

first plant, with the advancement of methods and means for smelting and manufacturing iron, became too antiquated to permit of profitable working, and the works were shut down a few years. Then the new company, with abundant capital, took hold of the enterprise, opened a new mine, built a new furnace and added the pipe works, and equipped the whole plant in the best manner possible. The institution is thoroughly modern in every particular. The product is equal to the best turned out anywhere, and it is building up not only a reputation for itself, but for the state and the city of Portland as well. It certainly deserves the hearty encouragement of all business men.

#### HOODO ROCKS.

MANY curious rock formations are seen by travelers on our western railroad lines and rivers, and most of these have received titles suggested by their appearance or surroundings. Familiar among these are the "Devil's Slide," in Weber canyon, "Pompey's Pillar," in Yellowstone valley, the castellated rocks of the Missouri, "Castle Rock" and "Rooster Rock" of the Columbia. There are, however, many others whose name and location are not so well known, but which are very curious and striking in their character and often form a central figure in a landscape of great beauty or imposing grandeur. Such an one is "Hoodo Rock," illustrated on the last page. It is near Donald, a station on the Canadian Pacific, in the Selkirk mountains. The profile of a human face is very distinct, and its queer head covering, rising above such a countenance, is enough to earn for it the title it bears. The scenery of that portion of British Columbia is grand in the extreme, and travelers are enthusiastic in its praise.

Governor Wolfley says in his annual report that Arizona wants more railroads and less Mormons. So far as railroads are concerned, Nevada has the same need; yet they would not be in so bad a condition if the railroads they already have were managed more in the interest of the territories through which they run. Nevada has been "bottled up" ever since the Central Pacific built its line.

Next Tuesday, the fifth of November, Idaho will vote on the question of statehood. There is little doubt that the constitution will be ratified by a large majority, though there is some opposition to it because of certain provisions it contains. There are some, also, who think their interests better served by keeping Idaho in an undeveloped condition, but happily their number is not large.

#### HABITAT OF THE BUFFALO.

THE great home of the buffalo was the plains, valleys and table lands east of the Rocky mountains, where the early trappers and pioneers found them in great droves numbering thousands in each band. A writer in an eastern paper recently asserted that buffalo never existed west of the Rockies, but he seems to have been in error in making so sweeping a statement. A correspondent of the *Oregonian* states that in 1877 the remains of a buffalo in excellent state of preservation were plowed up in a field on Newsome creek, Crook county, Oregon, and of this Col. F. J. Parker, of the *Walla Walla Statesman*, says—

"We have not the slightest doubt but that the gentleman in question tells the truth, for we have ourselves seen portions of skulls with buffalo horns attached to them plowed up on Eagle creek, near Powder river, in Eastern Oregon, and have handled others that have been resurrected at various times. Furthermore, in 1876, while mining in that section, we talked with Ex-Governor Gale, who resided on Eagle creek, and was one of the very first men who set foot on Oregon soil, and he stated that when he first came to Oregon buffalo still existed, but were getting scarce, and that the last one was killed by the father of the present Nez Perce chief, Joseph, on Burnt river, in 1847. Governor Gale further stated that in those days the trappers belonging to the fur companies would congregate at Fort Boise and get up expeditions to Fort Hall, in the Upper Snake river country, for a buffalo hunt, and the meat would be dried and brought back for winter use. Two years afterward, during the Bannack war, as we were riding on the slope of Big Camas prairie, in Alturas county, Idaho, we picked up a well-preserved buffalo horn, and saw several others scattered around. There is no earthly doubt but that buffalo existed in Eastern Oregon within the last forty years, and it is a question that should be settled. We have no doubt but that their bones are being ploughed up in the localities we have mentioned, and in future it is to be hoped that fair specimens will be preserved as mementoes of the past."

The journal of Lewis and Clarke throws some light on this subject, since it states that the Nez Perces were accustomed to cross the mountains to the east on a buffalo hunt annually. If buffalo were plentiful this side of the mountains the Nez Perces would not have ventured into the country of their warlike and powerful enemies, the Crows and Blackfeet, for the purpose of hunting them. That the Hudson's Bay Co. trappers used Fort Hall as a base of operations in hunting buffalo does not prove that the actual hunting was done west of the Rockies, since Fort Hall was the farthest east of all the British company's posts. That buffalo once existed in the Columbia basin is proved by the bones that have been found and by the fact that a few specimens were seen by such early pioneers as Mr. Gale, but that they ever roamed this region in great bands, during the present century at least, has yet to be proved, for the indications seem to point the other way.