

December 31, 1881

1. Mr. Stafford and Mr. Hartenstein are proprietors of the Cottonwood Hot Springs Hotel, 5 miles west of Buena Vista.
2. The Buck Brothers, who were arrested for the murder of Mr. Pippin have been admitted to bail in \$2000.00. They were taken to South Arkansas Monday to secure bondsmen.
3. Monarch District, A Sketch of the Towns Along the South Arkansas. The Carbonate Region of Chaffee County Reviewed, The Mines of North, Middle and Lake Forks and Taylor Gulch. What Some of the Rich Companies of the District are Doing. The Columbus Mine and Mill.

The Monarch District comprises the territory embraced between the high divide separating Chalk, Quartz and Tomitchi creeks on the South Arkansas and its several branches on the north to the Cochetopa range on the south, a distance of perhaps 15 miles, and from the summit of the continental divide on the west to Poncha creek on the east, a distance of 18 miles. Within these boundaries are more than a dozen different gulches in which the famous mines of the district are located. The south branch of the Arkansas river starting at Salida again branches into the North, Middle and Lake forks, each of which contains many valuable properties. Greens and Taylors Gulches are also well staked and some fine prospects discovered. These five gulches besides the main branch of the South Arkansas comprise the principal mineral wealth of the district. Individual claims have been located in several other gulches within the area above named but not of sufficient importance to form camps as in the instances cited. Each of the five gulches named have other gulches branching off from them, in nearly all of which the restless prospector has located claims, all of which show mineral and some very promising indications.

Maysville, which contains probably 600 inhabitants, four hotels, a good livery stable and stage line owned by Vernon & McPherson, five or six general stores, the same number of saloons, two good drug stores, two smelters and two newspapers, the Miner and Democrat, though the latter's lease of life is uncertain. It is admirably located for a winter town, the valley at that point widening so as to permit generous quantities of sunshine, thus keeping it comparatively free from snow. The Maysville Smelter has a capacity of 20 tons a day and is owned by the Union Mining, Milling and Smelting Co., H. Webb, President, G. W. Day, Vice President and Superintendent, R. Billings, Secretary, and J. D. Groesbeck, Treasurer. Owing to difficulty in procuring a supply of ores, the mill has been shut down most of the time since it was built. The total output of bullion probably not exceeding 30 to 40 tons. The other smelter made a trial run in 1880, shipped one car of bullion and has been closed down during the past season for some unexplained reason. Flacer gold is found within a mile of town on the North Fork of the river and individual pannings have been obtained, it is claimed, that would yield 25¢ to the pan. The ground has been staked but no systematic or extensive operations have been instituted. Maysville also boasts of a fine marble quarry, which, it is claimed, produces a quality of marble equal to the best Vermont rock, and as it can be produced at a much less expense than the article imported from the east, it is easy to see that if the ledge is as good and extensive as claimed, the shipping of marble should become one of the important industries of the town. J. S. Painter, the proprietor of the Miner, is one of the lucky owners of this quarry and is to be congratulated. Maysville can certainly feel proud of her hotels, for if the rest of them are half so good as the Williams' House, the average is better than 49 mountain towns out of 50. Mrs. Williams superintends the culinary department herself and everything is gotten up in a neat appetizing style. Mr. Williams, the landlord, seems to have a genius for the business and besides making his guests feel entirely at home, is very moderate in prices, since he buys everything at wholesale and gets bedrock prices.

About 12 miles above Maysville and northwest of the town are the North Fork Mines concerning which comparatively little has been written, notwithstanding there are probably as fine prospects for big camp there as at any point in Chaffee County. About eight miles up on the North branch of the North Fork, the Cambro Mining Co., under the management of P. H. Leyshon, is developing a valuable bunch of claims, the best known of which is the _____ tunnel. The depth of snow will probably prevent any shipments this winter but we understand there is good shipping ore on the dump.

