

sides the 4,500 feet of ground purchased by them, Curtis and party have bonded another claim of 3,000 feet. They have also secured large tracts of timber land and an abundance of water. Wood is abundant and can be had, delivered at the mine, for \$2 25 per cord. Lumber likewise delivered, can be had at from \$13 to \$15 per thousand. Labor is also cheap, and with a proper 50 stamp mill ore can be reduced at a cost of \$2 per ton.

About two miles from the claims of Curtis & Co. some Mexicans have been at work for about two years with arastras, and have taken out a large amount of money. They are on the same lead which is now creating so much stir. The big lead was discovered by one Carter, who had been engaged in prospecting for his brother in the neighborhood, at \$40 per month. He had met with but little luck, and one evening while going home from work resolved that he would quit. He stopped in a ravine and stood leaning upon a huge boulder, ruminating against his hard luck. The sun was setting, and as its rays fell upon the rock upon which he was leaning, he saw particles of gold glittering all over it. The next morning he went up to the top of the hill and found the huge rich croppings mentioned above. The reason that the lead was not sooner discovered was owing to the fact of the whole foot of the hill being quartzite—no one thought of there being anything else at the summit. A man said to Curtis: "I have been in this region fifteen years, and have walked about that hill a thousand times. When I think of it I feel like taking a pistol and blowing my brains out." Even though there should be nothing but what is to be found on the surface, the lead is one of the biggest finds of the age.

The Colorado Desert.

Where is it? Between parallels 32 and 34 degrees north latitude, and the meridians 114 and 116 degrees west. It is, in fact, the southwestern corner of California. Its western boundary is the Sierra; its northern and eastern margins are formed by a spur or branch range of the Sierras starting from near Mount San Bernardino, running easterly some forty miles, and thence bending southeasterly and southerly, and falling away into the lower and lower hills until it flattens out into barren plains near Fort Yuma. On the south it opens up through a gradual ascent upon the head of the Gulf of California. Its width varies from thirty to forty miles, and its average length is something over a hundred and twenty-five miles. What is it? Probably if not unquestionably, it is the old bed or bottom of the Gulf of California which once extended at least a hundred and fifty miles northwesterly beyond its present limits.

Its surface has a gradual ascent from the northerly end, to the present sandy shore of the gulf, its temporary limit. In a very able, ingenious and interesting article by Dr. J. P. Widney, of Los Angeles, published in the Overland Monthly for January of the present year, he thinks that the Colorado, entering the east side of the ancient gulf, nearly a hundred and fifty miles above its head, brought down millions of tons of quicksand and thick red mud, which gradually formed an immense shoal and, in time, a delta, which after many years, stretched quite across to the opposite shore of the gulf, which was narrow at that place. This, of course, cuts off the upper hundred and fifty miles of the gulf and changed it into a large, shallow lake. This lake, receiving neither rain-fall nor rivers sufficient to replace its loss by the evaporation of this extremely hot locality, finally dried completely away and left its sandy bed a desert basin.

This annual alluvial deposit has steadily increased the distance between the river bed and the southern margin of the old, lake bed desert, till it has formed a neck of land nearly forty miles wide, lying but slightly above the sea.

The taking away of such an immense body of water, presenting over five thousand square miles of surface, constantly subjected to an extremely rapid evaporation, must have made the climate much dryer and hotter, for one or two hundred miles east or west—that is, through southern California and western Arizona. That this is exactly what did take place, on one side at least,

western Arizona furnishes two conclusive proofs:

1. The ruins of cities once large and populous, and the remains of wide and deep canals for extensive systems of irrigation.

2. Remains of old forests evidently dead for want of moisture.

If any one questions the modifying influence of evaporation upon climate, let him consider the fact, given in the published proceedings of the Bombay Geographical Society, that the annual evaporation of the Bay of Bengal is more than sixteen feet! But this upper part of the old Gulf of California, flanked on both sides by high mountains, whose steeply-sloping sides daily reflected an amount of heat which greatly increased the evaporating power of the sun's direct rays, must have lost a proportionately greater amount. Assuming, however, for the sake of a safe argument, that its evaporation only equaled that of the Bay of Bengal, we should have an amount of vapor which, if condensed and precipitated, would supply twelve inches of rain over 86,400 square miles, an area more than double that of the entire State of Ohio, and more than half of the land surface of all California.

