

DENVER, "THE QUEEN CITY OF THE PLAINS."

DENVER, in all stories with a plenitude of adjectives and high colorings, is known as the "Queen City of the Plains." The title is just as appropriate as it is romantic and pretty. This metropolis of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is, like its proud relative, Salt Lake, on the western side of the same great range, a city of homes and fine climate. It has a population of quite one hundred and fifty thousand, an assessed valuation (1891) of \$114,000,000. The site of the city is neither level nor hilly, but it has a gentle undulating surface, while the distance from the mountains is sufficient to give, by the aid of an almost transparent atmosphere, a view of the mountains that finds few parallels even in the great west.

Denver is not only a great health resort, but it is business thorough and through. Its building is a monument to the persevering pioneers who founded it as well as to the men of money who

came afterward and made it their home. From an irregular and scattered village among sage brush and cañon, it has jumped to the fore by leaps and bounds until today it is a veritable hive of industry that might be profitably satiated after by any city in the land. It was in 1858 that the Pike's Peak gold excitement caused a stampede from the east to Colorado, and a camp was pitched at the junction of Cherry Creek and the Platte, which was named Auraria, the direct progenitor of Denver.

Writing of the Colorado capital, Richard Harding Davis says: "The city of Denver probably has more to keep the Eastern man who is mining or ranching from returning once a year to his own people, and from spending his earnings at home, than any other city in the West. It lays its charm upon him and stops him half-way, and he decides that the journey home is rather a waste of time."

er long and puts it off until the next year, and again until the next, until at last he buys a lot and builds a house, and only returns to the East on his wedding journey. Denver appeals to him more than do any of these other cities, for the reason that the many other Eastern men who have settled there are turning it into a thoroughly Eastern city. The two most striking things about the city to me were the public schools and the private houses. Great corporations, insurance companies and capitalists erect twelve-story buildings everywhere. In Denver there are not only the big buildings, but mile after mile of separate houses, and of the prettiest, strictest and proper architecture. It is a distinct pleasure to look at these houses, and quite impossible to decide upon the one in which you would rather live. They are not merged together in solid rows, but stand apart with a little green breathing space between, each in its turn asserting its own individuality. The greater part of these are built of the peculiarly handsome red stone which is found so plentiful in the Silver State. As for the public schools, they are more like art museums outside than school houses. Denver possesses those other things which make a city livable, but the public schools and the private houses were to me the most distinctive features."

While there are many business blocks and private residences in Denver which savor of days when the city did not wear the gay metropolitan garb that it has now donned, it nevertheless has many public buildings that would do credit to New York or Chicago. Its State capitol is one of the best in the land. The "Seeling Car" man tells you while you are being whirled over thirty miles of track through beautiful thoroughfares on an up-to-date street railroad line, that there are but three better in the United States. One is, he says, that matchless edifice at Albany, New York, which was twenty years in building, the other is at Austin, Texas, and the third in whatever State you happen to come from. The cost of this building was \$2,500,000.

The federal buildings comprise the United States postoffice and federal court house, located at the corner of Sixteenth and Arapahoe streets, and constructed of lava stone on the architectural lines usual to most federal buildings, at a cost of \$509,000, and the United States mint, which is rapidly approaching completion, in the immediate vicinity of the capitol, on South Thirteenth street and West Colfax avenue.

The Arapahoe county court house at Tremont and Sixteenth streets, is another striking edifice. It is built of Colorado sandstone and cost with grounds \$1,200,000. The city hall is at Fourteenth and Larimer, where a substantial structure of undressed limestone, built at the cost of about \$250,000, serves as municipal headquarters.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Mining Exchange are two other handsome buildings of a more or less public character, while the Union depot, at the foot of Seventeenth street, is a large and convenient building with ample accommodations for a city that is one of the greatest railroad points in the West, twelve railroads centering here and radiating to all points of the United States, thus giving her almost unsurpassed facilities for transcontinental traffic. Other handsome buildings are referred to on page eight of this paper, under the heading, "Some of the Spires and Domes of Denver."

If there is one thing more than another of which Denver is proud, it is her school system, which it must be admitted, is about as near perfect as

generous taxpayers and trained educators can make it. The public schools are divided into three districts and each is fully equipped with handsome, modern buildings.

