

Sierra County Advocate.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1885.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

J. E. CURREN, Proprietor.

JACOB MITCHELL, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

News is current on the streets that the Sierra Grande mining company at Lake Valley have thought it wise and expedient to discharge a large number of their operatives. This was an unexpected blow to the miners and business men of Lake Valley. It leaves a great number of men out of employment who know not where to go, or what to do. Miners claim that the mines were producing large quantities of good ore, and that the share-holders were receiving their regular large dividends. That there is some loggerhead business at the bottom of this affair, is believed by both public and private individuals. It is well known that the railroad and Sierra Grande mining company have been at a misunderstanding almost from the very day the road was completed, in the matter of extortionate freight rates. Several steps, which have almost terminated in the suspension of the mines on this ground have taken place, but by the road yielding lightly to the just demands of the mining men, further trouble at the time was averted. But it seems that forbearance can be no longer entertained, and the mine owners are going to fight it to the knife, so to speak, if needs be. But this war of rates does not give those idle men employment at present, and leaves the business outlook for Lake Valley anything but encouraging.

Many blame the owners and managers of the mines, and say they have their properties listed on the New York stock board, and this matter of suspension and resumption of work was done to manipulate quotations, and either "bull" or "bear" stocks as would result to their own benefit. It is also believed by many that the discharge of these men is only temporary, and within a few days will resume their former places. It is a matter of extreme complication to us and we, with others, can advance conjectures only, and await the grand finale.

The preliminary steps are being taken to build a smelter in Hillsboro. Mining capitalists have just learned that our fine wagon road enters from all the mines in the surrounding country is the most feasible point in New Mexico for the investment of capital in mining machinery. In the absence of railroads we have the most practical in-let for the hauling of ore in the great southwest. These points the Chicago and Denver men have jotted down in their memorandum books, and are going to make the most of it. There is much wealth in store for the enterprise.

The miners who depend upon the work in the mines of the Sierra Grande, at Lake Valley, complain very bitterly against the stock jobbing process which is being worked upon them by the "bulls and bears" of the New York exchange. The number of men given work and the output of ore, depends entirely upon the desire of these stock gamblers. If they are bearing the market, work slackens up and is so reported; if bulling it, an extra force is put on, and the miners show up plenty of pay dirt, and up goes the quotations. This is morally wrong, and will yet cause trouble.—Albuquerque Journal.

Chicago had a \$160,000 fire last Tuesday morning.

New York City is yet smoking from a \$1,300,000 fire.

St. Louis is to have a scull race for the championship of the world.

Beverly Hailey, a negro boy, killed his father one day this week for whipping his mother. This occurred in Jackson, Tenn.

KINGSTON.

Interesting Items From the Mining Center of Sierra.

Our camp has been rather quiet the past week. Rain and bad roads have kept travel and freighting bound up. The miners have been all to work in the hills and the bummers and loafers who like the sunshine, have kept in doors.

There does not seem to be freight wagons enough to keep things moving. Hay and feed are scarce and merchants complain that they cannot get their goods in.

One of Gregg's teamsters remarked the other evening that they were eight days making the round trip from here to Lake Valley. Rain, the cause.

The latter part of the week has given us beautiful sunshine and dried up the road.

Gregg's teams now load both ways. They haul ore down from the mines here to be shipped east, and bring ore from Lake Valley for the smelter here.

The Ingersoll, on the north Percha, in which the Wise Bros., of Las Vegas, have an interest, have struck another fine body of sulphites. Mr. Wise ought to have a great many friends among the north Percha boys, as he has done more probably, for the development of that section, than any other one man.

The Caledonia boys are now doing development work preparatory to taking out some more rich ore. Hartman Allen and Womer, who each have an interest in the mine, are working it, and have a lease, or had, from A. Barnaby, the other partner, who is in with Judge Burns, in the saloon business.

Marsdorf and West, owners of the J. S. Phelps, are to work on their claim, on the east side of Kentuck mountain. Although this is on the wrong side, as some think, yet they claim to have a fine view of good ore.

It is scarcely necessary to go over the list of mines that are continually shipping ore. Nearly all of these are increasing their output of ore. Some largely. The wet weather has been against those who do not have ore sheds.

The smelter boys say they are going to "turn in" next week. The smelter will start for a long run, &c. It is to be hoped so, and may they not stop until the memory of men runneth not to their beginning.

And as the tail end of the kite, the concentrator people are talking of starting up. Success to them. The camp needs nothing worse than good reduction works to reduce the low grade ores, of which the camp is full.

The hand grenade racket took in the town Wednesday evening. "Pike" Rogers acted as fireman in putting out the fire left by the hand grenade man.

The Hon. A. J. Gaston, member of the California legislature, and late Speaker of the Nevada legislature, is here for his health, and to pay expenses, he has been doing the town as agent for a book of his own writing, called the Ready Lawyer, or similar title. Your correspondent escaped him, which was fortunate, as I heard a gentleman remark that he was a "holy terror," which was intended to be complimentary.

A new bakery and lunch room is being opened up by some parties who have been through all the camps from Colorado to Arizona, and pronounce this the best of all. The bakers have good judgment so far.

The March winds have passed us by this year, peace to their ashes, or rest rather.

The Canadian war is still furious.

A peaceful solution of the Russian-Afghan question—what ever that is—is promising.

A woman aged 82 years was burned to death at Chambersburg, Ohio, Tuesday last.

At Hazelton, Ky., Fred Margroff committed suicide last Wednesday. No work.

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This is positively the only route running through cars to St. Louis. By this line there is only one change of cars between the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts, which is at St. Louis. Passengers from St. Louis and all eastern cities should buy their tickets

Via HALSTEAD, KANSAS.

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