Submerge the desert again; make it once more the bottom of a vast lake, an inland sea, in fact, sending up thousands of tons of vapor every day, cooling the overlying and surrounding air for hundreds of miles, and thus causing the precipitation of a large part of the vapor now held in suspension by the ocean winds. This would restore not only the humidity but the mildness of those climatic conditions which once made fertile thousands of leagues now desert for more than a hundred years, but which under the restoration of former conditions, might and would bud and blossom again, as surely as cause produces effect.

The dampness of the atmosphere thus increased, and the lower temperature thus secured, would have yet another and most beneficial effect. They would retard and diminish the evaporation of the rains which do fall, and the greater rain which would fall, over the adjacent country. This would work three good results: 1. A milder climate. 2. A moister soil. 3. More springs and streams.

How could the present desert be flooded again? In either one of two ways:

1. By a canal from the present head of the gulf across the forty miles of sand which now separates the present head of the gulf from its old bed which is now the desert. This would be extremely difficult and costly, if not impracticable, not only on account of the great length and width required, but on account of the constant sand-drift which would continually tend to fill the canal again. Then, too, the action of the river and gulf waves would tend to obstruct the gulf end of the canal, and to increase the width of the sandy belt or isthmus across which it would be cut. This plan would restore the desert to its old condition of a salt water lake. It has been often suggested and strongly advocated.

2. Open a canal from the Colorado river into the desert, turn the river into the desert and thus make it a fresh water lake. During the flood season of the last twenty years the river has been doing this itself. This natural annual overflow already forms a stream a hundred yards wide and four feet deep, with a strong current, which pours so much water into the desert, as to make a lake several miles across, but so shallow that it dries up in a few weeks, after the subsidence of the floods in the main river cuts off its supply.

Comparatively little artificial help would turn the whole volume of the Colorado into this new channel, which would presently deepen so as to remain permanent.

3. Combine the two projects; open the canals from both the gulf and the river. This would insure an ample and speedy filling of the desert with a flood which the river supply would constantly tend to keep at a level a little above that of the gulf, thus creating a current through the canal to deepen and widen and make it more permanent all the while.

This can be done, and I believe it will be. For greater and more costly things have been done to reach results far less important and not near as certain.

It is the grand climatic problem, on whose solution depends the population and the civilization of

millions of the most fertile acres of western Arizona and Southern California.

Those who wish fuller statements of most of the ideas here hurriedly condensed, may find them in Dr. Widney's article already cited. And who do so will unite in the question with which he closes: "Would it be money wasted if the government were to send a commission of scientific men; of engineers, carefully to examine the subject, to run levels and report the result.—San Bernardino Guardian.

An Authentic Case of Mad-Stone Cure.

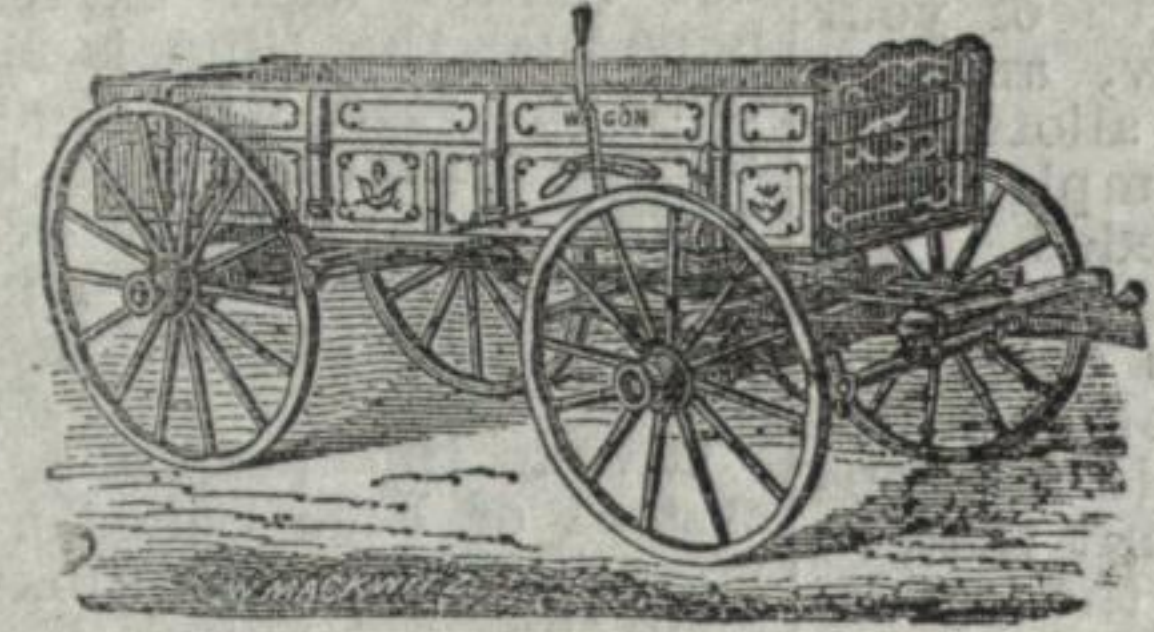
A correspondent writes to the Inter-Ocean from Oakland, Oregon, as follows:

