

within a short time we expect to be taking out between two and three million dollars. We are now working down the veins from the top of the mountain toward the tunnel which we have run into the sides of the mountain. At present we have to carry the ore up to the top, lifting it hundreds of feet, and then cart it down to the smelters on muleback. It costs us about \$3 a ton to get the ore to the mills. When we get the veins cut through to the tunnel we can run it out for about ten cents a ton, so you see that our profits will soon rapidly increase."

"How about the silver mines of Mexico, are they not almost exhausted?"

"No, indeed," was the reply. "I believe Mexico to be one of the richest mineral territories of the world. The country has not yet been prospected. The people do not know what they have. The mines which they have already opened are of vast extent, and you can get some idea of the production when I tell you that Mexico has been coining for years silver at the rate of \$22,000,000 annually. There are enormous amounts of gold in Mexico. Take the country along the Pacific coast down as far as Mazatlan. There are a half dozen Californias in this strip of country, with more than California's riches. Why, if we could have a railroad built from the Pacific to the Batopilas mines, I believe inside of a year there would be fifty thousand miners in that territory alone. There are good gold mines near us, and in all of my prospecting in Mexico I have yet to find a place where there were not traces of gold."

"How about the old gold mines of Mexico, governor? Are any of them good?"

"Yes," replied Governor Shepherd. "The Spaniards did not understand the geological conditions that produce silver. They thought that all of the ore was on the surface, whereas the best of the veins are far down. Mines which have been abandoned for years are now being reopened, and many of the abandoned mines are, producing large outputs of silver and gold."

"How about the dumps of refuse about those mines, governor? I have been told that the Mexicans got out only a part of the silver and gold, and that the dumps can be worked over at a good profit."

"That is a mistake," was the reply. "The Mexicans mine very well, and it does not pay to work over their refuse. We had the idea that we could make a great deal out of that at Batopilas, and we estimated that it would produce a good profit per ton. It paid only a very small percentage over the cost of working."

"How about the safety of Mexico, governor? Can Americans go there and mine without danger of losing their lives?"

"Of course they can," was the reply. "Property and life are as safe in most parts of Mexico as they are in the United States. President Diaz has a good government, and the day of revolutions seems to have passed away. Now and then there is a little scare on the frontier, but such so called revolutions amount to nothing. Take that of 1894. It consisted of a conspiracy which was made up by some men at El Paso to rob one of our trains. About forty vagabonds on the American side of the line united with forty vagabonds on the Mexican

side and planned to rob us. We got a telegram from the bank at Chihuahua, not to send out the train, and when the robbers appeared they failed to find our men, and dispersed. Their band was spoken of as that of a revolution. President Diaz sent some of his soldiers up to the mine, and they cleaned out the robbers."

"How are times in Mexico, governor? Has not the demonetization of silver injured the country?"

"I think not," replied Governor Shepherd. "Mexico is very prosperous, and that notwithstanding that for four years the crops have failed, and there has been considerable famine. This demonetization of silver acts as a protective tariff for Mexico. It keeps out foreign goods which are sold at gold prices by making them too expensive, and the result is that the Mexicans are establishing all kinds of factories. It is the same in Japan, and will be the same in China. The Japanese are now making most of their own cottons and China is establishing cotton mills. We are, I think, likely to ruin ourselves if we keep up our present policy. We are trying to establish free trade, and, by our demonetization of silver, are not only admitting the goods of the silver nations free, but are forcing them to keep out our goods by the protection of gold. They have the cheapest labor in the world, and they are manufacturing on a silver basis. They are selling on a gold basis, and they will in time be the richest people of the world."

"What do you think should be done as to the silver question, governor?"

"I am in favor of both metals," was the reply, "and I think that the United States ought to be big enough to be able to control its own currency. Silver ought to be used as money. This country could control the world in that matter, and could force bimetalism on Europe within less than three months. I don't care much at what ratio. Let us say we will use silver as money at the ratio of twenty to one, or even at twenty-four to one, and within three months the great nations of Europe will be glad to adopt it at sixteen to one. They cannot help it. What is the status of gold and silver in the world today? The gold is being gathered in and hoarded. France has \$700,000,000, much more than all the rest. She will not spend it, and she uses as her circulating medium silver, of which she has just about as much. Russia will not pay out an ounce of gold. She is keeping it with a view to a possible war, and France and Russia now to a large extent control the gold of the world. Germany is being eaten up by her army. Her people are patriotic and they stand the expenses, but this cannot last. In case of such an action by Congress as I have proposed, England would be the first to come to time. If we should adopt a silver basis, we would get the trade with Asia and Mexico and South America. We would have better wages, higher prices, and we would put ourselves right to the front in the fight for the business of the silver using nations, which is to be one of the chief businesses of the future."

"Governor Shepherd," said I, "you were in charge of the government movement of Washington at the time of the famous scandal regarding the De Golyer pavement. Was Garfield really interested in it?"

"Garfield had no money interest in the matter, I am sure," replied Governor Shepherd. "He was, however, one of the most foolish men as to such things that I have ever known. He was so innocent that he did not realize how other men might use him to accomplish their ends. This was the case with the De Golyer business. Some sharp fellows from Chicago wanted to induce Congress to adopt the De Golyer pavement. They secured the services of Colonel Dick Parsons of Cleveland, and through him got the aid of Garfield. Garfield came with these men to see me about my recommending the resolution to Congress. He was at this time the head of the appropriations committee of the House. I refused to grant his request, but asked him to wait a minute after the other men had left. I then showed him how his action in this matter would look. Said I: 'Here you are, the head of the committee on appropriations, and I am in charge of the public works. These men expect to make money out of their pavement, and you come with them and ask me to recommend that it be adopted. Don't you see that it there should be an investigation they will say that you and I are getting some money out of the business and that you will probably be charged with corruption?'"

"Garfield was thunderstruck," Governor Shepherd went on. "He threw up his hands and told me that he saw that he had made a great mistake. He had had no idea of there being anything wrong in the matter. Shortly after this the investigation occurred. Senator Thurman examined me. He asked me who had approached me on behalf of the contractors, and if any Congressman had attempted to influence me. I replied that it might be so, that I had many Congressmen among my callers, and that they wanted everything under the sun. He then asked me if General Garfield had not called upon me. I replied that I could not remember all of my callers, that every man in Congress, it seemed to me, had been at my office with an ax to grind for himself or his friends, and that the only man whom I could remember who had not so appeared was the honorable Senator himself. This compliment was so broad that it tickled old Senator Thurman. He laughed and turned the examination, much to my relief, to other subjects."

*Frank G. Carpenter*

#### DELIGHTS OF MESA.

BIG COTTONWOOD Salt Lake

Co., Utah, Feb. 28, 1896.

In a former correspondence written near Phoenix, Arizona, I promised to say something concerning the beautiful city Mesa, in the Salt River valley. This is one of the most lovely valleys and climates that may be found in a life's journey. Summer is found here in midwinter; evergreens are constantly to be found. My visit was in January 1896. The green spreading palms, and the pepper trees were the most prominent at this season. The pepper trees grow on the water ditches and spread out their branches much like the weeping willow tree. The leaves resemble fern leaves very much, and as they are evergreen they look well all through the year, but more particularly in midwinter.