

American Fork the Home of Reviving Metal Mines

Between a bend in the Wasatch mountains and Utah lake is one of the most prosperous cities in the west—American Fork, the Home of Reviving Mines. A resume of its activity is a summary of the business conditions of much of that district lying between Salt Lake and Provo, for though American Fork is not the only city intervening, its four thousand population makes possible greater strides than some other towns are capable of. Pleasant Grove is three miles to the east, and Lehi the same distance to the north; and in fact there is already a municipal economy existing between the three cities.

It is not generally known that the earliest settlers of American Fork went first to what is now Springville, and becoming dissatisfied with prospects there returned to this city. They had been called out by Pres. Brigham young under the colonizing system original with that astute leader in the year 1850, three years after the Mormons had entered the valley. Among them, were Stephen and Washburn Chipman, Arza Adams, John Singleton, William Greenwood, John and Horace Eldridge.

Rude huts of logs, thatch and dirt were constructed; defense was made against the Indians; the meadow grass and the sagebrush were disturbed, seeds were planted and the village life begun. The first white child born in the vicinity was Ann Singleton, who died last year in Emery county. A small store was started by Thomas McKenzie and even though butter, eggs and grain constituted the legal tender, a lively business was established.

CITY FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

On June 4, 1853, the city was incorporated, the first mayor being L. E. Harrington, who was at the time, a representative in the state legislature, which position he held until 1882. Wm. Greenwood, Arza Adams and others were members of the first city council.

Through the influence of L. E. Harrington a peculiar provision appeared in the first city charter—one which for 15 years gave American Fork a unique position among the cities of the state. The city was granted the power to run schools by local taxation.

"Sec. 11. The city council shall have power and authority to establish, support and regulate common schools; to borrow money on the credit of the city; provided that no sum of money be borrowed on a greater interest than 6 per cent per annum, nor shall the interest on the aggregate of all the sums borrowed and outstanding ever exceed one-half of the city revenue arising from taxes assessed on the real estate within this corporation."

CENTRAL SCHOOLS.

The present school system of American Fork is one of the best in the state. Following the method chosen by other districts, the city has done away with the old scattered school buildings and has brought all the grades together under a supervision impossible by the old system. There are three large school buildings which occupy a central block, all of them heated by steam and equipped with modern improvements. The primary building is known as Harrington Hall; the intermediate-grades building is known as Science hall. American Fork has spent over 50,000 in school buildings—a fact which shows partly why Utah has come third in the educational honor of the United States. Other cities have done just as well, but this shows what a city of 4,000 people can do.

The present board of trustees is composed of men long instrumental in perfecting the educational system of the city—George B. Cunningham, Ell J. Clayton and Joseph B. Forbes.

The present number of teachers is 22 with salaries ranging from \$40 to \$155. Henry W. Soles is principal of the high school; Osmond Justinson is district supervisor; Miss Lottie Owens is supervisor of music; and Miss Charles Arnold of Van Wood, Ohio, is supervisor of the primary department.

MUNICIPAL ROSTER.

American Fork ranks high among the cities of Utah when one considers only the general progressiveness of its officials. The officers are as follows: James Gardner, Mayor; B. Y. Greenwood, Ell J. Clayton, Lafayette Parker, John Hunter, A. K. Thornton, council; John B. Forbes, recorder; J. M. Thornton, treasurer; S. P. Logsdon, marshal; George Cunningham, Justice of the peace. These are all men of patriotism, push and ability—characteristics which the administration of every leading city. There is no "graft," no quarreling, no jealousy here; everyone is working for American Fork.

The city enjoys nearly all of the modern improvements and conveniences. It has an electric light system which is owned, partly by individuals and partly by American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Lehi—the three sister cities. The city itself has present capacity for two plants which cost about \$200,000. They are both situated in American Fork canyon. A third power plant is about to be built at Alpine in Fry creek.

The power coming from these plants is used for various purposes in and about the three cities above named. It is carried even as far as Mammoth, where it is used in the mines; and at times it is utilized in pumping water from Utah lake into the Salt Lake canal.

PURE WATER SUPPLY.

