

MAYSVILLE.

The Fourth at the Metropolis of Monarch District.
An Interesting Budget of mining News.

Fourth of July has come and departed, leaving behind it in Maysville a memory that can never be destroyed by time. When it is said that the celebration here was enthusiastic and at the same time circumspect the exemplary conduct of the participants is scarcely done justice, for it is safe to say that a like occasion never before witnessed as motley a gathering on a national holiday in a mining camp that affiliated so pleasantly and acted with such decorum, from the firing of the earliest morning gun until the latest demonstration at night.

No details in the general preparations being made for the past two weeks were neglected, and consequent upon the extensive billing of the county, the sun was scarcely peeping from the orient ere people came flocking in from all quarters and all manner of conveyance. On foot, horseback, with buckboards and the various kind of skeleton rigs, they came, until before the opening of the ceremonies there was in the neighborhood of three hundred people added to the local throng. Between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon the populace repaired in a body to the picnic grounds prepared for the occasion, and formally instituted the day's routine with the urbane Colonel Henry Altman, who presided in the absence of Colonel A. C.. Babcock--as mentor and figure-head. Mr. C. B. Rounds, offered up an extemporaneous prayer with marked animation, and was followed by instrumental music. Ex-Governor Wm. A. Cwyer, of Nebraska, next read the declaration of independence, to which the juvenile masses listened with care; and it is hoped, duly digested. An excellent oration was then delivered by J. S.. Painter, and Captain R. M. Painter closed this portion of the celebration with an eulogy and eloquent dissertation upon "our country".. The crowd then dispersed and the stand occupied by the speakers was utilized for dancing purposes, and during the balance of the day was well patronized. Approaching dinner hour, most of the people congregated on the main street when the light pleasures incumbent on the day were indulged in, until all had eaten, when the afternoon programme was consulted and inaugurated.

A three hundred yard running race for a purse of \$20 was the first sport in order, and in response to the announcement, seven wild broncis of the cattle lands were led to the street, which was the scene of all the races and evening sports. Considerable excitement was evoked by the several horses being proudly paraded to and fro; although but little disposition to name or bet on the supposed running animal was evinced. It was some time before the horses made a start, the people in the meanwhile growing more and more interested, and lining either side of the street in compact masses. To those not accustomed to such a scene the numberless phases of human character present imbued the proceedings with a condescript pleasure. The merchant in shirt sleeves; the citizen in ordinary attire; the capitalist in primest street wear; the valley visitor in circus welcome array; the prospector in California overalls, blue shirt, antiquated ball-room coat, degenerated hat, iron-mailed shoes and Rocky mountain socks; the exuberant youth with a first presidential vote in prospective bedecked in full summer dress; the juvenile mind clothed in national respect and admiration before discarding the nursery habiliments, were all present and living like the happy family in the menagerie--disputing and almost quarrelling over their favorite one moment, and settling into an amalgamation of pleasure the next. The gentler sex ornamented the upper stories of the houses, and the balcony of the Hughes hotel was crowded to its upmost capacity with "fair women and brave men", an elysian field that the aspiring youth fed upon from afar. The presence of so many ladies added a decided coloring to the entertainment by the zest and healthy ambition it infused into the contest for prizes. It was and will be ever thus.

When the arrangements for starting were nearly complete, an attenuated sorrel pony was led to the front and mounted by a hatless, coatless and shoeless rider. This advent was treated with distrust by those who had been making favorites before, and although the horse was the personification of poverty in flesh, and decrepit in appearance, there were many of the more experienced predicted that he would win the race. Some of the riders manifested a desire to jockey for the start, in anticipation of wearing the newcomers out, but it did not have the intended effect, for when the little fellow caught an even go, he had not left the line a rod before he was well in the lead. Hats went off heads, and handkerchiefs high into the air, as the people shouted for their respective favorites. On they came through the main street, the unknown long in the lead and the balance on a dead pull for second position at the outcome. It was all over in a few moments, however, and amid excited applause Mr. Hughes, the master of ceremonies, announced that the sorrel horse was the winner.

In a few minutes thereafter, the contestants for a one hundred yards foot race were toeing the mark, and with bated breath awaiting the call of "three", which sent them off. After a couple of false starts they got underway, eight in number, the "dark horse" with his proverbial strength taking the lead and prize of \$10.

