

AT SWETT'S BAR

PRENTICE MULFORD TELLS ABOUT LIFE ON THE TUOLUMNE.

Women Were Scarce, but Black Bottles and Fun Were Plentiful—A Legislator Who Serred the State and Brought Home a Blue Coat with Brass Buttons on It.

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THINK and hope that these attempts of mine to portray the history of the camps on one California gold bearing river will touch a responsive chord in the heart of some old Californian; for the life and incident of the bars I describe reflect in certain respects the life, history and incident of hundreds and thousands of places settled in '49, and perhaps abandoned by '60, which have now no name or place on the later maps of the state.

A local capitalist threw a flume across the river, and brought to bear on the flat the upland muddy water, which came down from Columbia diggings, twenty-five miles away, through Wood's creek. That flume was being talked of, being planned, being hoped for and very gradually being erected during the years of '59 and '60, while the rest of the nation was agitated by "Bleeding Kansas," "John Brown," "Squatter Sovereignty," "The Douglas Party," "The Little Giant" and all that foreboding series of watchword and motto which preceded "The War." But the Swett's Bar mind, the Swett's Bar hope, the Swett's Bar expedition, was concentrated principally on a wire-cable, two uprights on either side of the river, and some 400 feet of rough wooden flume thereby supported, all of which was to bring us water to wash out the expected gold.

After the suspension flume was finished and water was on our flat our claim cleaned up for the first week's work about fifty dollars apiece. We used quicksilver plentifully in the sluices, and the amalgam was taken to my cabin in a gold pan and put on the hot coals to drive off the mercury, which it did, and salivated the four of us besides. The sublimated mineral covered walls, tables and chairs with a fine frostlike coating, and on rubbing one's finger over any surface a little globule of quicksilver would roll up before it. Then we went to Chinese camp and gave the doctor about half our individual week's dividends to get the mercury out of us. Three weeks of sore throats and loosened teeth followed this intelligent exposure. It was through such experiences as these that we have become in California practical mineralogists. However, it's an easy way of taking "blue mass."

The claim from which great gains had been expected eventually settled down to an average of \$2.50 to \$3 per day. Break downs of the flume, failure of water from up country, very stormy weather, building and repairing reservoirs, cutting tail races through rock—all caused numerous delays, and every such delay lessened the average per diem. It was necessary to build reservoirs, to store the water for washing, and these reservoirs broke with the ease and facility of a Bowers savings bank.

I have heard that Swett's Bar was named after John Swett, once superintendent of public instruction in California. If so, he never there left any relics or reminders of himself—not even a grammar. Swett's lies equidistant from Hawkins and Indian bars. When last I passed through it the floods had washed out every trace of the man's presence on one side of the river, leaving there an enormous heap of logs and brushwood. The bar proper had been smoothed down by the flood, every hole or boulder heap, or heap of "head-lice" or "tailings," or the deep pits dug and laboriously kept free of water by machinery, or heavily rock freighted crib of logs, the work of miners in the river's bed, had been played away. The pebbles and boulders had all been rearranged, the sands were smooth, white and glistening as though "fresh from the Creator's hands," and none save those conversant with the river's history could have guessed that every foot of the bank adjoining the river had been turned over and over again in the search for gold.

did. Next day came his trunk. The principal accessories to the legislative wardrobe were three new shirts and a blue coat with brass buttons. That session, I think, of 1859—was known as the "legislature of 10,000 drinks." Our lawmaker said it had been the "star winter" of his existence, and he never expected to see such another. Three days after his arrival at the Bar he borrowed a pair of blankets, "cabineted" with a chum and contentedly resumed his pick and shovel. Did Cincinnatus do more when he buckled once more to the plow? But our Swett's Bar Cincinnatus was never hunted for to save his country. There were too many other country savers on hand, even in our immediate locality.

