DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1905.

The Old Comstock Days and the Millions They Made (BY SAM P. DAVIS)

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The duplicate this contend to the difference for the Harpers' magnatine to quarters to belittle that mining giant of the Sage Brush state, the old Comstock ledge, with some \$\$00,000,000 to its credit, as a producer of the precious

While the combined product of some of the fabulously rich camps may in ledge of mineral is likely to prove as prolific of metal, romance and national history, as that true fissure vein disovered on the east slope of Mt. David-

correspondent to the spot and his filus-nearly half a centpry ago. If years had passed since the ar-tots of '49 had stumbled on the en welth of California. Here the preshad grown rich, they had carved the foundation of a new state and to years of their labors is filumin-with a glow of romance and poetry will grow mellow with time and re with the English language. y unfit to drink and where drouth

I United States senate, and set a pace for campaign expenditure which no one has ever been able to duplicate. He threw money into his fight with the prodigality of a drunken satior. He did not need to spend a dollar, but he had a lot of friends among the voters, and wanted to show them that he ap-president the human and was bleased to

portance for the Harpers' magazine to send J. Ross Brown, its best artist and correspondent to the spot and his illus-trated letters, describing the scenes in-cidental to fortune hunting, remain by far the most vivid and interesting por-traval of the subject extant.

honest mining in California. The othe two ran a "bit" whisky mill somewhere

two ran a "bit" whisky min somewhere along near the city front in 'Frisco. Fuir took them in and they soon bought a controlling intrest in the Con. Virginia. The stock that had been selling for 15 cents never stopped until it had reached \$500 a share. The mine begah to yield \$3,000,000 a month in dividends. One who lived

month in dividends. One who lives there in these old bonanza days pause and brushes cobwebs memory. We all thought it would last forever, and governed ourselfes accord-ingly. No one had any use for money except to scatter it. It was a time when the tramp of today might be king of the ledge are another moon should

wane. Sharon was irritated that in the race for prominence someone threatened to pass him. He spoke contemptiously of Mackay and said he would make "John pack his blankets over the Ginger grade," and Mackey sent back the re-tort: "I car pack a pair of blankets over any grade, which is a d-d sight more than Sharen can do." Physically Mackay towered above his sarcastic rival. Sharon alluded to the other two as "bit whisky slingers." Sharon was irritated that in the race

as "bit whisky slingers." Flood, when he heard it, swore that he would sell "bit" whisky over the counter of the bank of California. Things were coming to a crisis. It was Night on the Numldian desert, and all he lions up

Disaster and Death.

The Bonanza firm closed in on their play when they wrecked the bank of California. They slowly gathered in all the indebtedness and called on the bank to liquidate. It was a wild day on Cal ifornia street, when the run began, mob packed the thoroughtare from Montgomery to Sansome. Fraint men, distracted women and squads Franti police battling with the mob. The Bonanza firm losed its doors. had stormed what was consider-ed an impregnable financial cir-adel, and captured it. Flood, clated at his success attempted to sell whisky over the counter, to make good his threat but John Mackay, with a strong right hand and good horse sense, grabbed him by the collar and prevent-

ed him by main force. Raiston was unable to survive the blow and in a few days the waters of the bay closed over him. Sharon was brought to brook and compelled out of his private fortune to stem the tide of the bank's indebtedness. He did it with the bank's indebtedness. He did it with his usual flourish of trumpets and got in to the lime light when he made good, in to the lime light when he hade good, but it was the law that made him do it and no generous impulse of his own. Of the two men Raiston was the lion and Sharon the tiger off the partner-ship. Mackay and Fair were the two pythons that coiled around them in the deadly conflict of the stock jungle and Then it was his turn to talk, and de-described the situation in such enti-ing ianguage that when he demanded \$5,000,000 more to do business with, Balcrushed them to death. The Nevada bank then became the strong financial institution of the coast. It was creat-ed as one might say upon the ruins of the Bank of California. The latter bank was rehabilitated but it had to take second plac "The Big Four."

ston gasped for breath and-gave him

"King of the Comstock."

Ophir was Sharon's pet stock, and

year.

