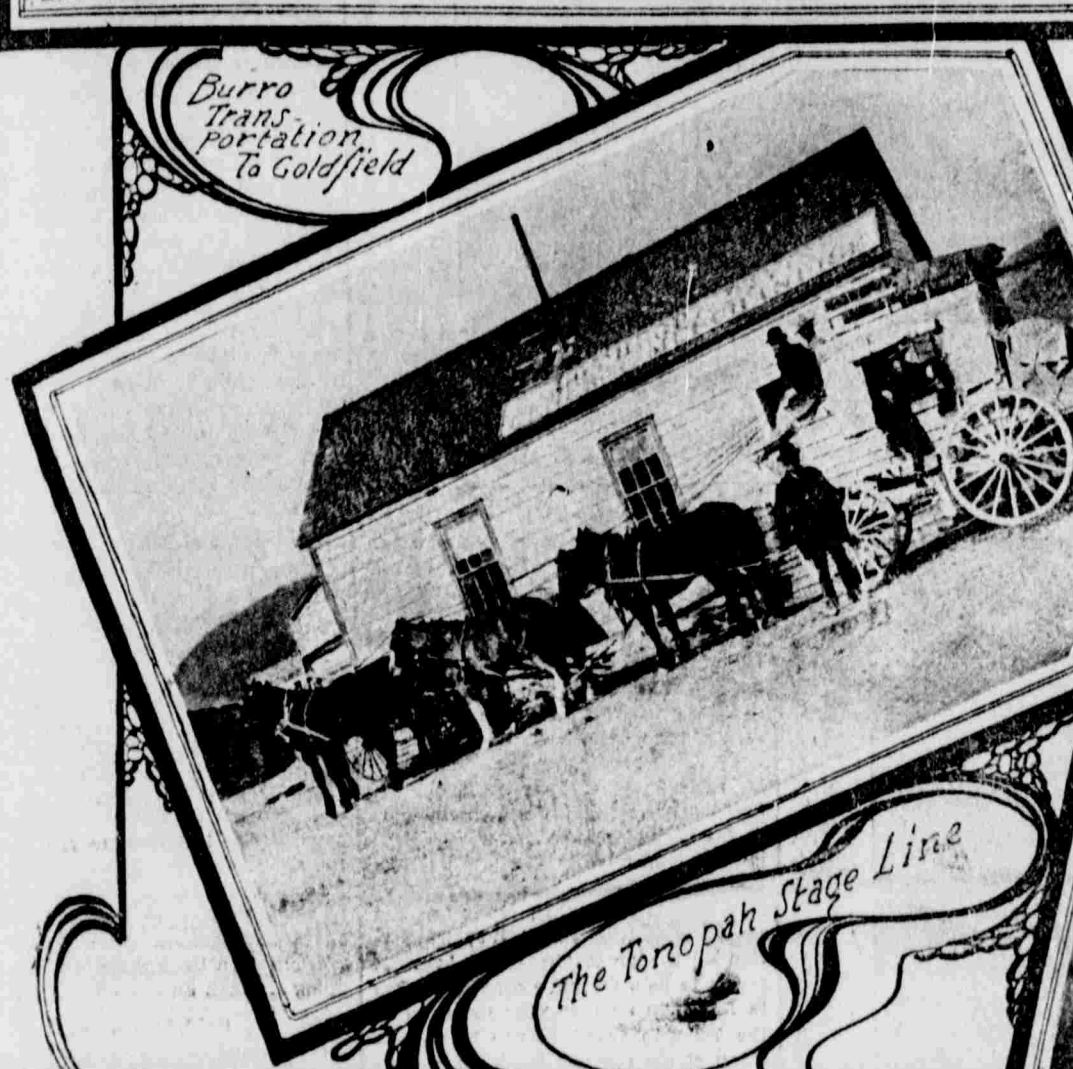


Tonopah—Where Water And Gold Are Found—In 1905

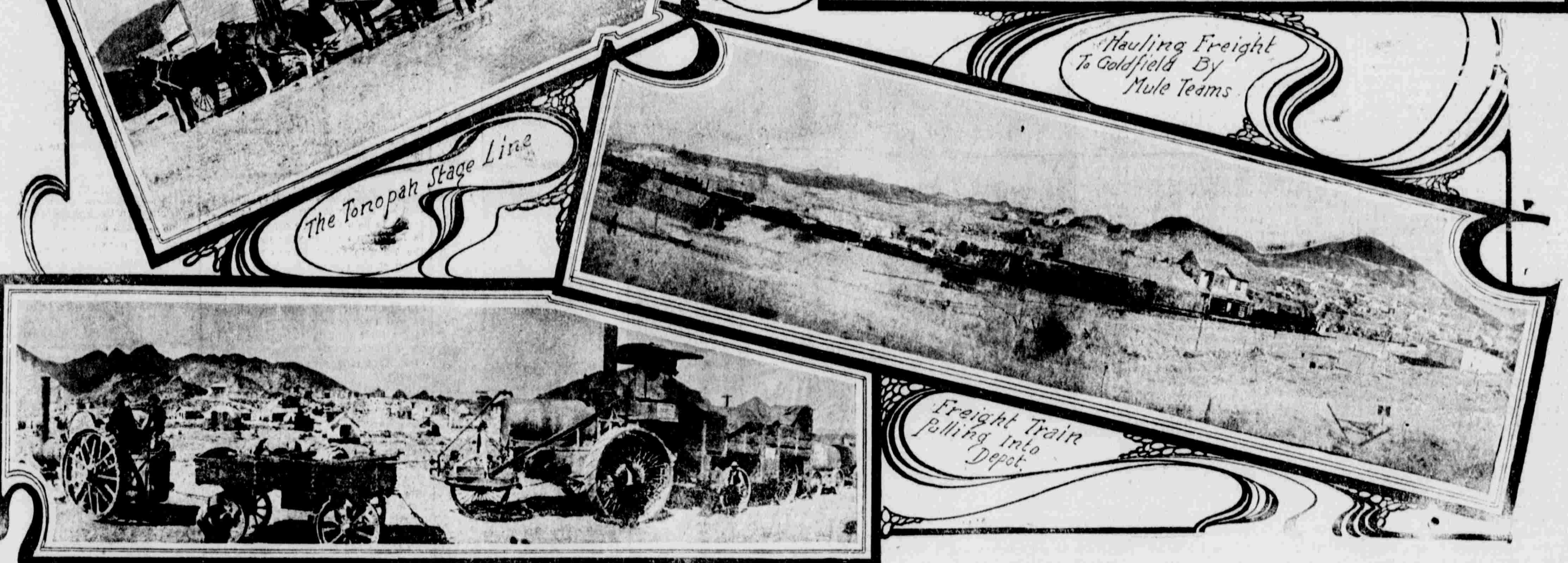
Automobile on Desert Sands

Burro
Transportation
To Goldfield

The Tonopah Stage Line



Traction Engines Hauling Freight over Desert

Light Wagon
and Horseback
TravelHauling Freight
To Goldfield By
Mule TeamsFreight Train
Pulling Into
Depot

THE EVOLUTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM ON THE FORBIDDING NEVADA DESERTS.

TONOPAH is situated in an unnamed mining district, Nye county, State of Nevada, midway between southern Klondike and San Antonio mining districts, in the east foot hills of Montezuma valley, about 16 miles east and a little north of Lone mountain, and about 3 miles south and west of Tonopah spring.

That is the way Jim Butler described the location of the first mining claim he located in what is now known the world over as Tonopah. The notice was filed for record with the recorder of Nye county, Nov. 20, 1900, and the prospect was called the Desert Queen mining claim. The notice was written by T. L. Oddie, Butler's partner, and at that time county attorney of Nye county. Only five years ago, and yet it took such an effort of both county attorney and the experienced prospector who knew every burro trail in the desert, to describe the place where today stands one of the most widely known mining camps of the world, Tonopah, a magnificent growing city, teeming with life and energy and with hopes and possibilities that few possess.