Generally speaking, Swett's was divided in two portions. There was the old bar on the right bank of the river, settled in '49, and there was the flat on the other side, whose golden store was not discovered until 1859. Attempts were made to give this flat a distinct name. Various settlers and miners craved the immortality which they supposed might thus be conferred. For a time it was called "Fraser's Flat," from a diabolical Scotchman of that name who lived there. Only one of those names would stick, and finally everybody settled down on the old appellation, "Swett's." I do not believe that John Swett, if he did confer his name on the bar, ever realized the local fame and reputation of his name. When first we struck the diggings at Swett's left bank we had great expectations. It was a later discovery, a "back river channel."

Consequent on the discovery of pay ground 1,000 feet back of the river, and the definite fixing of the boundary lines between the various claimants, there ensued the usual series of disputes, rows, bad blood, assaults and threatened shootings. Nobody was shot. Not even a mining lawsuit came of it.

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We elected one member of the legislature from Swett's. When he left the bar he distributed his cabin, blankets, and household effects among the remaining miners. He confidently thought never to see these articles again. That was as good a miscalculation as when a Swett's Bar miner would see a pick in the river. Women to regard such an oath with a respectful incredulity that he certainly would strike such pick again, for never did such a case occur in my recollection but that the mild resolver was back next season, ignoring his vow and striking his pick on some claim generally poorer than the one he worked the season previous. By the end of four months, after combing the law books of the state of California with statutes, whose very existence was forgotten eight months after their passage, our Swett's Bar legislator saw such one even as he came down the hill bearing in one hand two whiskey bottles tied together by one string—each being empty and the other full.



THE WILLAMETTE Land Company HOMESEEEKERS Investors

We have lots 50x200 feet, 150x200 feet, all favorably located. These lots twice the ordinary size are but half the usual price of other lots similarly located. We have one-acre, two-acre, five and ten-acre tracts, suitable for suburban homes, convenient to town, schools, churches, etc., and of very productive soil. A large, growing "Prune Orchard," of which we will sell part in small tracts to suit purchasers, and on easy terms.

Call and see us and get prices at Oregon City office of Mr. Robert L. Taft at Portland office, No. 50, Stark street, Portland.

All for a Slight Error. The Berlin correspondent of a syndicate of provincial papers is responsible for the following story: "On the occasion of the reassembling of the holy synod in the Russian capital it was resolved to forward to his majesty, in accordance with traditional usage, the archpastoral benediction. The clerk who was employed to prepare the document formally communicating the pious resolution made a curious mistake. By a slip of the pen he wrote 'architectural' instead of 'archpastoral,' and the resolution was forwarded without the error being detected."

"When the czar received it he laughed heartily and wrote on the margin, 'I have no need of such a blessing.' He then dismissed the matter from his mind. The document, however, with the imperial annotation, found its way back to the holy synod, and produced among the members of that body the greatest surprise and consternation. Without stopping to investigate the matter the ecclesiastics who were responsible for the resolution jumped to the conclusion that they had in some way or other incurred the czar's displeasure, and that his majesty's comment was an intimation to them that they were expected immediately to resign."

"They accordingly went in a body to the imperial palace and humbly tendered their joint and several resignations. It was now the turn of the czar to be overwhelmed with amazement, and it was only after a good deal of embarrassment and reciprocal explanations that the matter was set right. The interview terminated with a mild hint on the part of his majesty that, even in the records of religious bodies, verbal accuracy is a very desirable quality."

The Time for Pansy Beds. There is nothing more attractive in the early spring than a pansy bed. In order to secure blossoms early the plants must have attained a proper size under glass. It is necessary, therefore, to sow pansy seed early. Any long wooden box fitted into a sunny window in a moderately cold room, but where it does not freeze, will do for a seedbox. Be sure the earth is rich, well fertilized with thoroughly rotted compost and woodmold, and that it is fine and friable, so the tiny seed can easily thrust down their slender roots in it. Keep the earth moderately moist after sowing the seed, and in a short time the little plants will be up and growing.