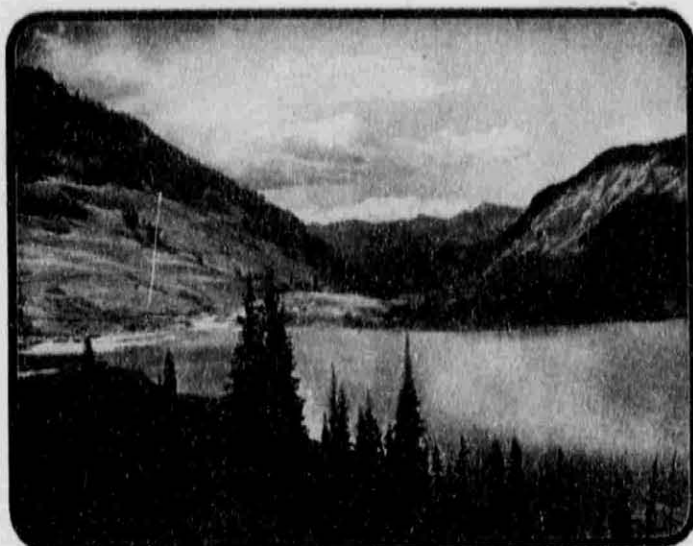
Denver has four national banks, and a number of savings and private banks and numerous loan associations; eleven parks, the largest containing 320 acres, four large theatres and a number of smaller ones together with innumerable places designed specially for pleasure. It has more than forty hotels, one hundred and forty-five miles of street railroad—in fact everything that makes a progressive city.

Denver boasts of her many evidences of public progression. Her claim is—and it is readily conceded by many well posted persons, that she stands second to no other in the United States

in this particular. In the two years just passed she has spent more than two million dollars in public improvements. Her sewerage system is large and capably conducted with a constantly growing mileage. There are twenty three miles of paved streets and alleys, which are kept in excellent state of repair. Very few cities, if any, outside of Washington, D. C., can vie with Denver in this regard.

As a commercial city Denver occupies a very strong position. Some idea of the productive power of the various manufacturing plants in Denver last year may be obtained by a cursory glance at these figures which show what Denver paid in wages last year: fifteen thousand two hundred and fifty men received \$9,750,000 while the value of the products is said to have been \$59,000,000.

OLDEST  
HOUSE  
IN  
SALT  
LAKE  
CITY.



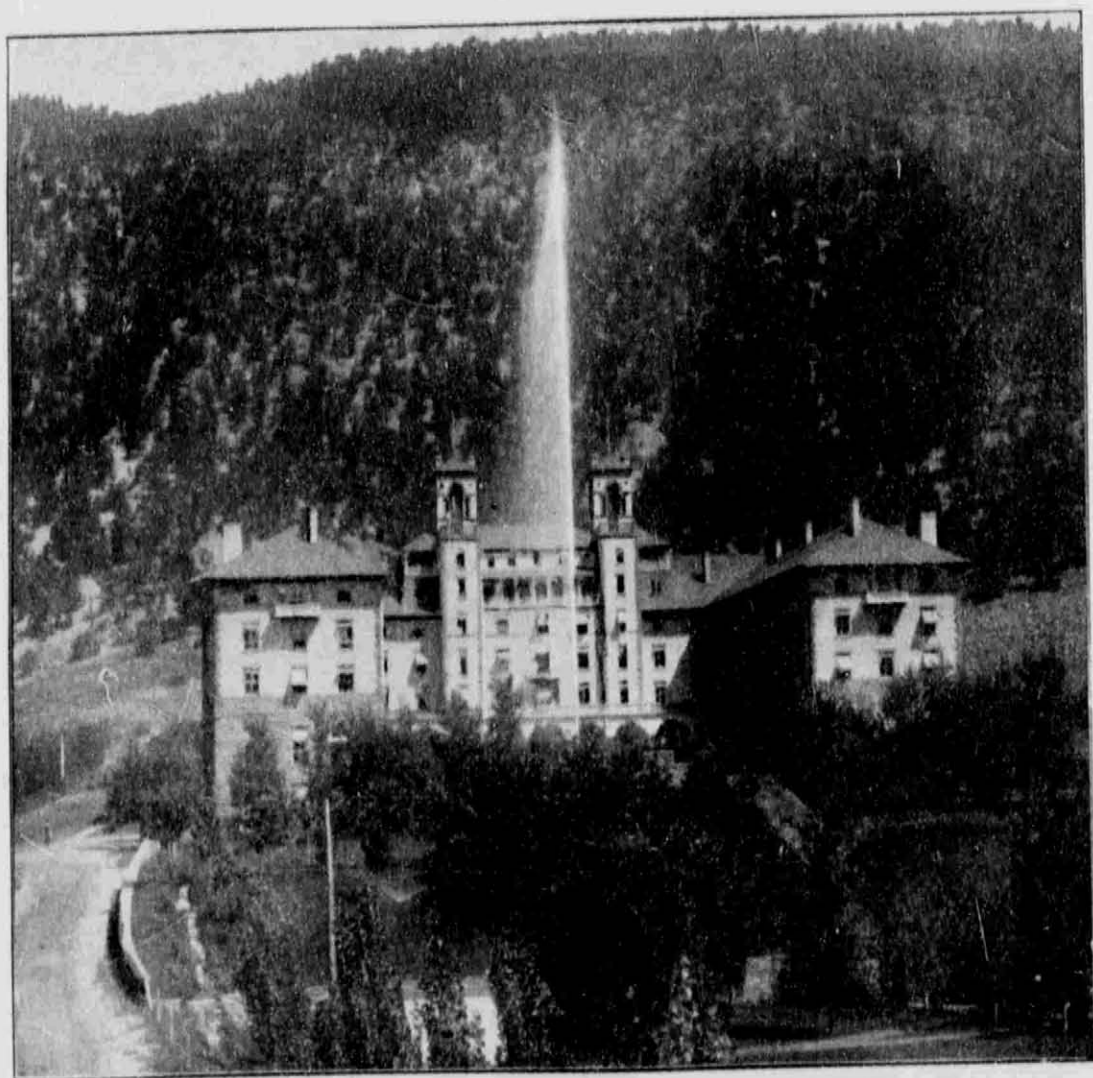
TROUT LAKE.