From the bed of American Fork creek at a point just above the city, comes the pure water used by the town, in a system that has cost, to date, \$25,000. A tract has just been purchased immediately above the city, in order to tap some springs there. This new supply will make the total water sufficient for a population of 75,000; and, besides, the springs are of such height that 60 feet more pressure will be added, making the total water pressure 125 feet. This one sees that in many ways American Fork is preparing for that greater future which wise and observant citizens have long foreseen.

Many of the larger business houses in American Fork have paved the walks in front; also some of the sidewalks on the side streets are paved. The district alone spent \$1,500 in this direction last year; and undoubtedly the city will soon give the matter serious consideration. When a town has a population of the size of American Fork, it inevitably begins to present a metropolitan air.

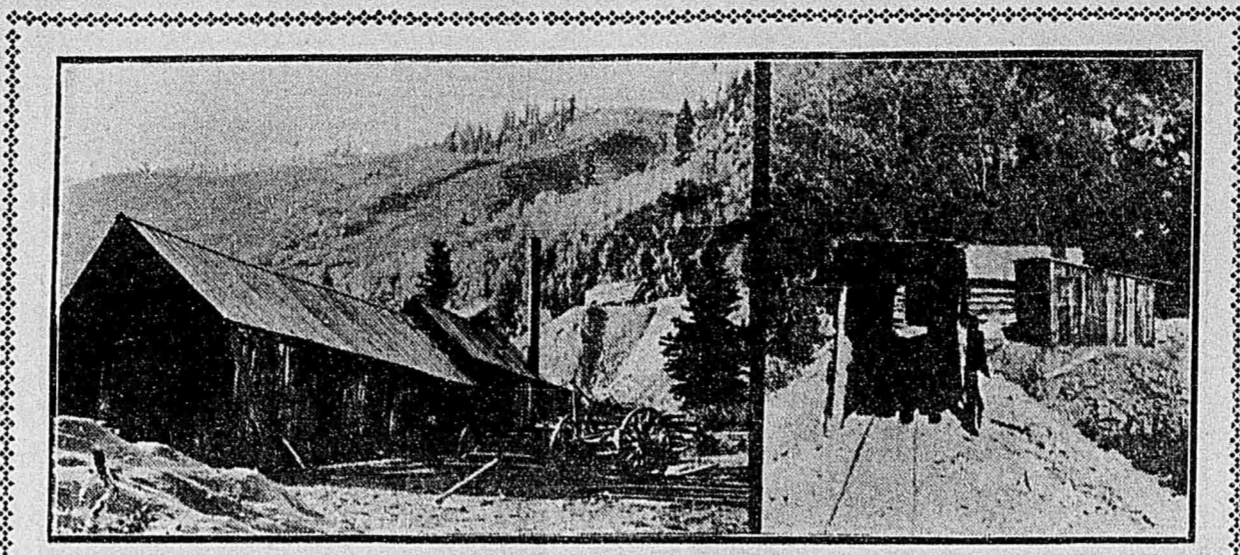
Already American Fork has two city parks, one of 30 acres on the east side, and another of 11 acres on the west side. It is not unlikely that in the near future a railroad will be constructed from American Fork up the canyon, the matter already having been considered by Mr. Jacobs and others of Salt Lake, who have already secured options on the old wagon road. Years ago, in 1876, there was a railroad up the canyon, but with the decline of mining activity the road was abandoned.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

The resources about American Fork consist mostly of farming products such as sugar beets, hay, potatoes, peaches and apples. There are not many big farms in the community, but most of the people seem to be prosperous. Land is selling fast in this vicinity, the reviving of the mines leading many to believe that American Fork will become one of the principal business cities of the state.

ACTIVITY IN MINING.

Very little has been said of late years of American Fork's mines—that is, which is about 23 miles from the city; but the renaissance taking place there makes the subject specially interesting. In fact the general public has never become sufficiently interested to make a thorough investigation of the neighborhood, and this of course is the secret of the immense wealth amassed by a few American Fork individuals. They



Sawmill at Dutchman Mine.

AMERICAN FORK CANYON.