The best known and probably the property having the largest prospective value is that owned by the North Fork Consolidated Mining and Tunnel Company. The group owned by this company comprises eleven claims, the principal ones of which are the U. S. Treasury and Pride of the West. A tunnel to cross cut most of the veins belonging to the company has been started which is intended to run through to the Chalk Creek side, a distance of 3000 feet. The improvements on this property are the most substantial and extensive of any in southwestern Colorado, if not east of the Pacific slope. A stone engine house and blacksmith shop, the former 25x50 and the latter, 30x28, cover the mouth of the tunnel under one roof, leaving a passageway about 11 feet wide for running out the rock from the tunnel. Five large cabins, two stories high and 200 feet long are under one roof, comprise the boarding house, office and quarters for the men. A large reading room has been fitted up with a long table on which are all the local papers and leading periodicals. The room is warm and comfortable, affording the miners opportunity for rational recreation. The plant in the engine room consists of a 125 horsepower engine and air compressor with a capacity for running 6 Ingersoll drills. The tunnel is 7x8 feet and for a distance of 22 ft. in, the mouth is arched with solid masonry, a handsome piece of work showing skill and judgment in construction. It is without exception the finest piece of work on any mine in Colorado so far as an experience and observation extending over ten years enables me to judge. The work is under the immediate supervision of John K. Cunning (name not too clear. Check. DN), an old Comstock foreman who also has charge of the miners reading room. The whole work however, is under the direction of W. L. Billin, who, though comparatively young, has proved himself capable of running a mine in the most approved manner. The tunnel is now in 500 feet and is progressing with two Ingersoll air drills at an average rate of four feet daily. The first vein in the line of the tunnel that has been discovered on top will be cut in about ten days, but blind lodes are likely to be encountered at any time and as they will be cut at considerable depth are very likely to be richer than any yet opened on the surface. The principal claims on the line of the tunnel on which the most work has been done are the U. S. Treasury and the Pride of the West, both of which have been opened sufficiently to demonstrate the presence of a large body of mineral, chiefly galena, copper and iron, ranging in value from 20 to 30 ounces in silver and 25 to 60% lead to the ton. In the Pride of the West a 15 inch streak of solid galena is exposed while the vein is 6 feet wide. The Treasury also shows a strong vein of the same character of ore. Going to the crest of the divide separating the North Fork from Chalk Creek, Pomeroy and Grizzly gulches, one cannot fail to note the complete network of mineral veins cropping in almost numberless profusion to the surface. Large pieces of galena almost solid were picked up in the bold outcropping veins in many instances several feet above the surface, almost invariably show the presence of mineral throughout the quartz. With such a body of mineral in sight on the surface it is not difficult to conjecture what amount will be exposed by the men in the tunnel now piercing the base of the mountain. The mountains at the head of the North Fork debouch forming a basin about a half a mile wide and about three times as long in which are two or three lakes fed by numerous springs forming the source of the stream in which by the time it reaches the south branch becomes a goodly sized creek. Around the sides of the basin are a large number of shafts and tunnels showing the persevering work of the miner and prospector.

The Defiance Mining Company of which Colonel Henry Altman is the enterprising manager owns a group of 24 claims nearly all of which are worked by three cross but tunnels called respectively, the Whale, Victoria and Arkansas. The Whale is in 40 feet, the Arkansas 50 and the Victoria 150 feet and work is being prosecuted under the immediate supervision of J. F. Tyler, the experienced foreman. The lodes to be cut all show the characteristic mineral of the section and the veins are unusually strong and well defined. Other properties, Valley, owned by Wood, Williams and Co., and is opened by two shafts showing a 14 inch crevice, galena and iron assaying \$55.00 to the ton, the Last Chance, assessment only, showing fine mineral assays ranging from 25 to 50 ounces. Challenger, a 12 foot vein also makes a good showing of mineral of the same character of the Last Chance, both claims owned by Vickers and Hills. There are a large number of other good prospects in North Fork on which assessment only have been worked, the owners of which are unable to develop them.

Five miles above Mayesville on the main branch of the South Arkansas is the town of Arborville, at which point there is quite a collection of houses and from 100 to 200 inhabitants. A smelter has also been built here which owing to various vicissitudes in the management and the usual blight which seems to attack so many smelting enterprises in this country has never run a pound of ore. We are informed however, that the mill is a good one and all difficulties having been adjusted, it will be started up in the spring. As there is an abundant supply of ore, there seems to be no good reason why it should not be a success. Dr. Bryan, the genial and popular postmaster, runs a general store besides attending to the Post Office and acting as Superintendent of several mining companies, all of which shows the Doctor's a rustler. Mr. J. C. Smith, one of the jolliest of the Smith family, runs the hotel of the place and we should think from appearances made a success of it. Among the companies represented by Dr. Bryan is the Big Four, which owns the Bonanza, DuBois, Susanna, Banty and Mountain Lion claims located at the head of Middle Fork near the Chalk Creek divide.

Bonanza, 75 ft tunnel showing a vein 4 ft with about 2 ft of spy mineral consisting of a flesh colored quartz, galena and carbonates, assays of which range from 30 to 100 ounces. The company's working 5 men and will continue operations all winter. The remaining claims only have assessment done. At the head of Chalk Creek, Dr. Bryan and R. Durham own a fine looking claim called the Mattie on which a company is being organized called the Chalk Pass Mining Company. A shaft 25 ft shows a 2 ft vein of fine galena and sulphurets assaying from 40 to 60 ounces.