The

"The Fig Four," John Mackay, James Flood, William O'Brien and himself. The stock was kloking about with no one, not even a California mud hen, to do it reverence. Mackay was about to plunge Europe hito war. On the strength of this tip hundred thousands accumulated by honest mining in California. The other

Mackay turned pale with rage to re-sent the taunt but he thought of the

stockholders and depositors and smoothered his resentment.

her the world's wheat supply and failed. Bolanger did not make good and the bank was temporarily crippled with a loss of not less than \$25,000,000. Fair Helps Mackay. Fair wore a smiling face when the facts were known. He met Mackay on the street and said "Hello John. I hear that your distressed." Mark Twain and Others.

Of the men who have delved with brain and hand on the old ledge may be mentioned Mark Twain, who won his spurs there. Joseph T. Goodman, the trenchent editor of the Enterprise, whose "Welcome to Sharon" will ever live in the annais of newspaper litera. smoothered his resentment.
"Yes. Jim what you hear is true."
"How much dy' ye lack John, I have an is spurs there. Joseph T. Goodman, the trenchent editor of the Enterprise.
"But the old Mother ledge, as it is called, seems to have had some Tair-sized children. Austin. born in 1860, has an output of \$150,000,000.
"Five millions Jim."
"Five millions Jim."
"Oh, is that all. I thought at first it might be something serious. The trenchent."
"They walked into a broker's office and Fair, attaching his name to a five million check handed it to Mackay with a

district shows a mineralized zone of more than a thousand feet in width and



FAMOUS HALE AND NORCROSS MINE AT VIRGINIA CITY.

chuckle. "No interest John for the first of its kind all over the world. It proves conclusively that the world is older than any other living writer has "Thanks Jim I'll give you a receipt."

"Oh never mind me boy. Yer word's good for a triffe like that." ever dared assert, for he proves their calendars went back over three hun-The interest Fair got was the right to saunter along the street and teil how he pulled "poor John out of a hole."

loan however was repaid within

After the decline in the Bonanza

calendars what back over three hand dred thousand years. Judge C. C. Goodwin succeeded him along with Rollen Daggate. The poems and splendid editorial work of these two men will ever live in the history of the Comstock.