The Bog Mine.

worked, they studied while the public passed the matter by. For the past 30 years work has been carried on in the canyon, but only in a disinterested fashion by small operators and lessees, who were encouraged by only a few unimportant investments. It is needless to say, therefore, that the condition of the district now is a great surprise.

LOCATION OF DISTRICT.

The mining district lies along the backbone of the Wasatch range, at the head of American Fork canyon. Park City being about 10 miles to the northeast and Alta a few miles over the divide to the south. The Mountain Lake property is in fact just over the mountain at the east.

SOME MINING HISTORY.

Many Utah camps have gone through the same experience that have characterized the development of the American Fork mines—abnormal activity, a lapse, and a renewal of operations. However, there have been many mining circles being connected with the American Fork district that distinguish it from others.

Far back in 1870, or thereabout, a man named Miller investigated the properties of the canyon and eventually organized the Miller Mining & Smelter company, Judge R. N. Baskin of Salt Lake, Col. Aspenwall of New York and others prominent in mining circles being connected with him in the venture. The center of activity was what has become known as "Miller Hill," which still receives most of the attention given the district. The product in 1870 was of course considerable, and necessarily created quite a flurry in the mining world. The excitement was augmented by the expensive improvements and extravagant expenditures made by Col. Aspenwall's son, who had been sent out to manage the property. Among the many big things the son accomplished was the building of both a smelter and a railroad, the latter extending as far as Deer creek. Many men who have studied the situation attribute the final failure of the Miller Mining & Smelter company to these hasty and lavish expenditures.

Near the smelter a town sprang up with mushroom rapidity, several hotels and boarding houses, a brewery and a bowling alley all appearing to meet the demands of the particular class of people that are usually found in such places. Twenty years ago a flood came; and in a day the whole city was wiped out. The main ore body was flooded and the mine, which had interest lagged and finally the smelter was closed, never again to resume operations. The railroad and smelter were finally torn up and sold for scrap iron and all that was left of the camp was an old coke oven as a monument; \$1,700,000 had been expended in financing the enterprise and all that was ever realized was a little over \$35,000. The only cause of the failure was that the mine was not properly managed.

THE PACIFIC MINE.

The Pacific mine, locally known as the "Blue Rock group," is among the best of the district. It is located on the east side of the hill, just below the Wyoming, and comprises five patented claims and four unpatented, the whole being developed by about 300 men. It has been worked for many years, and the cost of developing has already amounted to \$2,200.

A strike has recently been made in the Pacific which has resulted in a 300-ton body of 45 per cent lead and 64 ounces of silver. In fact, the galena ore body has been encountered; and there are large resources of silver, gold, lead and zinc in sight. This showing may be the beginning of a company which had intended to construct, at the mine, a mill to handle the low grade ore that has heretofore been produced.

MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON THE PACIFIC, YET IS THE DETERMINATION OF THE COMPANY TO MAKE A MILL.

The plan is to build a mill at Craig Lake and the O. S. L. railroad, is president of the company; C. M. Merrill, who has been secretary and treasurer since the death of J. F. Crompton compose the directorate. The capital stock is \$200,000.

THE MERRILL GROUP.

The Merrill group of claims in Mary Ellen gulch, owned by a Salt Lake company, is being operated under a bond and lease by American Fork people. Among them may be mentioned H. B. Boley, John Cleghorn, and H. C. Johnson. At present the lessees are working a force of three shifts to determine whether a recently discovered vein of surface strike is worth the investment. No end of excitement has been caused and indeed when the lessees set on sale 100,000 shares of stock it was subscribed for in a very short time. It appears from the report of those who have visited the mine, that the company has struck one of the biggest surface showings ever seen in the canyon. The ore is in a ledge of lime about 20 feet thick, and altogether a rich body of values. One sample which represents an average of the whole vein assayed \$60 in lead, silver and copper. Picked samples ran as high as \$1,500 in value.

THE DUTCHMAN MINE.

The Dutchman mine on Milliey Hill, has been a small producer, but is probably the most extensively worked mine in the district. Its discovery is reported to have been wholly accidental; a ledge of the horse stumbled and exposed the ledge.