"In a recent issue of your paper, which we gladly welcome in this far-away region, I saw an article headed, 'The Mad-Stone—A Veritable Case of Hydrophobia Cured.' It interested me, and for the benefit of those who are inclined to doubt the existence and efficacy of such stones, permit me to tell you of a case which came under my personal observation.

"Several years ago I lived in north-west Missouri, and at that time had a son, aged about six years, who was bitten by a rabid dog. The wound was an ugly one upon the arm, between the elbow and the shoulder. We were greatly frightened, as you may imagine, and were at a loss what antidotes to apply. We had heard of two mad-stones in the possession of a Mrs. Hardin, a lady living at Council Bluffs, Iowa. As a forlorn hope my husband started after these stones. He rode on horseback night and day, and returned from his mission with the mad-stones on the fifth day after the bite. We had but little confidence in such remedies. The wound had nearly healed, and we were directed to shave or scrape the surface about it slightly, so that the pus would ooze out, but not so that the blood would flow. We applied one of the stones, and, strange to relate, it would seem to fasten itself to the wound. For the first few days it would remain upon the wound, absorbing all the pus, or matter, which flowed out, for about twelve hours at a time, and would then detach itself and drop off. After a time it took longer for the pores to fill, and, consequently, the stone would stick for a correspondingly greater period. The last application was on the thirteenth day after the bite, and then the stone stuck for forty-eight hours, and would adhere no longer. After each application we washed and thoroughly cleansed the stone in warm water. Gradually as the stone seemed to draw the poison out with the pus, it made for itself a cavity in the arm, sinking deeper at each application. At last it had quite buried itself, and a putrid sore formed, which had a very offensive smell, but which finally healed. During the whole operation the patient was quite sick, and grew very pale and weak, his whole nervous system seeming to be shattered. He fully recovered at last, never afterward manifesting any signs of the malady resulting from the bite. But you may inquire how we know that the dog was mad. I myself saw it manifest all the symptoms of hydrophobia. It was seen to bite two hogs, and both of them became mad, one of them in two weeks and the other in three weeks. We let them rave for a few days and then shot them. The stone that we used was about an inch and a half long, half an inch in diameter, and of a light gray color. It was porous, resembling in many respects pieces of coal that I have seen. Where it was found I do not know, nor can I give its geological classification. Certain it is, it cured our boy, as my husband and many others can testify.

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APPLICATION FOR A PATENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that John

Lawrence, E. L. Pease and Geo. B. Grant, where Post Office address in Salt Lake City, U. T., have made application for a Patent for the South-west Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township One (1), North of Range Nine (9) East, Utah Territory, for valuable deposits, said location being recorded in vol. 1, page 4 and 5 of the State Mining District Records. There is no adjoining claim. The name of each of us is the "Wood & Atkinson" claim, early east and distant half a mile.

GEO. R. MAXWELL,

Register.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 1, 1873. W44 3m