

From Arizona.

HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SONORA EXPLORING AND MINING COMPANY.

Correspondence of the Missouri Republican.

TUMAC, Tuesday, July 10, 1860.

I have just returned from a flying visit to the rich mine and hacienda of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company. This organization was the pioneer silver-mining enterprise of Arizona, and although its operations have continued uninterruptedly for the space of six years, it has scarcely made a fair commencement. The trials and difficulties surmounted by the agents of the Company, their privations and toil, form an interesting history, useful as an example to the enterprising, and instructive to those who would engage in silver-mining, and we may be tempted some time to record it for the benefit of your readers. Suffice it, for our present purpose, that their labors were at length rewarded by securing the erection of temporary works capable of reducing their rich ores, in limited quantity, true, but proving incontrovertibly, that with proper machinery and prudent management, the Company could succeed. Mercantile speculators and stock gamblers became heavily interested in the enterprise, and at the annual election in the Spring of 1859, secured an ascendancy in the affairs of the Company. Since then it has been placed at the mercy of the *bulls* and *bears* of Wall-street. At one time the stock would be inflated and sold at high prices; then would come a reaction—and thus it vibrated for several months. Finally, as shipment after shipment of bullion from Arizona reached New-York, where its purity and fineness caused it to command a premium of 7 per cent., the Directors, instead of laboring faithfully for the best interests of the stockholders, sought to aggrandize themselves, by pursuing a systematic policy calculated to depreciate the stock, and thus enable them to purchase controlling interests at nominal rates. Although the agent at the mines was informed that \$30,000 were deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, his constant application for funds failed to meet with a response, and he was left with a large accumulation of back debts, and a heavy outlay monthly, for the necessary expenses of carrying on the works of the Company, and naught but the precarious yield of imperfect temporary reduction works with which to obtain means. Creditors were impatient, employers dissatisfied, and the agent harrassed on all sides by constant murmurings. At length came the promise of remittances, upon the strength of which the agent promised speedy settlements with all; but as week after week rolled by, and weeks grew into months without receiving funds, the exasperated dupes of these false promises became incensed at the duplicity practiced upon them, and this feeling all centering upon the unfortunate agent, rendered his position truly miserable. For months he did not dare to ride out alone for fear of assassination; for in this country, where the failure of Congress to legislate in our behalf has rendered a resort to deadly weapons the only remedy or redress for grievances, many and loud were the threats against him. This at length was quieted by the receipt of information from New-York that a large stock of goods was shipped for the mines, together with the adequate machinery for carrying on the Company's operations on a large scale. The goods and machinery have finally arrived, but no provision was made for the payment of the freight, amounting to several thousands of dollars, and the Company must await remittances from New-York before possession can be obtained.

Operations at the mines have been almost completely suspended, and will not be resumed by the agent until funds are furnished. The present works, which were originally designed for merely temporary use, are completely out of repair, and it will be several months before the machinery now arrived can be put together. Indeed, I firmly believe it to be the policy of the Wall-street Directory to throw every obstacle in the way of the agent and the mines, and prevent, if possible, any favorable results till the confidence of stockholders is entirely shaken, and they can be induced to sell out at a great sacrifice. This accomplished, the ownership will become vested in a few capitalists, who will secure immense fortunes as the reward for their sharp "financiering," as it is termed in commercial circles.

The effect of this swindling operation is most pernicious upon the prosperity of the country. Upon the success or failure of this, the pioneer silver mining company of Arizona, depends, in a great measure, the progress of mining enterprises here. Capitalists will hesitate to invest their means where no returns are realized on investments, and the cause will not be inquired into. Other companies, already organized, it is true, may achieve success, and eventually restore public confidence in our immense mineral wealth; but they will be compelled to struggle against powerful opposing forces, and some of them cannot withstand the pressure.

I have drawn a gloomy picture of the prospects of the Sonora E. & M. Co., but it is not highly colored. The Company has a rich mine, yielding largely, and has now reached a point where success is no longer problematical, if it can only be snatched from the hands of stock-jobbers and speculators. If this is not done, there will be no favorable result till it passes into the hands of a few capitalists, who will be content to work together in harmony, when the reports from the mine will realize all that has ever been claimed for it. The stock would be valuable if the affairs of the Company were properly managed, but it is almost impossible to prevent the income of a corporation from being squandered by the directors, or the stock from being at the mercy of "financiers."

HESPERIAN.