The property has been opened up by a main tunnel, 1,200 feet in length and much drifting and stopping has been done. The tunnel, however, being too low for the carbonates and too high for the sulphides has been abandoned, though just above it, lessees are following a promising string of good ore and have a good prospect. It is the intention of the company to sink a 30-foot shaft which, it is expected, will intersect a large vein of zinc. Work will begin in this direction the first part of the season.

The writer is informed by Dr. W. J. Holden of Cleveland, Ohio, who controls the property, that the mine is at present producing a high grade of carbonate ore, with assays of 60 per cent silver, and from 30 to 40 per cent of lead with some copper and gold. The mine constantly employs eight men, and in view of the fact that it is 2,500 feet lower than the Miller mine, in fact the most accessible of all the canyon properties—and has produced practically since June, 1907 a thousand tons of ore, worth in the aggregate, \$40,000, it is confidently expected that it will become a big producer.

THE BOG MINE.

The Bog Mine, so called from the boggy ground on which it is situated (a formation due to an excess of iron on the surface and a water seepage from the porphyry) is one of the most promising mines of the district. It is

located 3 1/2 miles up the canyon from American Fork and adjoining Mineral Flat, the Knight property, still further onward. "The Bog" consists of 13 claims, 10 of which have been patented; and in every respect it seems to be only a few unimportant investments. It is needless to say, therefore, that the condition of the district now is a great surprise.

The main tunnel has been driven for a distance of 300 feet, stringers having been followed along the entire distance. A ledge of 50 feet of ore, and a light five feet from the tunnel portal a cross cut as been run with good indications, in fact with better than any previous showings taken at the Bog mine. It is very encouraging to the owners, among whom should first be mentioned Dr. Holden and his son Harry.

THE WYOMING MINE.

The Wyoming mine of the Wyoming mine has been the sensation of the camp. The property is located directly on top of Miller Hill. For the past two years it has been a steady producer, the ore being a good carbonate averaging \$67 to the ton and containing iron in such amount as to make it desirable for use by the smelters.

The property is opened by four tunnels only one of which is now in use. In the main tunnel great quantities of carbonates have been encountered and extracted with all available speed. The discovery of the "Wyoming" was singular. The tunnel was driven, as was afterwards seen, just above the ore; in placing the timber, a miner struck a characteristic hard rib and struck his pick into the soft carbonates. Since that moment, the company has always been paying ore in sight, and as the property was under lease, record breaking speed was used in extracting the mineral. For over two years the average output was seven, 50-ton cars per day, and in some very fine days ore has already been shipped, a great future is predicted for the claim.

The Cumberland Mining company is operating on new ground, which it recently developed, in which it is expected some good ore bodies will be encountered. D. C. Hanks, who has spent many years in the American Fork district, is one of the most competent men in the mining camp.

The Miller Mining company is being operated under the direction of Amos Thornton, the president of the company. A tunnel is being run with the hope of tapping an ore-bearing fissure at a depth of 500 feet.

BURGESS MINE SOLD.

On Nov. 20, Thomas Homer of Salt Lake City purchased the Burgess Mining company's ground, which includes one of the most promising groups of claims in American Fork. The property is located on the east side of the creek in the Silver Lake district. A good vein carrying lead, copper and silver ore was recently opened by the Burgess company, and it will be further developed by the new owner. "The Deer Creek Mining & Milling Company" is the new name under which the mine will be operated. The whole project is backed by eastern capitalists, and though only four men are employed, a small amount of rich ore is being extracted which is netting the lessees a small fortune. Much fine ore was taken from this mine in the past, and it is confidently believed that the reviving will be still more surprising.

The Wasatch King Mining company is working three men under the direction of J. W. Arns, who has been in the district for many years.

THE HAZEL GROUP.

H. L. Christy has about half a dozen men employed on the Hazel group and great headway is being made in development work. The mine is very encouraging to the owners, most of whom are American Fork men.

The Lone Pine mine has an excellent showing of fine carbonate ore; but for some unaccountable reason is not being worked. It is owned by the Boley people of Salt Lake and though many attempts have been made to lease the property, the efforts have, so far, been in vain.

The Silver Flat Milling & Mining company, which owns the old Nebraska, is employing six men in the making of a tunnel with the hope of striking a vein of 500 feet. This mine will very likely be a copper producer.