A Beautiful Body of Mountain Water on the Rio Grande Southern.



ON THE TOP OF PIKE'S PEAK.

The Cog Wheel railroad to the summit of Pike's Peak, which was completed and put in operation on July 1, 1891, is the most novel railway in the world. When it reaches its objective point above the clouds, at a height of 14,147 feet above sea-level, it renders almost insignificant, by comparison, the famous cogway up Mt. Washington and the incline railway up the Rhigi in Switzerland.



THE HOTEL COLORADO, LOCATED AT GLENWOOD SPRINGS.

"The Kissingen of America," E. A. Thayer, Proprietor, open from April 1 to November 1.

THE ABOVE is a striking half-tone cut of the HOTEL COLORADO, at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, which has grown famous as a health and pleasure resort. It is situated in the very heart of the Rocky Mountains. The location is one of the most romantic spots in America, and lies upon two important lines of railway, the Denver & Rio Grande and the Colorado Midland. Both are transcontinental routes, and the tourist in search of pleasure, no less than the health seeker, will here find a most inviting resting place. The famous springs, the bathing facilities afforded by the great swimming pool, the luxurious bath establishment, and the unique cave-baths, far surpass anything of the kind in America or the O & D World. The elevation, (5,200 feet), the purity of the atmosphere, the springs and their adjuncts, and the picturesque surroundings of the valley river and mountain, serve to make this spot an ideal resort, and it has only needed a large and elegant hotel, such as the HOTEL COLORADO, to complete the matchless group of attractions.