The thirsty prospector in the desert searches first for the cherished water. To him it is more than golden, and the signs that indicate its existence are more to him than the richest float that ever lay upon a hillside. Situated "in the east foot hills of the Montezuma valley," or San Antonio desert, are the Tonopah springs, so called by the Plute Indians, and the name, Tonopah, means to them, "the brush that shows where water can be found." So closely associated are water and gold with the desert prospector, that it requires no stretch of the imagination to see that Tonopah was well named, for it marks the spot where gold is found, and found in such abundance that almost every brush that grows upon the barren sides

of Mt. Oddie and the foot hills beyond indicates its existence below.

The First Location.

T. L. first location was dated August 27, 1900, and at the same time, or in a few days after, James L. Butler located the Burro, Mizpah, Red Flame, Buck Board, Sand Grass, Valley View, and Silver Top claims. Butler associated with himself in these locations his wife, Mrs. Belle Butler, giving her the famous Mizpah claim. T. L. Oddie, Robert Chrysler, and J. H. McCormack, Wilson Brounger also secured an interest, and he and Butler and Oddie commenced the development of the property at the time of the location. And it is not out of place to mention here that no three men ever worked under greater hardships than they did. They built the first roads, hauled their water three miles, had nothing but the desert brush to burn, slept out on the barren hillside, carried their samples 50 miles on horseback to learn what ore to save for shipment and then in a little risk-taking, old wagon commenced to take out their ore to market, hauling it 150 miles to Austin. They made two such shipments, about a ton in each, from which they netted \$400, the ore going about \$250 per ton. Their capitalization to start with was \$25, and the \$400 put them on easy street, and they commenced working vigorously.

The ore was there, the world soon found it out, and Tonopah commenced to grow. Leases were let by Butler and associates upon the different veins upon a royalty of 25 per cent, and fortunes were made by the lessees, a conservative estimate of the amount extracted on the Mizpah ledge alone being \$1,600,000, while it is safe to say that twice that amount was taken out from all the leases. The mining world was astonished at the results from the work of the lessees, and men poured

into Tonopah from every country and every clime.

A 6,000 Population.

It began to take on metropolitan airs and has continued along that line until now, five years from the date of the discovery, it has a population of 6,000 souls. It is a city with all the comforts and luxuries that modern wealth can suggest. It is supplied with electric lights and power, from a plant established at Bishop creek, in Inyo county, California, 100 miles away, across the desert. Two water companies have franchises to dig up its streets and furnish the inhabitants with water, and have sufficient for twice the present population. A telephone and telegraph system connect it with the world beyond the desert and all the mining camps within a radius of 100 miles. A sewer system has been established, and a sanitary system put into operation. From the wealth of its own mines a railroad, standard gauge, has been built 60 miles to Sodaville, to connect with the Southern Pacific, and a special train with Pullman coaches and diners connect it daily with the outside world and with Goldfield, its neighbor to the south. It has a social club, the Mizpah, named from its famous mine, with 250 members, than whom none can be found more general or cosmopolitan, or hospitable.

Figures Tell the Story.

It is now the county seat of Nye county, and the spot that was five years ago "in the eastfoot hills of the Montezuma valley," is graced by one of the handsomest court houses in the west, and no doubt the finest in the state of Nevada, built during the past year at a cost of \$50,000. It has an assessed valuation of taxable property of \$228,183, of which \$615,905 is real property, and \$210,278 is personal prop-

erty. It has increased the valuation of property in Nye county from \$373,340 in 1900 to \$1,319,150 in 1905, or nearly fourfold, and it pays alone into the county in taxes \$42,673 against \$14,933, the total receipts of the county in 1900. Two hundred children are enrolled in the public schools and a new building to accommodate twice that number is in course of erection. The spiritual welfare of the community is in the hands of the Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Catholics, three churches being supported. The miners' union supports a hospital, all miners contributing \$1 per month for its support. A \$10,000 hospital building will be erected during the coming season by the union. Three banks, the Nye and Ormsby County bank, the State Bank and Trust company, and Tonopah Banking company, all solid institutions, handle the wealth of the camp and their average monthly clearings run up to \$1,000,000.

A Year of Growth.