Passing up the South Arkansas about a mile above Arborville, the three branches of the stream converge at a place called Garfield or Junction. The Middle Fork, Lake Fork and Taylor's gulch all contain excellent prospects and some good mines. Beginning with Middle Fork mines we can only give a sketch of some of the most promising prospects. Lost Wonder, owned by Isherwood, Jeskie and Co. Buildings are now being erected to enable men to work all winter. The ore is galena, sulphurets and grey copper and silver, average assays of five samples from which ran over 500 ounces. A very fine property. The Gunshot No. 1 and 2 adjoin the last named owned by St. Louis parties and are shut down for the winter. Very much ore has been taken from these mines and they have an excellent reputation as valuable properties. Carbonate, owned by Bryan, Stevens and Hills, shaft 20 ft showing fine galena and sulphurets, 2 ft vein assays 40 to 50 ounces. The Missouri Boy, Vickers, Anderson and Co., owners. Shaft 20 ft, 18 inch pay, galena assays 10 to 40 ounces. Fine showing. Michigan group, comprises Michigan, Big Chief, General Rob Roy and Lexington lodes, owned by Moore and Le Fevre. Assessment work only being done on all these claims except the Michigan which is an open cut and tunneled 50 ft, exposing a vein about 2 ft wide carrying copper and galena, assays which run as high as \$200 and 30% copper. Song Bird, tunnel 160 ft, average pay streak 12 inches-lime formation. The character of ore is carbonates, and a shipment of 30 tons gave a return of 40 (can't read) ounces-owned by Mason and Smith of

New York, A. W. Cree, local manager. The Brooklyn, shaft 20 ft and drift 10 ft, showing 20 inches of ore, assays 50 ounces, 3 ft of ore running 200 ounces galena and sulphurets, owned by Hope, Williams and Co.

In same locality all opened by shafts from 20 to 40 ft deep showing good veins of mineral: L. J. Spray of Arbourville, Superintendent, the Star of the West, on the east slope of Mt. Etna, 2 shafts 20 and 30 ft deep, vein 4 ft wide, assays from which give 50 ounces, owned by Finla McClure and others of Elgin, Illinois. The Leeds Mountain Gold and Silver Mining Company of Topeka, Kansas, Gov. St. John, President, Dr. Bibbons of Wrayville, Manager. This company owns the Worden's cave tunnel in Middle Fork and the Minnehaha and R. E. Lee in Green's gulch. On the former claim a tunnel 75 ft has been run, the work still progressing. At the latter claim a cross cut tunnel 270 ft has been run cutting two lodes carrying high grade ore, about 3 ft containing grey copper and native silver. Arrangements are making for shipping the ore as soon as the Rio Grande Railroad puts in a switch which has been promised.

Taylor Gulch leads up from Garfield and contains many valuable mines. Collins, Tock and Ayers own two promising lodes, Eagle Bird, 2 shafts, 25 and 45 ft and two openings on top tracing the vein, average value of ore 45 ounces, but individual assays range as high as 1500 ounces. The Rainbow, same vein as the Eagle Bird, opened by a shaft 75 ft showing 2 ft of galena and chlorides, average mill runs 41 ounces, assays as high as 1100 ounces. The North Star, a good looking prospect, not much development, owned by Collins and Brasher Bros. The Brown, same showing, assessment only; the Desdemona, shaft and incline, 140 ft, showing from 6 inches to 2 ft of galena and carbonates, ranging from 60 to 85 ounces. A wagon road is now building to the property owned by H. C. Richardson. The Denver & Rainbow Mining Co. own a valuable group of prospects at the head of Taylor Gulch which deserves a more extended mention than we are able at this time to give. The group comprises the Denver and Rainbow mines, the development on the first named consists of a shaft 68 ft and a tunnel 344 ft on the Denver vein, showing a 15 inch vein assaying 78 ounces in silver. A drift has been run from this tunnel at a distance of 156 ft, exposing 26 inches of mineral, galena and carbonate, assays from which give a return of 70 ounces in silver and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in gold. Assays from the mineral in the Rainbow shaft range from 225 to 1420 ounces. E. R. Emerson, Superintendent. The Zephr Mining Company own a group of three mines called the Zephr, Ben Hill and Bonnie Bell, on which work will be pushed all winter. The Zephr shaft 78 ft shows 6 ft crevice carrying galena and iron pyrites. Not worked at present, will start up soon. The Ben Hill, shaft 155 ft, drift 14 ft from bottom of shaft, tunnel 20 ft, pay streak 10 inches, same character of ore. Average assays are 60 ounces of silver and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of gold and 55% lead, about 30 tons of ore on the dump. The Bonnie Bell tunnel, 25 ft, shaft, 46 ft, pay streak 18 inches, some 30 tons of ore on the dump. There are altogether probably 200 tons of ore on the dumps and in the drifts of the different claims belonging to this company, which will be shipped so soon as the weather makes it practicable to finish the road to the mines. The steady and systematic work that has been done on this property under the careful supervision of Mr. E. R. Emerson promises to place it on an excellent paying basis by the opening of the present season. There has been little said concerning the property for Mr. Emerson is exceedingly averse to newspaper reports. The Mountain Chief, this is one of the best known claims in the district, and at one time shipped some very rich ore, the shaft has been sunk 200 ft with levels north and south at the 25, 65 and 100 ft levels. In the latter mill, runs were obtained of over 500 ounces. Some stoping has been done and good ore is present in the south drift. The bottom of the shaft also shows indications of mineral. Like all lime formations, however, the mineral is pockety, about 150 tons of ore have been shipped altogether. Owners, Rounds and Chase.