This race was so short and uninteresting, many were dissatisfied, and Colonel Altmmn being among the number, announced that he would give five Dollars to the fastest runner for five hundred yards. Being impromptu and so decidedly appropriate, the offer elicited much enthusiasm; and it required but little time to fill the road with contestants. With an even start, they passed through town in a cloud of dust, the two best matched taking the lead, and the balance bringing up the rear like the tail of a kite, while the Colonel watched the competition under pressure of compound delight and animation, that was almost agonizing to witness. He survived though, as did the runners.

The slow burro or jackass race was then called for. There are few who have ever witnessed this feature of the western holiday sports, and much anticipation was evolved by the gathering when the announcement was made. The principle of the race consists in finding the slowest burro, or the one that makes a fixed distance the last under a steady appliance of the lash. Not a very humane means of obtaining a unique pleasure it is conceded, but one that is practiced notwithstanding. These necessary adjuncts of a mining community are not much injured in the operation, however, for the lashing work is done by small boys mounted bareback, who at times have to apply their every thought and energy in making their seats secure. Slowly the shaggy coated and diminutive brayers filed into the street from out an alley-way, their ears inclined forward in amusing suppliance and general demeanor bespeaking temerity, the features of which are indescribable. The riders applied their weapons of torture persistently until the starting point was reached, the obesan subjects never demurring in action. But when the start was given the burros did not submit to the violent treatment with their accustomed grace, and had covered but a short distance before a couple of the ambitious riders were sprawling on the ground and the others were clinging to their backer with might and main, while the little animals, now aroused to partial madness, struck out in all directions but the correct one, in eagerness to escape the pleased and laughing throng. After several unsuccessful attempts at a proper trial, the race went off under flying colors, and ended in the most intense satisfaction to all concerned, except mayhap to the burros, who made a bee line for the foot hills, after being turned loose. Sack races, a potato race, wheelbarrow race, and foot races between the little folk followed in quick succession, and the outdoor sports were terminated with the climbing of a greased pole at the late hour of eight o'clock. Strange to say there was not an arrest made during the day, notwithstanding that the men, as a rule, paid every tribute to their bibulous appetite. On the whole, such an exciting and at the same time, quiet celebration has been rarely known to take place under similar circumstances.

After disposing of the greased pole exhibition the people wended their way homeward with the exception of a few who stayed to attend the closing and greatest event of the day -- a sheet and pillow-case ball in the dining room of the Hughes hotel. Mrs. Hughes, who was the soul of the occasion, had been indefatigable in her exertions to make the affair a success, going to the extreme of making the masks and necessary paraphernalia for the attendants, and was meted out her rewards in the overwhelming audience, and the perfect pleasure that everybody present enjoyed. At times there were nearly fifty couples on the floor. After unmasking, all adjourned to an elegant repast spread by the house, and subsequently returned to the precinct of the alluring muse, where mirth and merriment reigned supreme until daylight peeped in upon the scene and repose claimed its victims. Thus ended the day that will ever remain a pleasant one in the memory of those who participated in its local commemoration, and-- as the facetious Colonel Babcock says-- be the means of making many more stalwart republicans.

Speaking of republicans brings to mind the puerile attempt that a Denver News representative made, through the columns of that estimable journal, to detract from the political prowess of Colonels Babcock and Altman, who have for so long figured as giants in their respective sections. The writer in question accompanied Mr. Montgomery to the democratic ratification meeting held here a few days since, and while the esteemed visitor was ventilating a pointless and circumlocutory denunciation of republicans and the party in general-- prefaced with an eulogy on General Garfield and an abject acknowledgment of his strength as a statesman-- he writhed in agony and torture of mind at the coolness of the forced reception accorded himself and colleague, and the utter want of excitement on the part of those in attendance, who, when call was made for ratification of the Cincinnati convention's labor and results, displayed an almost total absence of desire to respond. In his correspondence he asserts that nothing but party fealty and a wholesome wish to stand by the organization prevents them from bolting the Garfield nomination outright. A very interesting item of news and one that might be prolific of much gratification to a few indigenious soreheads if the vein of juvenile conception pervading it could be expressed or the slightest flavor of substantiation imparted to it. In dealing thus with the names of gentlemen so well established in their party, he has taken a liberty that few would assume. It is well known, even in the fireside circles of political gossip, that Colonel Babcock on the Monday preceding the Chicago nomination, offered bets freely at good odds that Garfield was the coming man, and supplemented his palpable enthusiasm with the declaration in belief that he was the best and strongest man who could be placed at the head of the republican ticket. And certainly this openhanded action does not bespeak a want of loyalty on his part. On the other hand Colonel Altman has been long identified as a republican of purest principle in state politics, and since the nomination, has been enthusiastic to a degree that inspires all who come in contact with him. And instead of harbouring even a thought of what is openly intimated as his inclination, he is doing good work in the general service which will be substantially recognized before the idas of November have been passed over. However, the incitation of the attack is patent to all, and can be summed up as the delirium riff-raff of one who came, saw and was unable to conquer. The mantle of charity can be appropriately applied here with the hope that the next will not be a ratification meeting, where "hurrahs" have to be especially solicited by the speakers.