The publishers of these harrow mind-ed journals seemed to think it rank treason to admit that there was any-thing of mineral value outside the golden state, and it was regarded as a premotitary sympton of insanity to hunt for it. But the men who braved the snows of the mountains to push into Nevada were not of the stuff, that was easily discouraced. They reached what was then known as "Washoe," ragged and almost destitute, but game as a fight-ing bird, and went resolutely to work. the big market went up and down with it. It was soon known as "the bell weather of the Comstock." The prospect holes in the ground After the decide in the Bohana stocks the prestige of the grand old Comstock began to fade and there is now but one mine, the Ophir, paying dividends. Recintly, however, new blood came in. Capital has tethered the waters of the Truckee and enter-ording men are going decider in a burt Tom Fitch, the "silver tongued," made his first reputation there. D. E. McCarthy, the best all round newspaper man the coast ever produced, Dr. Galdividends to purchase the property. went down rapidly after Sharon got back with the \$5,000,000 and when they struck the mineral belt his millions McCarthy, the best all round newspaper man the coast ever produced, Dr. Gal-ley, Dan De Quill, Rhodes, Drurey, Mc-Ewen, Loomis, and scores of others who made history and reputation in the old days when the ledge was booming. It was the greatest mining camp the world ever saw, and its history may never be written. If some one with a riant campra and endless miles of films Menwhile the Bonanza firm were the lords of finance and lauded as the rich-est quarter in the world. This was came rolling back with big interest, and by common consent he was crowned "King of the Comstock." rising men are going deeper in a hunt more than a quarter of a century ago and it brings a smile to the faces of for bonanzas below the 3,000 level. Then followed a scene of reckless of speculation in Comstock shares such as America never before witnessed. Sharon juggled with the market and could in a single day send Ophir up one will ever know as the man who made it left his bones in the fastness of the Sierras somewhere near Lake Tabo, in a foolhardy attempt to cross The Famous Sutro Tunnel. think of such a combination as being regarded as heavy weights. Presently Fair got in such bad odor that the Ne-vada bank had to get rid of him. Near-ly every crime in the catalogue was laid at his door. Fred Smith, the miner who heiped him run the secret drift from the Curry to the Con Virginia, was killed by a men named Kasar The First "Colors." They delved into the sands of the Carson river and found "colors" and finally reached the spot near where Dayton new stands and got some mighty good results. This was a point where the washings of Mt. Davidson found their way down the guiches to ardy attempt to cross to California in the winter. upon the city from its discovery days until it left the ring bleeding and bat-SAM DAVIS. or down a hundred a share. Every-body went into the swirl and the Back Keeping their counsel to themselves they arranged next day to leave for California. There were three or four tered, what a drawing kinetescope ex-hibition it would have made. of California became little better than A Perpetual Christmastide. from the Curry to the Con Virginia, most penniless when he conceived the was killed by a man named Kosser, a prize fighter. Fair was epenly charged with being behind the killing to get him below the mouth of the Savage shaft. a big bucket shop. in the party. Two perished in the storm and the two who reached Placer-Oh, those happy days! Not mention-Giants of Future Finance. ing the nights. the river and the miners began work-ing their way up this gulch. They wrested a good wage from their toil and ville were nearly insane from the privations they encountered. But they reached Placerville with some ore But while fortunes were being accu-mulated and scattered, beggars being elevated and millonaires being impov-erished, the most farseeing and prati-cal miner of them all, James Fair, was burrowing like a mole in the ground on the track of the greatest bonanza of which mining annals gives any record. He was superintendent of the Gould and Curry, and with a man named Fred Smith he ran a secret drift in through Best and Belcher into Con. Virginia, deeper than the owners were working. Here he tapped the vast treasure house that afterwards made the fortunes of The question, long debated among But while fortunes were being accumining men, as to whether the Com-stock ledge became blind at the north privations they encountered. But they reached Placerville with some ore and it was not long before the news of the richness of the Washoe "diggins" was spreading over California as such information oly spreads, as fast almost as wireless telegrams travel now. stock ledge became blind at the horm or south end, to reappear with crop-pings further on, is still a mooted one. Take a hank of slik closely twisted in the middle and ravelled at the ends, and you have a fair idea of the Com-stock lode. The compact, symmetrical portion is where, the great bonanzas were found. Where the velns began to spread there were few dividends. were content to "stay with it." They wrote back to California that there were good prospects in Nevada, but few people believed them and the newsapers continued to make light of the dea that Nevada was worth prospect-ag at all. The Sacramento Union, then When the fortune hunters reached Mt. Davidson they found a man named Comstock on the ground claiming ev-erything in sight, and so the old ledge ing at all. leading paper of California, and a come guest in nearly every miner's described Nevada as the ne plus | took its name from this circumstances. ulta of desolation and barrenness, whose deserts were covered with the The Mother Lode, Coming of Jones. Mining men, however, have looked nium, A city began to take shape there. bones of prospectors, where the waters

Ucatan, has become a standard work the recently born camps of Tonopah of its kind all over the world. It and Goldfield have already shown nearly \$10,000,000. Most of this money has gone to castern capitalists, and a great deal to investors in Utah and Colorado. deal to investors in Utah and Colorado. The California mining men had the first chance to invest, and were shown ore running into the thousands, but they turned the proposition down, for it has reached a point now that a San Fran-cisco capitalist never intests any money in mining unless it is a developed mine reached. Even then he wants paying dividends. Even then he wants an option on the mine and expects the

never be written. If some one with a giant camera and endless miles of films could have kept the machine trained obvious reasons escaped the assessors. The solution of the social question. would be found in a perpetual Christmastide, provided our generous thoughtfulness were not confined merely to our own kith and kin. Let us be assured that when the world reaches up to the highest and holiest conception of relationship it will discover that there is but one family and that the human brotherhood cannot be divided into classes antagonistic to each other. The reign of the golden ule will be the true Christian millen-

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF VIRGINIA CITY.

'59 came the "Washoe rush." The

getting where it could do the most | he found a sharp rebuke awaiting him. In 53 came the "Washoe rush." The gold seekers of California, sighing for new territory, wandered across the sierra range and began prospecting the barren hills of Nevada, These nomadic fertune hunters were laughed at for their pains and the California news-papers taunted and discouraged them. The publishers of these narrow mind-tournels seemed to think it rank.