The Legal Tender, tunnel 50 ft showing 6 inches of mineral, assaying from 50 to 800 ounces, owned by Matt Dolphin. The North Missouri, shaft 100 ft, making a fine showing of pay ore, the average value of which is nearly 100 ounces, owned by Rouse, Brown and Yelton. The Gulch mine, owned by Babcock and Company is located about 3 miles above Garfield in what was formerly known as Babcock's camp. A tunnel 60 ft has been run and a shaft sunk 30 ft showing a 12 inch vein, runs from which of 600 ounces have been obtained.

The Mason shaft, 100 ft and drift of 80 ft, assays ranging as high as \$500 in gold and \$100 in silver. Owned by French and Company. Other good prospects: Number 1 East and Number 1 West of the Columbus Mine, the Ready Cash, east of Columbus Alps (?) and crossing about 200 ft south of Columbus, Lost Treasure, due west of Columbus all thorough claims, located in 1880. The assessments all worked, galena and good iron, owned by C. W. and J. T. Buck. The assays from Number 1 East and Number 1 West run higher than the first assays reported from the celebrated Columbus mine. Another group of claims owned by Buck Brothers called the C. W. Buck, Banner, Chester, Alley, Monster King of the Rockies, Widhita, Ida Brown, Fourth of July, Bullion, known as the galena group were all located in 1880. They are situated on the west slope of Mt. Etna and about 5 miles from Garfield. The croppings are galena, the assessments all done and a 50 ft tunnel on the Bullion- assays have been taken from the group assaying 37 to 60 ounces.

Lake Fork,--the Continental Divide Company is running a prospect tunnel at the head of the lake fork of the South Arkansas, a cross cut which will tap three veins, mostly galena and iron. The heading is now in 200 ft and a force of men will work all winter. It is intended to drive the tunnel 600 ft before drifting. The property is owned by Canon City parties. While there are a large number of prospects in this gulch, there has not been as much work done as in other localities. Among those that have made a payable showing in the past season are the Boss, Grey, Eagle, Peter Worden, General Grant, Missouri, Jennie, Alfrey, Phil Sheridan, Abe Lincoln, Little Maid, George Lawrence, Black Diamond, Black Doby and others.

South or Main Fork. Up the main branch of the South Arkansas are located some of the earliest discoveries in the District and the mine for which the district was named. The principal claims belong to a Boston company which has been playing the well known mining game of "freeze out" causing some valuable property to be idle and undeveloped for the past year.

Creed's creek or South Fork of South Arkansas river. Monarch mine on Limestone mountain, discovered in 1878, changed hands several times and is now owned by a Boston company. A large amount of work is done on the incline shaft, (few words missing), drift of 35 ft, a headway or raise at an angle of about 45 degrees runs 105 ft tunnel in 86 ft cross cut from tunnel to cut shaft. There is a chamber blown out 10 ft square in the clear from which they sank a winze 150 feet. Considerable ore has been shipped, some running up in the thousands. The company have everything necessary for running a mine successfully. Business office, assay office, boarding houses for the men, stables, blacksmith shop, etc. This is one of the mines that was jumped or relocated the past summer and the matter will probably be settled in the court at the January term. The Little Charm is an adjoining claim, considerable work done, tunnel 45 ft, two drifts, 55 ft and 12 ft shaft just commenced showing a good body of galena and chlorides. This also is in litigation. The Smith and Gray on the same mountain, south of the Monarch, is owned by the Madonna Mining Company. They have a very large body of ore on the dump and in sight. The workings consist of two shafts, one 80 ft and the other 47 ft which with drifts and inclines making a total of several hundred feet under ground work. The Eclipse, close to the Smith and Gray is being steadily worked by a company with Mr. Abbott at the helm. They are now developing the mine in order to work it at a profit. The good mineral is in sight being a sufficient stimulus. The future of the Monarch District is full of promise provided the

properties are worked for production and not merely to do the annual assessment. One great need of this district, in fact of the county at large is good roads to the mines. We believe the commissioners should spend \$20,000 to no better advantage than in the building of good roads, thus enabling the miners to put all their work in development of mines instead of on external improvements.