

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1893. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

World's Biggest Mining Camp.

Butte City, the Wealthiest and Wickedest Town in the Union.

A City of 20,000 With a Pay Roll of \$20,000,000 a Year—Her and Gambling Among the Mountains—Die Montana Mines and What They Do—Elaborate Mining Versus Cheap Mining—Millionaire Broadwater's Big Bath Tub—Stories of Senator Sanders and Tim Carter—A Look at Great Falls, the Pittsburg of the Rockies.

Special Correspondence of the NEWS.

BUTTE CITY, April 27, 1893.—Butte city is the greatest mining camp in the world and there is no city like it in the universe. Montana has given more than \$200,000,000 worth of precious metal to humankind, and in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000 a year are shipped away from this state. It has more minerals perhaps than any other state in the Union, and this city of Butte makes about \$20,000,000 annually out of mining. It is one of the queerest cities I have ever visited. If you could sail up into the air a mile above the sea level you would be within 500 feet of the altitudes at which these people live the year round. The town is located right up in the mountains, and on all sides great peaks rise upward and the sides of the hills are lined with vast smelting furnaces, which pour out day and night a sulphurous smoke. A large part of the production here is copper, and the copper ore has to be roasted in order to get the sulphur out of it in its reduction. The result is that the air is filled with brimstone, and though the city is as close to heaven as any other in the Union it has more of the surroundings of hell. These sulphurous fumes are so great that they destroy the vegetation. The grass never grows here. The flowers never blossom and the trees have long since shed their leaves for good. Until a few years ago no one supposed that Butte would be a permanent city, and the people built houses only with the idea of leaving them when the mines were played out. Of late, however, it has become evident that this will always be a great mining center. The Anaconda mines, the largest copper veins of the world, have enough ore in sight to last for ninety years, and the other copper and silver mines here seem inexhaustible. The result is that Butte city is now founded on a substantial basis. It has a population of about 20,000 people, and it has substantial business blocks which pay a better interest on their investment than the average of business property anywhere in the United States. Rents are high in

Butte and business buildings bring in from fifteen to twenty-five and forty per cent on the investment. There is probably no large city in the United States that does so large a business in proportion to its population as Butte and there it is. The smelters turn out about \$20,000,000 worth of ore in a year, and they and night, work day and Sunday, streets are jammed with people. The majority of them are miners, but you see many well-dressed men and fine-looking women. Butte has a very cultured society, as well as a decidedly wicked one, and there are churches and Sunday schools, literary societies and Charitable circles, as well as gambling halls, dance halls and all of the vicious accompaniments of vice.

THE VICIOUS ELEMENT OF THE CITY. You see the vicious element first, for this is the more prominent. The main streets of the city have gambling halls sandwiched between banks and stores, and gambling is licensed by law. I asked a leading citizen whether he did not hope to get rid of this soon. He replied that the first step would be to make a law that there should be no gambling on the first floor, and after that they hoped to get rid of the gamblers entirely. This will however, be a long time hence. Miners take naturally to gambling, and the big wages lead their way to the gambling tables. Other forms of vice are just as open, and there are streets of little one-story houses occupied by women of questionable reputation, each of whom has her first name painted on the door and who usually leans out of the ground floor window soliciting customers. These women are of all races and colors, Chinese, Japanese, African and American, and they are the lowest of the low. Some of the saloons make you think of the bowery of New York and others would not be out of place in Five Points.

SOMETHING ABOUT MONTANA MINES. These places of vice are, however, decreasing every year, and Montana will eventually come down to a solid basis. The mines are rapidly going into the hands of the capitalists. Flaming mining could be done by any one and the millions that were taken out of the

state in the latter part of the sixties and in the seventies were largely restored out of places diggings. Right here at Butte city about \$20,000,000 were taken out in this way before they began to work the quartz and one claim which sold for \$200,000 netted the purchaser \$20,000. Another claim near this produced \$1,000 a day for a long time, and one man found a nugget which was worth \$1,500. At this time water was very scarce in some of the claims and fortunes were made in selling water. I talked with an old miner yesterday who said that he had in a day for a mine because it cost him \$200 a day to water to work it, and though it eventually proved out well he could not afford to wait. Another man told me that he used to get eight dollars a day for working in the mine at this time and that he thought he was doing well until he found he had to pay a dollar a piece for eggs and flour for a sack of flour. The mining of today is done by Chinamen, and you find these people, and their families, in little cottages and every one of these Rocky Mountain towns has its Chinese quarters. There are about a thousand in Helena and a great number in Butte city. While I was in Great Falls one attempted to enter the town and was put out by a mob.

THE BIGGEST SWINDLER IN THE WORLD. This Broadwater Hotel has the biggest swimming bath in the world, and one of the leading politicians of Helena calls it "Broadwater's folly." It is said to have cost about \$200,000 and is built over some hot springs, which are about four miles from Helena. Every room has hot mineral water in it and the bath tubs are of solid porcelain and cost \$250 apiece. It has a swimming pool which covers three-quarters of an acre and it takes a half acre of cathedral glass to roof it. It is surrounded by a conservatory of trees and this big acre bath tub contains from two to eight feet of hot water.

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