THE SUNDAY MINE.

The Sunday mine, owned by Salt Lake people, is being operated under the direction of George Harkins. The mine is the richest ore in the canyon, containing fine specimens are on display in the Bank of American Fork window. The ore recalls the early history of this property, when gold was discovered so rich that it was transported from the canyon by an armed guard. The present company began working several months ago for the lost ore body; and success so far is more than satisfying. The owners have a good shipment of ore on the dump now awaiting the ore haulers, who are not very plentiful just now.

The ore now sacked was taken from what appears to be a permanent fissure vein. It has been followed nearly 200

feet from the present working of the Mineral Flat company. The compressor will be set in a suitable building below the dam, and air will be conveyed to the mine by a pipe line. Plans are being made to install machinery to furnish power and lights to the mine, but this feature will be added after the compressor is installed and the machinery is in operation. The flow from American Fork creek will assure the company of at least 100 horsepower at the new plant, and more at certain seasons.

The necessary machinery has already arrived and many local carpools have been employed in carrying it up the canyon. No power will be sold to adjoining properties as the Mineral Flat will have need of it all.

MAJOR EVANS.

Another prominent group of claims which has passed into the control of the Knight people is the Major Evans group, near the gulch. Much money was made here in the early days; and no doubt the claim is considered second to the Mineral Flat holding.

THE MILLER MINE.

About 30 men are employed by the lessees, Taylor and Brunton, in working the old Miller mine, which was recently given up by Tyng brothers on account of the excessive royalties exacted by the Miller company, which is controlled by the Aspenwalls of New York. While the Tyng brothers had it, the mine produced about \$1,000, and the supply seems to be far from exhausted.

THE TEXAN.

The Texan mine, also controlled by Tyng brothers, is considered one of the best equipped mines in the district, as the equipment used in operating the Miller lease, including a boarding house, is being transferred to the Texan, at which six men are employed.

The Mountain Dell mine is now employing 10 men under the direction of John Wooten; and some very fine ore has already been shipped, a great future is predicted for the claim.

Of course the greatest need of American Fork canyon at present is outside capital and new energy. Mention has been made of the fact that a new railroad up the canyon is contemplated, options on the wagonroad having already been obtained.

MORE CAPITAL NEEDED.

In this connection it may be well to mention one of the aggravating incidents of a visit to the canyon. The toll road, which is regarded as the blemish of antiquity in the midst of the modern west! It wouldn't be so annoying, it is claimed, if the road were in any sense a good one; but many a canyon in Utah has a road far superior and yet entirely free to the public. People regard the toll road as an injustice both to the visiting public and to the miners themselves. Tyng brothers and other men who have occasion to hire many teams, are paying the toll company under protest with the intention of filing suit. The Tyng property alone has contributed about \$2,000 to this farce.

UNFORTUNATELY THE SULPHIDE ZONE HAS

never been thoroughly explored in the canyon, and until this is done, the true merits of the district will be largely unknown, though enough is being done activity comparable only with that of Florida and Park City. Many people, as Dr. Holden says, believe that American Fork will eventually be the Park in mining importance, but of course, like most mining prophecies, it is conjecture.

THE SIGNED MINING CO.

The Signed mining property, owned by Salt Lake people, is not being worked actively at present, though it is the intention of the company to begin more active operations at once. The Osborne Consolidated is idle, though S. Osborne of Chicago, the owner, expects to commence activity at once.

The Camp Bird has discovered some good iron croppings which it is believed will terminate in some high grade carbonate ore. The mine is owned by the Jones people of Salt Lake. The only mine under active operation in the South fork of American Fork canyon. A small force of men is constantly employed.

THE SURPRISE LEASE.

The Surprise Lease which was (dile for some time) in receipt of a legal action, is again shipping ore much to the satisfaction of a large number of American Fork people who are heavily interested and who have known that paying ore is in sight.

THE COMSTOCK.

The Comstock, which lies close to the Lone Pine, is now working in some very fine mineral ground known as the Lone Pine vein. Five men, under the direction of Alma Reese, are constantly working under the direction of James Crystal, who hopes to tap a small vein of ore at a short depth.