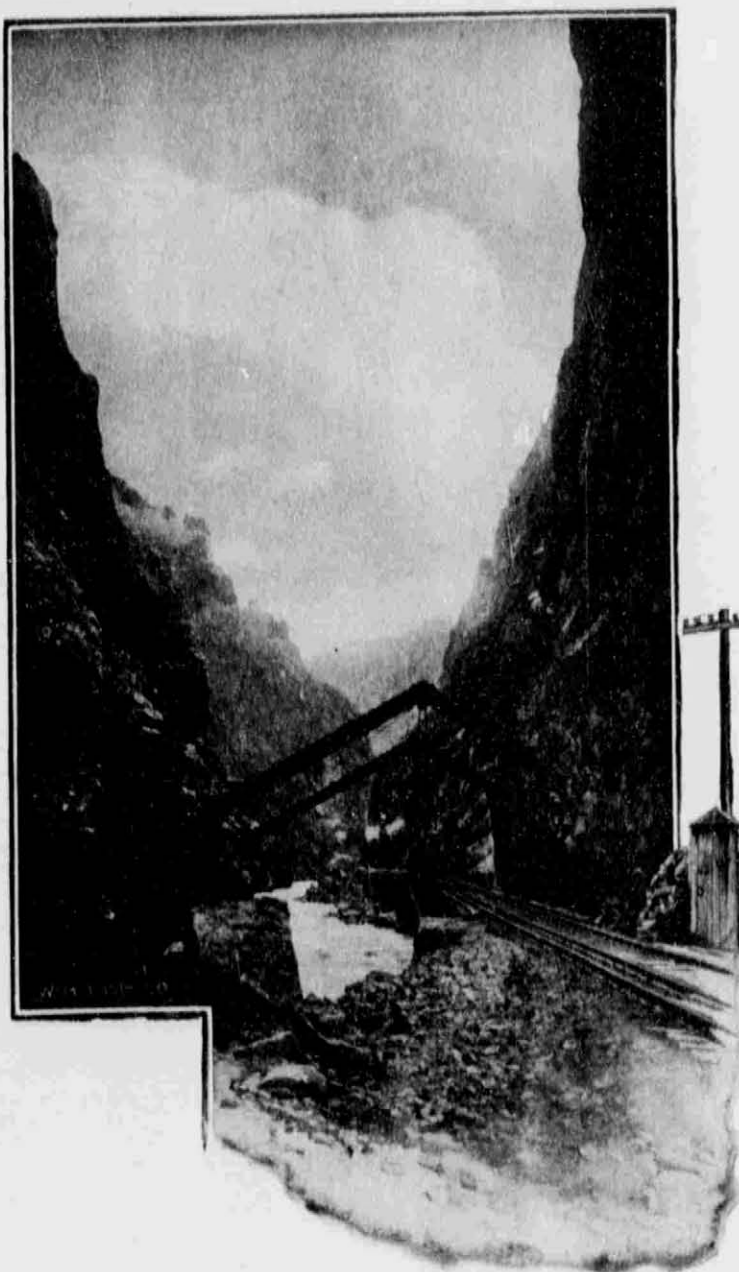
BEAUTIFUL SALT AIR.

THE Saltair Beach Pavilion, built on the waters of the Great Salt Lake, nearly one mile from the shore, is one of the most magnificent structures of the kind in the world. Its foundation consists of over 1,200 ten-inch piles driven into the bottom of the lake, which, at this point, is from 2 to 5 feet in depth. The fact that this immense structure was erected by Salt Lake Capital at a cost of over \$320,000 is sufficient evidence to prove that the citizens of this community are exceptionally enterprising and progressive.

Saltair Pavilion covers an area of 1,215 by 355 feet and the top of the main tower is 130 feet above the surface of the water. The style of architecture is Moorish and the dome-shaped roof is almost a counterpart of the roof of the famous Salt Lake Tabernacle. The upper floor is conceded to be the largest enclosed dancing area, without the support of columns or pillars, in the world, and it is very easy for a thousand couples to glide over its smooth surface at the same time without being crowded.

Extending from the two sides of the main building, out in the lake, are the bath houses of which there are 720, each being fully equipped with a warm shower bath and a complete toilet. From the passageway between the long rows of bath rooms there are several flights of stairs leading down into the lake, and when the bather is once in the water and lying on his back, floating on the surface of the brine, without any effort whatever, it is a sensation that must be realized to be appreciated.

During the summer season Saltair Beach is the most popular resort in the west and every day thousands of people from almost every part of the world may be seen floating on the crest of the waves of the Great Salt Lake enjoying a bath the like of which is not to be had at any other bathing resort on this continent. In addition to the bathing there are numerous special attractions provided for the amusement and entertainment of the visitors and patrons of this great resort. A visit to Salt Lake City without spending at least an afternoon at Saltair is incomplete. Trains, during the bathing season, run hourly via the Salt Lake and Los Angeles railway.



THE ROYAL GORGE.

Just beyond Canyon City the Denver & Rio Grande railroad enters the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas, the narrowest portion of which is known as the Royal Gorge. When first examined it seemed impossible that a railroad could ever be constructed through this stupendous canyon. There was scarcely room for the river alone and granite ledges blocked the path with their mighty bulk. In time, however, these obstructions were blasted away, a roadbed, closely following the contour of the cliffs, was made, and today the canyon is a well-used thoroughfare. But its grandeur still remains. After the entrance to the canyon has been made, surprise and almost terror comes. The train rolls round a long curve close under a wall of black and banded granite, beside which the ponderous locomotive shrinks to a mere dot, as if swinging on some pivot in the heart of the mountain, or captured by a centripetal force that would never resign its grasp. Almost a whole circle is accomplished, and the grand amphitheatrical sweep of the wall shows no break in its zenith-cutting facade.



BALANCE ROCK, GARDEN OF THE GODS.



TWO  
COLORADO  
YOUNGSTERS