

LAS VEGAS TIMES

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WILL RECLAIM 500,000 ACRES OF DESERT LAND

The Great Railway Magnates Delegate Representatives to Examine and Report on a Contributory Region to Las Vegas.

W. H. Martin and Others Furnish Glowing Accounts of the Many Acres of Fertile and Rich Lands that Can be Brought Under Cultivation.

The Snow-Capped Peaks Furnish a Wholesome Water Supply for the Agricultural Development of the Undeveloped District Tapped by the new Railroad.

In a limited territory to the north-west of Las Vegas, Nev., bordering on the new line of railroad that is to be built to Bullfrog, Harriman and other railroad officials are planning to open up 600,000 acres of rich agricultural and grazing lands. Expert surveyors, engineers and agents have just looked over the region and their reports are all favorable.

The water supply is said to be adequate and simple of development. In many places springs have been found which are taken to show the possibilities of an artesian supply. The land lies about the foot of Charleston mountain, which is 9,000 feet high and snow-capped. This also affords a water supply.

William H. Martin, who has returned to Las Vegas from a trip through the country made at the request of E. H. Harriman, E. L. Lomax, J. C. Stubbs and E. O. McCormick,

says that one of the finest districts in the west will be opened near Las Vegas. His official report will confirm that of a railway official who was with him, which has already been submitted to Mr. Harriman, and contains the following statement:

Remarkable Fertility.
"The lands are south of the Amargosa desert and west of the Spring range of mountains, lying partly in Nevada and partly in California, in the Pahump valley, destined some day to become famous for its fertility. It is one of the most fertile spots in the western states. The valley is partly surrounded by a range of mountains varying from 6,000 to 13,000 feet above sea level, the valley itself being about 3,000 feet. There is a heavy growth of timber, yellow pine, nut pine and tamarack, affording a continual supply of lumber and fuel.

"The extent of the valley is about 65 miles by an average width of 35 miles with a dense growth of sage brush and greasewood, with every evidence of water close to the surface. The soil, which has a grayish exterior, is excessively rich, with here and there springs of flowing water. I have roughly calculated the area of land in this valley to be at least 300,000 acres and as much more for pasture.

"On one of the two ranches in this region there are two flowing springs, which irrigate 3,000 acres of land and the water, even then, goes to waste. On this ranch there has been raised alfalfa, grain, corn, fruits of all kinds, grapes and everything belonging to the vegetable kingdom, that has been tried there has flourished. The thousands of acres in this valley are as equally rich and productive. Alfalfa is cut four times and then leaves good pasturage; corn yields as abundantly as on the famous Mississippi bottoms and certainly better than in any of the western states. Figs, almonds, walnuts, apples, pears, nectarines, peaches, apricots are raised in great

quantities; to say nothing of the butter, cheese and pork which are sold yearly from this one ranch.

"The many surface springs indicate an artesian belt. The temperature rarely falls below 40 degrees above zero and snow in the valley rarely exceeds more than an inch or two. Whatever frost there is is in the dead of night, but never so severe as to injure crops. In the summer time the temperature rarely exceeds 95 to 100 degrees in the shade. There is considerable rainfall at periods. On the mountains the snowfall is often heavy and on Charleston mountain it is continuous the year around, melting during the day and accumulating during the night, affording a continual water supply to the valley surrounding this enormous mountain covering about 9,000 square miles in area. The water percolating down is pure as crystal and healthful to drink.

Region Nearly Unexplored.
"As an experiment one-half acre has been planted in beets. I saw 20 tons of excellent beets as the result. Some samples were brought to San Francisco and shown to Mr. Claus Spreckels, who said there was a fortune in the country."

"The reports on the country read like advertising literature. At present, however, there is no occasion for inflation or exaggeration as the only people interested are railway officials who are trying to find out whether the land is worth colonizing. There is little land to be sold in the valley, but it can be taken up from the government at a cost of about \$2.50 an acre.