The WORK of REBUILDING The CREAT SUTRO TUNNEL

enterprise, the story of its construction and its importance to the mines on the Comstock Lode will be appreciated by readers of the Christmas News.

The construction of a tunnel for venliating and draining the Comstock mines was first suggested by the late Adolph Sutro in the year 1865. It was, however, only after a prolonged contest that he obtained a franchise from Congress and a grant of the land necessary for prosecuting this great work. The tunnel right grant, obtained at this the counter right grant, obtained at this time, embraced an area seven miles in length with a width of 4,000 feet. This area begins at the base of the foothills on the western bank of the Carson and extends westerly to and be-the great lode. The right to purat \$5 per acre, such mineral velns and lodes as were cut, dis-Weins and lodes as were cut, dia-ted or developed during the time ounstruction, provided they lay off r side of the tunnel within 2,009 of the center line, except where claims were in prior possession of r partices, was also included in the el grant. The privilege of pur-mis, at \$1.25 per acre, two sections ribuitural land near the mouth of Unuel also formed part of the

unnel also formed part of the ble assets obtained at this time. T obtaining this franchise and L. Mr. Sutro rried in vain to inter-Mmerican capital, and as a last re-be went to London, where be ob-ed a loan of nearly \$1,600,000 from Met'almont brothers at 12 per cent annum. This loan was secured by Care bonds, and the Sutro Tunnel May man organized with a capital by was organized with a capital of 2,000,000 shares. The total the tunnel and its branches was it \$5,000,000. It is, therefore, to be that its successful completion in early seventies was a stupendous that required financial aid from all task the parts of the world.

Who Sutro Was,

story of the Sutro tunnel would omplete without a sketch of the of Adalph Sutro, its projector. may, therefore, be briefly stated that was a native of Alx La Chapelle, d was educated as a mining engineer Frieberg, Germany. His first busi-ss venture on the Pacific coast was as purjetors of a statement of the statement of

EARLY a generation has elapsed since the Sutro tunnel was com-pleted. It is, therefore, probable that the history of this great erprise, the story of its construction Its importance to the mines on Comstock Lode, bis personal assets did not exceed \$10,000. He afterwards held three-quarters, or 1,500,000 shares of Sutro Tunnel stock, which he sold at from \$4.50 to \$6.50 per share, the last block bringing the latter figure in 1879. The proceeds from the sale of this stock placed him at a single bound in the rank of multi-millionaires, and his great wealth, or most of it. was in-vested in San Francisco real estate Sutro Heights and baths, the Cliff House, rallway and stately buildings in the business center of the city, are, tothe business center of the city, are, to-day, monuments to his indomitable en-ergy and perseverance. His vast es-tate, aggregating many millions, was acquired after he had reached life's meridian, he having attained his for-tieth year before the inception of his greatest achievement, the construction of the Sutro tunnel. His death oc-curred in the late ninetles, when he lacked a few months of being an oc-togenarian.

Beginning of Work.

togenarian.

Ground was broken for the tunnel on Oct. 16, 1869, at the site of what is now known as the town of Sutro, and at midnight on July 9, 1878, connection was made with a drift on the 1640-foot level of the Savage mine at a point 270 feet south of the main incline shaft. Mr. Sutro was first to pass through the opening and he was greeted by Su-perintendent Gillette of the Savage,and others, including local press representa-tives. The connection of the tunnel with the Comstock was followed by a rousing celebration at Sutro; bonfires plazed and cannon boomed throughout the night.

The length of the main tunnel from its mouth to the connection with the Savage mine is 20.145 feet; the north lateral branch has a length of 4.415 feet from the main tunnel to a point 225 feet north of the south line of the Mex-man from the main tunnel batteral has a ican mine; the south lateral has a length of 8,700 feet from the main tun-nel to the Forman shaft. The drift length of \$,40 feet from the main thir nel to the Forman shaft. The drift connecting this branch with the Alta shaft has a length of 2,465 feet. The tunnel is largest for a distance of 1.100 feet east of its mouth, it being 12x16 in this soction; the remainder averages about \$x10 in the clear. The size of the lateral branches is approximately the

lateral branches is approximately latter figure. Four shafts were start-ed along the line of the main tunnel (BY A. J. MeDONALD.)