The American Fork Consolidated is working a force of eight men under John Armstrong. It is a new company. The Clipper and Silver King is being worked under the direction of James Crystal, who hopes to tap a small vein of ore at a short depth.

THE FUTURE OF THE CAMP.

As a mining camp American Fork is considered the poor man's country, for land that can now be purchased for \$25 or \$30 will eventually, perhaps, be worth as many thousands! Dr. Holden says that there is twice the activity in the camp that there was last year; hundreds of men are employed in the mines; and nearly every available team in the neighborhood of American Fork finds ready employment.

Much credit for the present prosperity is due to the Tyng brothers and to "Uncle" Jesse Knight, the latter being regarded as a general benefactor. He has spent \$10,000 in the installing of his electric plant at Mineral Hill; and in many ways has given American Fork a share of the general fair dealings for which he is noted.

The future of the camp necessarily depends upon the nature and the extent of the development work done. At present the camp is making rapid strides, much as this might be denied by men who have given the field only a cursory visit. Everyone in American Fork is talking mines and two Salt Lake brokerage companies—Child, Cole & Co., and R. K. Cobb & Co.—have local branch offices installed within the last few months. George E. Hemphill has charge of the Cobb company's office and Randolph and Dunkley represent Child, Cole & Co. All of these are efficient men who understand local conditions perfectly and can give a service that connects instantaneously with the Salt Lake Mining exchange.

FIVE CHURCHES.

There are five churches in the city—four Latter-day Saint and one Presbyterian. All four of the Mormon churches are fine structures, which were dedicated in 1906. They cost each \$8,000.

FISHING AND HUNTING.

The people of American Fork are much favored when it comes to natural attractions. In Utah lake are cat fish, minnows, bass, chub and herring; in American Fork creek are trout; and in the mountains are quail, grouse and some bear.

Taking everything into consideration American Fork is one of the most progressive, as well as one of the most attractive cities in the whole west. He who desires to know more of its varied attractions and resources can receive the information he desires by writing any of the companies whose cards appear herewith or by writing to the president of the commercial club.

SECULATORS ON GROUND. Of course, as is true with most new mining districts, there are lounging about American Fork canyon, numerous "ground hogs" and "dead heads" such as up new ground with the sole purpose of holding it, without development, until increased prices and contiguous work warrants them in disposing of their claims. The amounting to about 900,000, which is considered only as mining parasites. Everyone who goes to American Fork canyon comes away agreeably surprised for the development in the last year has been rapid indeed. A great future is opening up for the district, and the fortunate city will reap the benefits of the investment of capital in its mines.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

Though of course at present mining occupies by far the most attention of American Fork's citizens, the sheep industry deserves creditable mention. There are more than 100,000 sheep near American Fork, the annual wool clip amounting to about 900,000, which nets the owners about \$160,000. About 200 lambs are shipped to eastern markets each year, which bring about \$5 per head, the price varying of course, according to market conditions. Thomas Chipman, Deek and Alvin Anderson, William Grant, John W. Chipman, Thomas Singleton, Boise Wells, and William Roberts are all prominent sheepmen, who own their own grazing grounds.

THE BOLEY BROTHERS.

The Boley brothers, Thomas B. Parker, Robert Procter, the Smith Brothers, Jesse Green, William E. Robinson, Washburn Chipman, Henry Chipman and William W. Hunter, among the many cattlemen of American Fork. In fact, Utah county is noted for its fine grade of cattle and sheep.

STATE EXPERIMENT FARM.