It requires some resolution to thin out the greater portion of them in order to give those that are left sufficient room to grow, but this must be done without sparing or all the plants will be weaklings. Very pretty effects can be produced by raising a box of white or nearly white pansies for a border, and a box of mixed, dark, velvety ones for the center of the bed. These quaint, blotched, lovely flowers seem more like living things than any other blossom. "Old ladies" is the German name for them, but the English name of pansy from "our thoughts" has a touch of finer fancy. —New York Tribune.

Presents at Easter. The custom of giving Easter presents grows every year, and now this festival is second only to the supreme one of Christmas in this regard. A few years ago an Easter card, or at most an egg-shaped card with some words of greeting, was the only gift of the season. Now the gift is different and a gift in a hundred dollar jar, a precious Waitean fan or an old miniature, rare and costly, may do duty as an Easter offering if the shrine is especially

worshipped and your purse is in keeping with your desire. The egg element has been considerably eliminated in the modern Easter, bomb boxes having suddenly taken on an almost indefinite variety. Those in Dresden china are undoubtedly the most to be prized. Certainly porcelain candy boxes are the most sensible, as they outline the confections and the day. One hour, however, of \$150 paid for a hand painted bomboniere exquisitely decorated with ribbons, feathers and real lace—all of which, barring the lace, is wickedly perishable, considering the price. Beautiful gifts are the small portrait screens which are copies in miniature of Louis Seize designs and the Seilan chairs in Dresden. —New York Times.

Giving New York Children a Vacation. Those who apply for a chance to send their children to the country are instructed that they must be poor and needy, without any infectious disease, clean and free from vermin. A physician then inspects each child. Dr. C. C. Vinton was the examining physician last year, and he examined nearly 15,000 children, of whom about 5,000 were sent into the country. Each day the board of health furnished a list of the houses where there was any contagious disease, which was of immense help. With that list before him it was easy for the examiner to stop any child who came from an infected house. The majority were refused on account of their hopeless condition as to vermin. It is a herculean task to get the average tenement house child in a suitable condition to be received into country families. —Rev. Willard Parsons in Scribner's.

New York's good friend, Ismail, the ex-khedive of Egypt, who presented the city with the obelisk in Central park, is still practically a prisoner at Constantinople. He is confined in a palace, and when he goes out is always accompanied by an ill looking lot of Turks. There are ostensibly his guard of honor, but in reality they are soldiers who never lose sight of their distinguished prisoner.

A Possible English Prince. The court and the public generally are regarding Princess Margaret of Prussia, who accompanies her imperial mother to England, with a good deal of curiosity. It is hinted somewhat openly that one object of the Empress Frederick's visit here is to do her best to arrange a marriage for Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, and her daughter, his first cousin, despite the fact that the Prince of Wales, eldest son is undoubtedly in love with his second cousin, Princess May of Teck, and has apparently his father's permission to continue so.

However, the queen cannot get over the fact that Princess May is the daughter of that Mary of Cambridge of whom she was so jealous in the days when the late Prince Albert first came a-courting, and so, as young Albert Victor has no spirit of his own, it is not unlikely that the announcement of his engagement with the Princess Margaret will come to us before the empress has concluded her visit here. Margaret of Prussia seems to be a delightful and highly educated young woman, but there is no doubt that she has a will of her own, like her imperial mother and royal grandmother. It is equally certain that Albert Victor is about as likely and as amiable a specimen of a young man as could be found, even among heirs to thrones. So if Margaret becomes queen of England we will still remain under the British government. —London Eve. Chronicle.

Treasurer's Notice. I have now in my hands funds applicable to the payment of all warrants endorsed prior to Aug. 15, 1891. Interest will cease from the date of this notice. F. H. CALDER, County Treasurer. Dated Oregon City, May 8, 1891.

Notice of Dissolution. The partnership heretofore existing between F. H. Sizer and R. Finley in this day dissolved by mutual consent, F. H. Sizer retiring. All bills payable to R. Finley. F. H. SIZER, R. FINLEY. Witnesses, C. A. HATES, Oregon City, Or., May 8, 1891. 3-6-29

Dissolution Notice. Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between Fred Hesse and Chris Wagner, both of Oregon City, Clark county, Oregon, with the firm name of Hesse & Wagner, in this day dissolved. The business will be continued by the old partner, Fred Hesse, with all assets and liabilities under the name of Fred Hesse, Oregon City, April 18, 1891. FRED HESSE, CHRIS WAGNER.