Owing to the lack of transportation facilities until the Salt Lake road was open the country remained practically undiscovered as a field for agriculture. The few ranchers who went in and took up the most desirable claims have made fortunes in spite of the fact that they were miles from any railroad. The building of the new line will still further put this district in direct communication with the outside world and double the profits of agriculture.

"There will be no colonization scheme," said Mr. Martin. "The railroads hope to get the country settled up because they want the traffic. If any want to settle there we shall aid them in locating lands and taking them up. Every report made on the district has been highly favorable although it will seem incredible to many that so favored a district should have lain unclaimed so long."

COL. W. J. FIFE.

A Young Man Who Has a Splendid Record as a Citizen, Soldier and Man of Public Affairs.

Las Vegas, though but five months old, prides itself upon having citizens of the most progressive sort, and representatives who by virtue of their notable achievements in the science of politics and who for their country's glory gained distinction and fame on battlefields, as patriotic servitors of the best interest of the great American republic, men who assisted in making a nation's history.

Distinctly amongst these is Col. W. J. Fife. He came into our midst from Hollywood, California. His charming wife was subject to the sore afflictions of rheumatism and neuralgia. The doctors were baffled with her case. Finally one suggested, "Take her to the desert, that will be better than all the medicine she can take." Mr. and Mrs. Fife came quietly into our midst. The result is that Mrs. Fife has never been in better health than she has been since a resident of the natural sanitarium that the Vegas valley affords all such.

Their two sons, Norman and Chalmers, sixteen and seventeen years of age, respectively, are serving an apprenticeship in the Union Iron works of San Francisco, acquiring a thorough knowledge of marine engineering.

As indicated, Colonel Fife has been an actor in those sphere's that are themes of everlasting interest. The hero, the brave man, the soldier at the front, the protector of his country's welfare, has ever been the recipient of those encomiums that take a poet and historian to immortalize. The official records of our country designate Colonel Fife as worthy of the bestowal of such praise. These records also reveal that he was the first officer afloat with 1,400 fighting men for the Spanish-American war in the Philippines. His was the fifth expedition and comprised the transports "Senator and Valencia."

His regiment was the First Washington. He was Lieutenant Colonel of that splendid body of warriors. Under his command there was active

service and deeds worthy the fame of heroes.

With peace the Colonel returned home. The gold excitement lured him to the land of the "midnight sun." He tested his opportunities at Nome, in far-off Alaska. He acquired success. Returned to the states to participate in the historic presidential campaign that elected McKinley and Roosevelt. Colonel Fife is an orator of splendid qualities, strong, manly, with soldierly appearance and a voice that harmonizes with the elements that makes the real orator and eloquent stump speaker. The National Republican Campaign committee earnestly sought his valuable services. Being an ardent Republican he readily entered the service of his party. He rendered valiant and efficient aid for the success of his party. For six weeks he dedicated his voice and pen to this cause, delivering on an average of one to two speeches per day throughout Oregon and Washington. His wheel horse efficiency crediting him with addressing more people during that time than any other speaker on the coast.

President McKinley offered him a commission in the United States army. The Colonel declined the appointment. The leaders of his party urged him to accept the nomination for governor or congressman from his state—a nomination was equivalent to election. He declined, preferring the sunshine of southern California. "Thrice they offered him the kingly crown and thrice he did refuse."

During the Roosevelt and Fairbanks campaign the Colonel was again in active service for the cause of Republicanism. Under the auspices of the national committee he campaigned California.

The Colonel is not only a good citizen, who has performed great service for his country, but is of that domestic character that all the world respects and esteems. Most any evening one can see him and his good wife seated on his portico chatting or in conversation with friends, or alone enjoying a Manila cigar and contemplating, Zeno-like, Alaska, Siberia, or the hardships of the political arena, in the midst of which he has been a giant, or those problems of government that have for their aim the betterment of all of us.