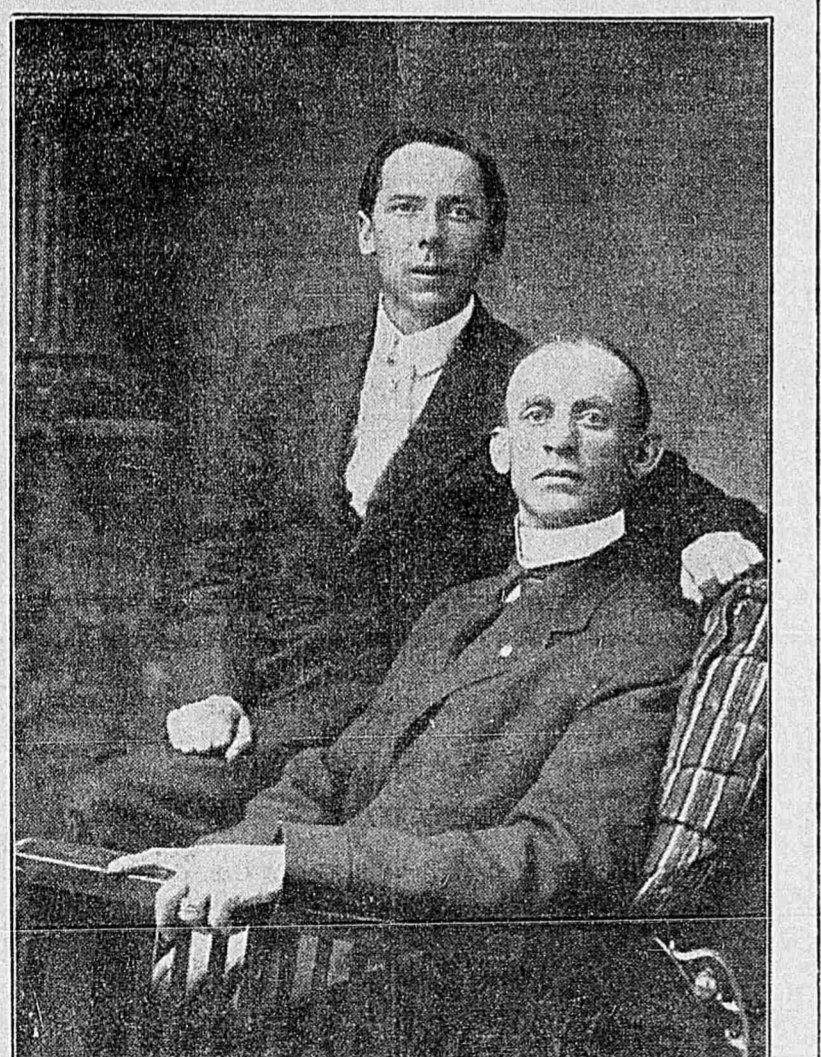
A state experiment farm consisting of 30 acres, has been established on American Fork. The farm is planted in fruit, melons, grain and other products are under investigation. Near American Fork, thousands of feet of timber is on sale by the forest service, and saw mills are running it out at \$22.50 per 1,000 feet.

Two transcontinental railroads go through American Fork and afford every opportunity for the city's further development. The city is already considered a fine residential town; and there is every chance for work, education and amusement.

A city hall has just been completed at a cost of \$10,000; and with the city jail, it is constructed on pretty modern plans with up-to-date conveniences. The jail alone cost \$3,000.

JAMES H. CLARK.

For bargains in American Fork REAL ESTATE write me at AMERICAN FORK, UTAH. Insurance, Abstracts, Notary.



J. L. DUNKLEY AND M. O. RANDOLPH BROKERAGE CO., AMERICAN FORK.

With the advent of increased mining activity in American Fork canyon, a new brokerage company has arisen in the city, consisting of two men who are specially adapted to give all information required by dealers in stocks. They are, in fact, experts.

M. O. Randolph and J. L. Dunkley are these men who conduct the branch office of Child, Cole & Company, Salt Lake's well known brokers. The Randolph-Dunkley company has elegantly furnished offices in the Progress Building, and are in constant communication by phone with the Salt Lake Mining exchange. Of course, they give

special attention to American Fork stocks; but can give instant service on any Salt Lake exchange stock. Mr. Dunkley, who has been in business in American Fork for seven years, is one of the promoters of the Pacific Gold Mining & Milling company, while Mr. Randolph was instrumental in promoting the Clipper and Silver King of American Fork canyon.

The company also has in sale some of the Carey act lands of Millard county, 30 miles south of the city. In every way the members of the Randolph-Dunkley Brokerage company are efficient and a successful future is undoubtedly in store for them.

MINING STOCKS

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