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Hymen has at last claimed his disciple, and a first "Benedict" has been enrolled in the local ranks. Mr. James W. Newby, whom the gossiping dame has for long been very attentive to, has established the precedent so anxiously awaited--by getting married. The bride, Miss Emma Henig, is a niece of Mr. Nathrop, of Chalk creek, at whose house the ceremony took place on last Thursday. Although the affair was for long anticipated, it passed off in an almost irreverent manner-- as regarded the homage of society-- and the happy couple, with bashful eagerness, sought to seclude themselves and their happiness from the congratulations of their many friends. Without avail, though, for the second day after their arrival here, it leaked out, and they were made the object of a very pleasant serenade. Next!

The Mt. Shavano smelter made an attempt to make a trial run last week, but owing to some deficiency in the arrangement of the water jacket, it was frustrated. Ore has been slowly accumulating in the bins, until now there is nearly fifty tons ready for treatment. And as a consequence, not only the smelting company, but the public in general are anxious to have the smelter in operation. This primary difficulty, which is one among many that besets the starting of smelting works, will be soon obviated, and in at least ten days the second firing of the furnace will have been accomplished.

The season of development is now well under way and records of new and rich strikes are of daily occurrence. In the vicinity of the surrounding camps good bodies of ore are being opened up, and in less than two months there will be many new names added to the list of shipping mines. From the section of country bounding the western line of the district, comes repeated rumors of fabulous finds, in some instances it being claimed that a contact belt has been discovered, the extent of which is supposed to be immense, and is as yet undetermined. Be this as it may, there is no question, but what carbonate ores have been brought to town frequently of late that yield the most flattering returns; a fact that has created quite a ripple of excitement among the transient population. As near as this new mineral section can be defined, its northern confine is in the vicinity of Marshall pass from which place it extends south to the head of Saguache creek, and is several miles in width. By consulting the map, it will be readily observed that with those boundaries the new district comprises several square miles, in all of which it is claimed the country rock is porphyry and lime. How true this is time along will show. Kirber creek is the principle objective point of the excitement, and is easily accessible by the Poncha pass and Saguache roads. For the past few weeks there has been considerable talk of the district, but all the reports from it were construed as inflammatory, until last Saturday George Kline, William Finnegan and P. Cuddigan, all well-known and reliable prospectors returned, laden with ores and brilliant prospects, coupled with the assertion that a second Leadville will be the ultimate result. In assaying the mineral, nearly all of which is from near the surface, returns were received of from fifty to two hundred and forty ounces silver and a fair percentage of lead to the ton. The result can be imagined. In a short time thereafter the stampede was inaugurated and all manner of means were brought into requisition, by which people could convey the necessary concomitant of a prospecting tour to the new found Mecca, and now the report comes back that there are at least three hundred men scouring the district. Results can be looked for within the coming month, that will either have the effect of densely populating the new district before fall, or proving it another of man's wily schemes.

In the vicinity of Cleora and South Arkansas many excellent properties have been recently discovered, of a nature that portends immense riches and general good for the entire valley section. Within one-half mile of Cleora a wonderful bed of fire-clay has been traced and staked for an area of eight hundred acres. Its component parts are defined as follows under analysis: Silicate of alumina, 74.48; oxide of iron, 3.04; carbonate of lime, 6.78; and water, 14.05. As will be seen, the quality is good, it being but ten per cent less in silicate (which is the most essential mineral in the composition) than the Swansea clay. Messrs. Bradshaw, Hawkins, Ryan and Hallock own the entire tract, and are about to put in the works required to utilize the clay for proper use. But a short distance from South Arkansas innumerable fissure veins carrying copper and silver, and vast horizontal beds of hematite of iron, are being opened up, the latter mineral being excellently adapted for fluxing uses.