Colonel Fife is truly a notable and splendid character. The citizens of Las Vegas are proud of him. They rejoice in his distinction and trust that the future may adorn his life with greater honors and that satisfaction and peace that ever must be the lot of the honored and able man.

A MERITED TESTIMONIAL TO A VEGAS CITIZEN.

Frank A. Buol left today with his family for Las Vegas, Nevada, where they will make their future home. Mr. Buol has spent the last two months in the Nevada town, and has engaged in real estate and other lines of business with his brother, and is satisfied that Nevada and particularly Las Vegas will fill all his wants for a home, and he says his lot has been permanently cast with that place. Although Mr. Buol never has been a resident of this city, he came here for his bride and married one of Washburn's best known young ladies, and a great number of Mrs. Buol's friends feel a particular interest in her in the new home she is to have with her husband. Mr. Buol is perhaps as well known, too, in this city, as any man in the country who has not actually resided here. For many years he was at the head of large enterprises at Mason and Bibon, and during several years of that time he was town chairman of his town, and as a member of the county board, in which body he was a zealous and faithful official, always working for what he believed to be to the best interests of the public. Perhaps no man who ever served on the county board was as prominent in its affairs as Mr. Buol. He started in to remedy some of the methods in county affairs which he believed to be wrong, and although he stepped on a good many people's toes, no one ever questioned his honest motives. Bayfield county has lost a valuable citizen and a worthy family, and they are just such people as are needed in the new western country to bring it to the place it deserves in the eye of the nation. Frank Buol is a hustler of the first order, and he ought to be able to accumulate a fortune with the opportunities that present themselves in a new country, and his friends here sincerely hope that such will be the result of his efforts.—The Washburn (Wisconsin) Times.

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FRED L. FALLAS

IF YOU GET IT OF FALLAS, IT'S GOOD.

HAS DOUBLE ASSURANCE OF GREAT PROSPERITY

H. D. Porter, a Prominent Business Man and Commercial Factor, Expresses Himself as to Nevada's Sources of Prosperity.

The New Railroad Will Traverse an Undeveloped Territory that Means Wealth and Comfort for a Thrifty and Enterprising Population.

Few men are better known in the ins and outs of Nevada than H. D. Porter, the head of the great freighting and commercial house of H. D. & L. D. Porter, of Las Vegas, Beatty, Rhyolite and Johannesburg, California. H. D. has his directing quarters for these commercial factors at Vegas, "the Queen of the Desert." He lately returned from a trip into the great mining wonder of the age, the Bullfrog country.

In conversation with a Times scribe he spoke with confidence of the future of southern Nevada and prophesied a line of mineral development and product such as has never been surpassed on the American continent. He stated that new strikes and the opening of the great rich ore bodies in the Bullfrog district were such as to assure a volume of commerce and production of

mineral wealth with the completion of the Clark road as to assure many and great fortunes for those who had the foresight to embrace the opportunities offered by the great undeveloped resources that would be touched and traversed by the new railroad.

"Not alone in a mineral and commercial sense," he stated, "will this life-giving enterprise have its effect, but will also be the means of bringing under irrigation and cultivation many fertile acres of land that will in so bountiful manner produce fruits, nuts, vegetables and the products to which the husbandman is trained. The future of our city and southern Nevada is indeed full of great promise and that prosperity that means a happy, thrifty and enterprising population of many thousands."

HAS OPENED DENTAL QUARTERS.

Dr. C. W. McKinney, a graduate of the University of California, has determined upon Las Vegas as his future scenes of triumph. He is a practical dentist, with modern up-to-date knowledge of this practice. He has had experience and has that competence that makes him a desirable addition to our every day life and requirements.

He is a bright, intelligent individual and besides his professional qualifications will make an excellent addition to that splendid citizenship that makes Las Vegas the best known point in the state of Nevada. His former home was in Fresno, California.

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