The past year has been one of the most active in the building of homes and business blocks. Twelve large stone buildings, varying in cost from \$10,000 to \$40,000 have been erected and all solid institutions, handle the wealth of the camp and their average monthly clearings run up to \$1,000,000.

among the best papers published in the west. Four to five dollars per day are the wages for miners, engineers and machine men, and 1,000 men are employed in the camp—a number that will be more than doubled as soon as conditions are such that the ores of the camp can be milled or marketed. These are a few of the things which tell of the growth of Tonopah, of the transformation of the "unnamed mining district in the east foot hills of the Montezuma valley" into the proud prosperous city of today.

But it is not only the growth of Tonopah that can be credited to the marvelous discoveries on Mt. Oddie five years ago.

Birth of Other Camps.

The Tonopah belt was soon located and the thousands who came gold-seeking were forced to spread out over the desert. Every spring and water hole became the camping place of scores of men in search of the yellow treasures and on nearly every hill could be heard the song of the hammer and the roar of dynamite. One camp after another came into existence and soon Goldfield and later Bullfrog were bustling Tonopah, the mother camp, for the honors of being the greatest gold producer. Gold Mountain, Manhattan, Silver Bow, Ray, Atwood, Eden, Gold Reed, Bellehellen and Golden Arrow are among the other camps, that promise great things, that owe their existence to the argonauts of Tonopah, while Lone Mountain, Silver Peak, Lida, Reveille and other old time camps have been rejuvenated and are now giving up wealth that was not rich enough to be taken out in the days when ox-team freight rates came high and railroads were loth to project themselves out over the desert places. And so Jim Butler's discovery has transformed the desert, filled it with an eager throng of

wealth seekers, made millionaires by the score and is daily making Nevada the greatest mining area in the world.

What it Means.

And what is there back of it all? The mining world today, or a large proportion of it believes that the rich ores of the mines were gouged out by the leasers and that now the companies have settled down to a steady production of low grade ores, which, with the working of a few "wild-cat" propositions, constitutes the entire operations of the camp. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Tonopah can challenge the world to show a camp of similar age with greater ore reserves, or a greater production under the conditions which have existed, in the camp. Sixty miles from a railroad, and a narrow gauge at that, at the time of its discovery, and without even wagon roads, it was almost impossible to get supplies in or out and since the construction of the Tonopah railroad, the growth of outside camps has necessitated a division of the transportation facilities, which has reduced the output of Tonopah, added to this, the inability to secure water, supplies and machinery has checked the mines in their output. But just as these difficulties were overcome the smelters announced that the developments of Tonopah had them overstocked with silicious ores and limited the production of the Tonopah mines. The effect of all this has been to reduce dividends, but nevertheless during the past year \$150,000 each have been paid by the Montana-Tonopah and Tonopah Extension companies, while the Tonopah company has posted four quarterly dividends of 25 cents each, making \$1,000,000, or 100 per cent on the capitalization of the company and it has also bettered its preferred stock. Besides this three big producers have been added to the list during the past year, the Tonopah-

Midway, North Star and West End, and the Golden Anchor, McNamara and Ohio-Tonopah have struck the ore that has brought wealth to the others, though they have not yet become shippers.

Railroad's Advent.

A change in the methods of mining the ore has resulted in the coming of the railroad, which has given a false impression as to the values in the ores of the different mines. They have not changed from the palmy days of the leasers, but with reduced freight charges and no wagon haul, the big veins are mined and dumped into the cars without sorting and the average values so extracted are \$80 per ton, about two-thirds silver and one-third gold. Were the ores of Tonopah sorted today as in the days when the leasers were shipping \$200 to \$500-ore from the famous Mizpah ledge, those values would not be considered high at all. All of the producing mines have values running into the thousands and bodies of that grade large enough to ship in abundance, but the methods of extraction pursued are not followed in all big mines at the present time.

About Values.

The values are found in the formation known as the lode porphyry horn blende andesite, which has been proven to exist for more than 5,000 feet in width and its length is not yet determined, while the mineral zone has been proved for nearly three miles in length, from the Belmont to the West-Tonopah and from the Jim Butler to the Golden Anchor, nearly 4,000 feet in width. The lode porphyry or early andesite is covered throughout the belt, except at the Mizpah, Burro and Valley View mines, with a later andesite or commonly called the capping porphyry. At the mines just mentioned the ores are oxidized, but at the other mines