ENTRANCE TO THE GREAT S UTRO TUNNEL

3 and No. 4. together with the discov- In driving the main tunnel, four min- the third the Brunswick and the fourth the second the Bella Union, the second the Bella Union, the second the Bella Union, the Bel

Brunswick, so that they may yet prove a source of revenue to the company. Remarkable progress was made in driving the main tunnel, notwithstand-ing the intense heat, ranging as it did from 100 degrees to 115 degrees Fahr.

Brunswick, so that they may yet prove a source of revenue to the company. Remarkable progress was made in ing the intense heat, ranging as it did from 100 degrees to 115 degrees Fahr, together with the steam from the hot water encountered, an advance of 102 feet in 90 days from July 22, to August 1, 1877, having heen registered, with a working force of 300 men. vorking force of 300 men.

During the construction of the tun-nel, a stately mansion was erected on an eminence above the town of Sutro, which, with its broad lawns and sylvan surroundings, make it an attractive home.

All went well until the mining com-All went well until the mining com-panies refused to pay to the tunnel company the royalty on ores extracted. Immediately upon this refusal, Sutro erected a bulkhead to prevent the wa-ter from the mines from flowing through the tunnel. A compromise was effected on March 19, 1879, and upon April 4 of the same year the work of excavating a sub-dialn began. This drain, four miles in length and 3x3 in cross section, was cut in solid rock on the south side of the tunnel. This work was completed in 90 days, and it gave was completed in 90 days, and it gave employment to 1,000 men. The wooden boxes, 18x24 in the clear, were comstructed of three-inch plank and placed side by side in the subdrain. These were tightly covered, and when flooded were used to convey the hot water pumped from the lower levels of the raines through the tunnel.

Decay and Restoration.

The flooding of the lower levels of the Gold Hill mines in 1882 caused a suspension of work below the tunnel level and this, in a few years, was followed by a like suspension in the middle and north end properties, With this state of affairs it appeared that the usefulness of the Sutro tunnel was at an end, and as a consequence, this masterpiece of Sutro was left to decay. until now, with the re-awakening of the Comstock. It has become necessary to rehabilitate the old tunnel. The old timber is being replaced with new, and the car-tracks are being rebuilt and, in unison with this march of progress, a new drain is being constructed throughout the length of the tunnel and its branches. This new drain consists of a 24-inch Oregon pine pipe line bi-each of the laterais, and a similar 50-inch pipe in the main tunnel. Before erecting, each stave is treated with a preservative compound which will as-sure a long lease of life to the pipe. untson with this march of progress, a new drain is being constructed sure a long lease of life to the pipe, coffers another mighty sum.

and from the Ward shaft. The pumps now in use are but the beginning of the great pumping plant in contemplation, with which it is hoped to be able to reach the very lowest depths of the mineral bearing strata of the Com-stock lode. At the C. & C, shaft there is now in operation an extensive elec-trically-driver pumping plant on the trically-driven pumping plant on the 2,150-foot level, and this is supplemented with a hydraulic elevator which lifts from the 2,450. Future plans contem-plate the installation of a larger plant on the 2.650 and extensive exploration on the levels unwatered.

At the Ward shaft a magnificent electrically-driven plant of \$,200 gal-lons per minute capacity is to be in-stalled on the 3,100 level and this, with a single lift of 1,550 feet, will discharge into the south interal branch of the Sutro tunnel.

Of Great Importance.

The ultimate connection between the Comstook Lode and the Sutro tunnel, therefore, becomes self-evident, and the great importance of this now famous tunnel to the influes can not be over-estimated. Commercially, the very life of the district depends upon the in-tegrity of this property through its availability in the running operations. its usefulness as a source of ventilation, and its possibilities in the way of ore transportation to mills that may be spected at the mouth of the tunnel

From an engineering standpoint tha importance of the tunnel is still greater, inusinuch as the mines are thereby given a new working lavel 1,000 feet below the surface. The mit e water is pumped only to this elevation, and the mechanical energy reduced in a ratio corresponding with the lessened eleva-tion. The tunnel and its branches, extending as they do from one end of the lode to the other, affords a ready means of ventilation and permits of communication between various shafts. Last of all, when the tunnel is equip-