

burden is light; not only so, but it becomes easier and the man becomes more at home and comfortable in the service of the Lord.

Let me recommend to you, my brethren and sisters, and myself, that we all undertake from this time forth to be better Latter-day Saints than we have been, to work righteousness more faithfully, and to more thoroughly take upon us the yoke of Christ, that we may be indeed the servants of the Lord and followers of the Lord Jesus, knowing Him and being worthy of His favor and blessing, so that we may have greater strength and power with Him, that when we ask we may receive, when we knock it shall be opened unto us, and whatever we desire in our hearts may be obtained from the Father, for our desires will be reasonable and such as He will delight to bestow upon us. May God bless us in this conference, inspiring our hearts, giving us that enduring faith that we shall never weary in His service, but be true and faithful to Him and to each other, earning the blessing of eternal life, that we may rest securely in His presence in eternity. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

COLORADO'S MINING KING.

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HAVE HAD an interview here with the mining king of the United States. His name is David H. Moffat. He is said to be worth twenty millions of dollars. He has

made fortunes out of gold and silver mining, and he has today some of the most valuable properties of the west. He sold a gold mine last month to parties in France which netted himself and his partners a cool million in cash. His silver mines at Leadville have miles of underground tunnels, and he is the largest owner of stock in the big cyanide mill at Florence, which turns out for him every month a gold brick worth \$40,000. He is developing valuable mines today in different parts of Colorado, and among his great works at Cripple Creek is an immense tunnel, which he is forcing through a mountain, in which vast quantities of gold are supposed to be. Mr. Moffat was for years president of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad. He built the Denver Pacific from Cheyenne to Denver. He now practically owns the Florence and Cripple Creek road, which does an enormous business, and he is also the president of one of the biggest banks of the west. This is the First National Bank of Denver, which has a capital of only \$500,000, but whose deposits amount to more than \$8,000,000. It is now thirty years since Mr. Moffat entered the bank as cashier, and now today, I venture, he considers himself more of a banker than a miner. He began his business career in a bank. He was fifteen years old at the time, and started life as a messenger boy in the New York Exchange Bank of New York. A year later he went to Iowa to act as a bank clerk in Des

Moines, and at twenty he was cashier of the Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha. This was just about the time of the Pike's Peak gold fever, and Dave Moffat got a wagon and a mule and came out here to find his fortune. Denver was then too small for bankers, and Moffat started a book and stationery store, selling, as an old miner told me the other day, an envelope, a sheet of paper and a stamp for a nickel. A few years later the First National Bank was founded, and Moffat was made its cashier. He soon became president, and it is through him that the business of the bank has so increased that it now amounts to more than nine millions a year.

It was at the bank that I met Mr. Moffat. He watches over the interests of the institution very carefully, and you may find him in the president's office any day between 9 and 5. I passed through a crowd of business men, who were engaged at the windows of the bank proper, and asked a policeman in uniform standing by the teller's desk where I might find Mr. Moffat. He pointed to a sort of a cubby hole at the back of the building, and told me to go right in. There was no red tape, no messenger nor watch dog about the office of this millionaire. I knocked at the door, entered and presented a letter of introduction which I had from Senator Teller to a tall, well-formed man of about fifty years of age, who sat at the desk within. He looked more like a New York club man than a western mine owner, and I could hardly associate his clear, rosy complexion, his bright eye and unwrinkled face with that of the hardest workers and shrewdest capitalists of the west. It was, however, David H. Moffat. He asked me to be seated, and chatted with me for an hour about gold and silver and the wonderful mining development which is going on throughout the west.

Dave Moffat knows perhaps as much about mines as any man in the west. He is a miner, not in the sense of being a prospector or of going out into the mines and working them. He is a mine owner rather than a mine digger. He has the shrewdest of experts connected with him. His prospectors are always on the march, and he relies upon their judgment as to his properties. With all the millions that he has in works below ground, he seldom goes into a mine. He buys mines and develops them on the judgment of his experts, and his credit is such among the capitalists of the world that he can command any amount of money at any time for almost any enterprise which he wishes to undertake.

During our chat I asked some questions as to the new mines of Colorado. He replied:

"We have never had so many miners at work here as we have today. More mines are now being developed than ever before, and the prospect is that there will be a steady increase in our gold output. In 1889 we produced less than \$4,000,000 worth of gold. Last year our output was more than \$18,000,000, and I believe that we will run the figures up to at least \$25,000,000 this year. This gold comes from all over Colorado. There are gold mines in twenty different counties, and we are by no means dependent upon any one region, such as Cripple Creek, for our output."

"How about the Cripple Creek gold? Will it last?"

"I don't like to predict as to the future of any gold-mining region," replied Mr. Moffat. "One is apt to give either too high or too low an estimate, but the indications are that there are enormous quantities of gold about Cripple Creek. The properties in which I am interested and with which I am familiar show that the camp has a great future. The fact that the Cripple Creek mines produced something like \$8,000,000 worth of gold last year is a strong argument as to their richness. Many prospects are being opened which promise well and profitable mining will be done in that camp for years to come."

"There has been a great change in mining in recent years, has there not?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Moffat. "I came out here in 1860, when the motto of every one was 'Pike's Peak or bust.' Denver was then a gold camp, and a greater part of the mining done was placer mining. Gold was first discovered near Pike's Peak, and every one was crazy for gold. Silver was not much thought of. That came later. Now we are having another great gold era. This era, however, is not one of placer mining. It is almost entirely a smelting and a milling proposition. It comes to some extent through the fall of silver, but more from the new methods of the reduction of ores. Until lately it hardly paid to mine gold that was worth less than \$16 a ton. Now we could reduce gold that runs \$6 a ton and still pay a slight profit to the miner. The result is that vast quantities of gold-bearing rock which were formerly considered valueless are now being reworked. There are hundreds of dumps in different parts of Colorado containing values which will some day be extracted and which will add vastly to our wealth. Abandoned mines are now being reopened and prospecting is carried on on a new basis.

"What will be the effect of these new processes upon the gold supply of the world, Mr. Moffat?"

"They will increase it immensely," replied the mining millionaire. "They are already increasing it and there is no telling how much gold we will eventually have. Why, Colorado is just at the beginning of its mineral development. Only the smallest part of the state has been carefully prospected and the few spots where the rich veins have been uncovered only go to prove that the mineral wealth of the state is scattered over its entire surface. I believe that the time will come when all of our mountainous countries will contribute to the output of gold and silver. And then the African and Australian mines will still turn out great quantities of gold. All over this Rocky mountain region there are good gold prospects, and the new processes will surely make a revolution in mining. I don't know what will be the outcome. I have thought a good deal about it. It may equalize the value of gold and silver."

"I understand that the most of you people out here are for the free coinage of silver?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Moffat, "we think here that it is best for the people of the United States to adopt the silver standard. We do not believe that it is possible for this great nation to do business on the gold standard alone, and in my judgment ninety percent of the vote of the state of Colorado will go for the silver ticket. This is so, notwithstanding