On the North Fork, the season promises to be prolific of marvelous results, the prospectors in that section being sanguine of the ultimate importance of their camp. Clifton, the embryotic metropolis of the district, is distant from here about ten miles, and only approachable by a trail. Of the district and its future Mr. M.V.B. McAleer, the secretary and treasurer of the miners' union there, has the following to say:

"Clifton is situated in what is known as the North Fork basin, and about 11,000 feet above sea level, and surrounded by lofty mountains, whose mineral streaked sides observable from afar, plainly indicate the character of the formation. Timber of a quality suitable for either building or mining purposes, abounds in quantities that will suffice to supply the demands of the camp for many years to come. After traveling through the various camps of the district, I located here last May, when there was but two log cabins in existence. Since that time, however, there have been built and are in course of construction, over thirty substantial buildings. And this in the face of the fact that we have had no road communication with the outside world. A discouraging state of affairs though, will be soon obviated as Colonel Henry Altman is building a road that will be completed at an early day. The present population as shown in the census returns is one hundred and ten people, most of whom are busily developing mining property in the vicinity. But a few days since, arrangements were made with a milling company for the erection of a large smelter; which will be accomplished just so soon as the road is finished. Even under primitive development, the majority of the prospects are showing amazing quantities of mineral of an excellent smelting quality, and if proper facilities were afforded, the camp could be now shipping seventy-five to one hundred tons of ore a day. First among the mine owners here is Colonel Altman-- a man whose mining experience has been extensive and varied, and whose judgment of mining property is considered among the shrewdest in the county or state. His interests include forty claims, many of which are partially developed and have good bodies of ore exposed. Nearly all of these are posted and stocked by a London company, and ere the summer has passed the most of them will be under development. Ranking next as mine owners and operators comes the firm of Rice, McAleer and Rice, which possesses twenty and has control of a vast number more. Many of these are being worked. Their most important properties are four veins on Altman mountain carrying galena ore, six in Muskador gulch, showing plenty of good ore, and the Belle of Baltimore, which according to a late assay, runs exceedingly high in both gold and silver. Some of the mineral from this claim has been sent to the mint at Philadelphia, so that a correct estimate of its value can be obtained. F. R. Skipwith & Co. have many good claims, the most highly prized of which is the Hunkidori. A thirty-foot shaft on this property has opened up an immense body of good grade ore, and in that amount of work, several tons of mineral have been extracted, that are being prepared for shipment. Several assays of the ore have given returns of over one thousand ounces of silver to the ton. The Robert E. Lee, also owned by them, is an extension of the Hunkidori, and very valuable. But their Iron mine, in the same neighborhood, is by far the most

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valuable property that they own, being an immense vein of hematite iron that yields some silver. The Clifton Mining company -- a local institution comprised of J. P. Poage, A. N. Laws, J. P. Israel and W. J. Poage-- has several good properties. A. L. Buford also has many good prospects. Mr. Levy Show, representing a Delaware syndicate, has recently purchased a number of mines, and in addition to instituting work upon them immediately, contemplates bringing a smelter to the camp. The Messrs Masset and Lindsay Bros. are prosecuting developments on Altman mountain and sinking several deep shafts. The Hon. George Nichols and Wade Robinson claim to have recently discovered a galena vein that carries sixteen inches of galena at the surface. Mr. Charles F. Taylor, better known throughout the country as "Fletch" Taylor, is the owner of many good claims, and has an interest in the town site. Among other commendable and essential institutions we have a miners' union that has ninety-eight names on its roll of membership. The officers are Hon. George Nichols, president; F. R. Skipwith, vice-president; M.V.B. McAleer, secretary and treasurer. The object of this union as well of those elsewhere, is to protect the discoverers of mines against all claimants, even if needs be, to the extent of violence, and thus far we have succeeded in eliminating and keeping from the district the proverbial jumper."

At Arbourville, which is west of Maysville about four miles, striking local improvements are being made by the town company. A ditch is finished the entire length of the main street, and a large force of men are at work grading and beautifying the avenues and the town generally. Mr. Charles Blake, the first merchant in Denver in 1859, and Colonel Steinberger, who represents numerous and wealthy interests, are installed as permanent fixtures of the town, in a magnificent bachelors' hall built on the suburbs. Their home is not only delightful in situation but elegant in interior appointments; and is at once the envy of the natives and visitors, and the resort of many brilliant gentlemen who are operating in the district. Among this number is Genl Davis, U.S.A. Inspector General, who is deeply interested in the Monarch Pass, Gunnison and Dolores railway company, and Mr. Frank L. Platt of extensive London and New York connections.

E.D.C.

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