Administrators Notice. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Charles Clayton, for Clackamas county, duly appointed administrator of the estate of W. H. Clayton, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same to me at the law office of Melville & Dresser, in Oregon City, in said county, with proper vouchers within six months from this date. CHARLES CLAYTON, Administrator of the estate of W. H. Clayton, deceased. Oregon City, Oregon, April 15, 1891. Melville & Dresser and E. Mendenhall, Attorneys for Administrator. 4-17-91

NOTICE. U. S. LAND OFFICE, OREGON CITY, ORE., April 27, 1891. Complaint having been entered at this office by Francis C. Colvoco, against Thomas McCullough for abandoning his Homestead Entry No. 727, dated March 15, 1890, upon the lots 5 and 6, section 16, township 4 S., range 3 E., T. 3 S., R. 3 E. in Clackamas county, Oregon, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 5th day of June, 1891, at 10 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment. J. T. APPERSON, Register. 4-24-91

NOTICE. U. S. LAND OFFICE, OREGON CITY, ORE., April 27, 1891. Complaint having been entered at this office by Wm. W. Henderson against Rudolph Keschmeyer for abandoning his Homestead Entry No. 727, dated March 15, 1890, upon the lots 5 and 6, section 16, township 4 S., range 3 E., T. 3 S., R. 3 E. in Clackamas county, Oregon, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 5th day of June, 1891, at 10 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment. J. T. APPERSON, Register. 4-24-91

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Advertisement for 'PERFECT IN EVERY PARTICULAR' featuring an illustration of a man in a suit and a woman in a dress, with text describing a product or service.

WARREN & HOLMAN, Oregon City. Advertisement for a business or service, including contact information and location.

Woman's Friend. Moore's Revealed Remedy. Advertisement for a medicinal product, describing its benefits for women's health.

PATENTS. C. A. SNOW & CO. Advertisement for patent services, including information on how to apply for patents and the firm's address.

DAVIES' GALLERY. The leading Photograph Portland. Advertisement for a photography studio, listing services and location.

UNION PACIFIC RY. Advertisement for the Union Pacific Railway, highlighting train routes and services.

OVERLAND RY. Advertisement for the Overland Railway, detailing train schedules and passenger amenities.

OMAHA, COUNCIL BLUFFS, KANSAS CITY, CHICAGO & ST. LOUIS. Advertisement for a railway line connecting major cities, emphasizing service and reliability.

Northern Pacific. Advertisement for the Northern Pacific Railway, listing routes and train services.

Great Overland RY. TWO FAST TRAINS DAILY. NO CHANGE. Advertisement for the Great Overland Railway, focusing on fast service and convenience.

Shortest Line to Chicago. Advertisement for a railway route, claiming to be the shortest path to Chicago.

THE YACQUINA ROUTE. Oregon Pacific RY. Advertisement for the Yacquina route on the Oregon Pacific Railway.

SHORT LINE TO CALIF. Advertisement for a short line railway route to California, highlighting speed and service.

Steamer Sailing Dates. Advertisement listing sailing dates for various steamers, including destinations and departure times.

EAST AND SOUTH VIA Southern Pacific. Advertisement for the Southern Pacific Railway, detailing routes to the east and south.

SHASTA LINE. Advertisement for the Shasta Line, providing information on train services and schedules.

ROSEBURG MAIL. Advertisement for the Roseburg mail service, detailing delivery schedules and routes.

Pullman Buffet Sleeping. Advertisement for Pullman Buffet Sleeping cars, highlighting the quality of service and amenities.

THROUGH TICKETS. Advertisement for through tickets, providing information on routes and fares.

Advertisement for a business or service, including contact information and location details.