

THE COTOPAXI COLONY.

Sixty-three Russian Refugees Suffering From Want in the Mountains.

Villany or Criminal Carelessness of the Agent Entrusted With Their Welfare.

Farms Located on Barren Rocks and Houses Erected on Patented Placer Ground.

Aid Given by Denver's Generous Hebrews

The following report will be of peculiar interest to the Hebrew population of Colorado. It is in relation to a colony of Russian refugees, who were driven from their homes by the persecutions of the Russian "Christians," and who were sent to Cotopaxi, in this State, by the misled Hebrew Aid association of the United States. The report shows great want and suffering among the people, and soundly berates the agent who placed them where they are. The report, which is addressed to the Aid association in New York, is interesting, and should be read, and was drawn up by Messrs. George H. Kohn and Louis Witkowski, who were made a committee to look into the affairs of the colony.

ARRIVAL OF THE COLONISTS.

On the 8th of May, 1882, a colony consisting of thirteen families, numbering fifty souls, arrived after a five days' journey from New York at Cotopaxi. From the 8th of May until the 29th of August three families numbering fourteen souls arrived, so that at the latter date (one child having died soon after its arrival at Cotopaxi) the colony numbered sixty-three souls.

Happy to escape with their lives from Russia, they were ready, eager and willing to go anywhere in order once again to establish for themselves, their wives and their children, a home. It was one of those times when

"That's not to make ready,
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die."

We have not at hand the records or correspondence of the Hebrew Emigrant Aid society of the United States; that would inform us at whose suggestion or upon what investigation it was resolved to plant this colony at Cotopaxi. We know the colony came and is now there. One Mr. Julius Schwartz came with the colony as its "clerk," and subsequently the entire management was entrusted to him.

CARELESS AND DISHONEST.

From all the information that we can gather at present, consisting of the report of Mr. Julius Schwartz to the President of the Hebrew Emigrant Aid society of the United States, and the statements of the refugees, we conclude that it was the intention of the society to give each head of a family a house and the necessary furniture and cooking utensils, farming implements, seed, and 100 acres of land. It was the duty of him in whose charge the colony was placed to so provide for them.

How was it done? The houses, twelve in number, constructed of rough timbers, were built at a cost of about \$200 each, and we can safely assure you and the Hebrew Emigrant Aid society of the United States that any of the houses could have been built for \$100. But what strikes us as being a greater outrage upon the liberality and confidence of the Hebrew Emigrant Aid society of the United States, and therefore an imposition upon those who are intended to be the beneficiaries of their bounty, is the fact that these houses are constructed upon land claimed by the Cotopaxi Placer Mining company as a townsite, for which we are informed by Mr. E. L. Sattler, the resident director of that company, the colonists have 49-year leases. Upon inquiry we find that no lease has ever been executed by the company to the colonists. This of itself is a fact pregnant with danger and reflects sadly upon the management of the colony. If perchance the Town Site company should see fit to eject the refugees from their land, what would become of these sixty-three souls? Notwithstanding the glowing description of Cotopaxi, present and prospective, given by Mr. Schwartz in his report, wherein he says (page 3): "Cotopaxi is the headquarters of a rich mining district, is situated in a beautiful valley surrounded by high mountains, most of which contain valuable

the logic of events, is shown to have been burdened, there should have been practical Colorado farmers hired to teach and instruct these people in that art which it was intended they should learn. Practical Colorado men should have been consulted in the selection of lands for these refugees, instead of leaving it to a man who however learned he may be in other matters, shows his ignorance of Colorado soil, climate and water supply in many instances, in the report from which we have heretofore quoted.

What can be more ridiculous to a Coloradoan than the following, which I copy from the report of Mr. Schwartz, (page 12):

"In Colorado, in a tent, the tenderest babe and the most delicate invalid can live and sleep all the year around, and derive benefit therefrom. As a consequence of these facts our colonists enjoy the best of health."

Gentlemen, we do not for a moment believe that even our brethren in the State of New York will credit such a monstrous statement. And let us state to you and to them that in our opinion and from our observation, the houses of these refugees (upon which nothing was quite so lavishly bestowed as the society's money) were built upon the theory that the delicate mother and half-naked infant would, in summer or in winter, require the balmy air of Colorado wafted through crack and crevice as it can only be wafted from the eternally snow-cold peaks of the Sangre de Christo range.

THE SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

What other property does this colony possess? Two ploughs make up the heading of "Agricultural Implements." Two ploughs for fourteen farmers, whose "broad acres" number 1,780! Each farm, y, except three, possesses a cow and calf—the quality of the cows being that they give no milk. Then some of the colonists have barbed wire with which they surround their farms, which is like surrounding a poor chromo with a rich gilt frame.

The clothing and provisions of the people are scanty in the extreme. The houses are so poorly constructed that, on such a night as we saw them—the wind howling violently, the little shanty almost succumbed, the ills-constructed doors and windows—too small for their casements—admitting a constant draft of bitter cold air, the scarcity of blankets and bed clothing increasing the dangers of sickness and death.

We can sit at our cheerful firesides, with gown and slippers, a book and a pipe, and listen heedlessly to the roar of the tempest and the rain as it comes down in torrents, but if ever it becomes your sad lot to find yourselves reduced to poverty, driven into a barren, gloomy, desolate country, with scarcely a shred to your backs, your wives driven almost to distraction in their attempts to obey the natural instincts of mothers and shelter their children—you will then wonder how people can be so deaf—not to the instincts of Judaism, but to the instincts of humanity—as to let a poor, deluded people die from cold and starvation.

SUFFERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The instances of suffering amongst the colonists are numerous and pitiful. On one occasion the family of Morris Mitkovsky was without food for two days, his wife was sick, and the Arkansas river was swollen to such an extent that it carried wholesale destruction in its terrible course. It was a question of life and death. Mitkovsky plunged into the stream, and after a desperate effort, in which no other man would venture, reached the opposite shore in safety. He secured the necessary provisions for his sick wife and brought them back with him.

The wife of Zelle Prasad has for eleven weeks lain sick in a miserable hut in the mountains, without medical attendance or medicine. Her husband has no work, and the people of Cotopaxi would not so much as give them credit for a sack of flour.

Three women are in a very delicate condition and will be confined shortly. The cries and appeals of these poor creatures as they contemplate the perils of childbirth—perils enough anywhere, but terrible beyond expression at Cotopaxi, where there is sickness and death in store for healthy persons, and where there is neither nurse, midwife, physician, medicines or even food or clothing necessary for mother and child in such condition, are absolutely heartrending. These women must be cared for—they must either be properly attended where they are or they must be removed to Denver temporarily, where our "Hebrew Ladies' Relief society will give them kind attention.

WILLING TO WORK.

The lands being barren and not susceptible of cultivation, for the reasons herein given, there remains nothing for the refugees to do here and there a day's employment is all that can be had.

nothing sweeter, nothing more becoming to a free man than agriculture.

AID FROM DENVER.

In this connection it should be said that an appeal for aid for the colony was made last week, and that on Friday and Saturday the sum of \$600 was secured, besides a large amount of clothing and provisions. On Sunday night Messrs. Louis Witkowski and Herman Strauss went to Cotopaxi and there distributed the articles received, alleviating the sufferings of the refugees as much as possible. They returned yesterday.

Humbugged Again.

I saw so much said about the merits of Hop Bitters, and my wife who was always doctoring, and never well, teased me so urgently to get her some, I concluded to be humbugged again, and I am glad I did, for in less than two months' use of the Bitters my wife was cured, and she has remained so for eighteen months since. I like such humbugging.—H. T., St. Paul.—Pioneer Press.

WALKER'S TRIAL

For the Murder of Sam You, a Chinaman, Last November, During a Quarrel About His Washing.

Incidents in the Court Room.

The time of the District court was entirely taken up yesterday with the trial of William J. Walker, for the murder of a Chinaman named Sam You, in the early part of last November.

The incidents connected with the murder are still fresh in the minds of the public. It is only necessary to state that Walker, who had been up in the mountains, mining all summer, went into the laundry of Sam You, on Fifteenth street, near Wazee, in a very intoxicated condition. He had some washing there, and wanted it. Some dispute arose about the payment for it, and one of the Chinamen struck Walker with a stick. It is then alleged that Walker went into the street with the clothes under his arm, and that one of the Chinamen working for Sam You followed him and snatched the clothes from him. The allegation is that Walker then drew a pistol and shot, the ball passing through the body of Sam You, who was not a participant in the quarrel.

How true these statements are will be made clear as the trial goes on. At 6 o'clock last evening the prosecution had examined six witnesses and had five more yet to come. The evidence adduced by the testimony of the first two witnesses was not startling and developed no new facts. Dr. J. W. Huffaker was the third witness for the prosecution. He testified that he had been a practicing physician about five years and had been in Denver one year.

He was called to attend the wounded Chinaman, Sam You. The bullet penetrated his left side between the eighth and ninth ribs, about two inches from the spine. He testified that the death was caused by a pistol shot wound. He said that he considered the case fatal from the outset, and if he had consulted his own judgment he would not have treated him any more.

The next witness was Ah Boh, an innocent-looking Mongolian, who could not speak a word of English. It was plain to be seen that he was agitated, and that he did not know what was going to happen to him. Fong Lee, an intelligent Chinaman, acted as interpreter. After the oath had been administered and transferred to the picture of innocence on the witness stand, the question was raised by Mr. Naylor, Walker's attorney, as to whether the witness understood it a nature of an oath. The interpreter asked him about it and delivered the following answer:

"I know about killing Sam You. Had to come here."
This provoked an audible smile all over the court room. After several efforts he was finally made to understand, and said: "I tell truth. If I swear to lie, I go State's prison."

This satisfied the Court, and the examination continued. During the questioning he was asked to point out the man who shot Sam You. He walked up to Walker and stuck his finger on his nose; then he retired.

His testimony was in accordance with the above statements as was also that of Cu Chung, who was the next witness. The prosecution is in the hands of District Attorney Luthe and General Sam Brown. Frank Naylor, Esq., is attorney for Walker. Mr. Naylor is confident of clearing

Cuticura

Geo. W. Brown, 43 Marshall St., Providence cured by Cuticura Resolvent (bloody purifier) Cuticura and Cuticura Soap (the great skin cure of a Kingworm Humor got at the barber's spread all over his ears, neck and face, and years resisted all kinds of treatment.

SCALD HEAD.

H. A. Raymond, Auditor F. W. J. & S. Jackson, Mich., was cured of Scald Head in 9 years' duration by the Cuticura Remedies.

ECZEMA.

Hon. Wm. Taylor, Boston, Mass., persuaded of a humor of the face and scalp (eczema) had been treated unsuccessfully for twelve years by many of Boston's best physicians and most specialists, as well as European authorities.

MILK CRUST.

Mrs. Bowers, 145 Clinton St., Cincinnati, spe her sister's child, who was cured of milk crust, resorted all remedies for two years. Now a healthy boy, with a beautiful head of hair.

FALLING HAIR.

Frank A. Bean, Steam Fire Engine 6, Boston cured of Alopecia, or falling of the hair, by Cuticura Resolvent (bloody purifier) Internal Cuticura and Cuticura Soap (the great skin externally, which completely restored his when all said he would lose it.

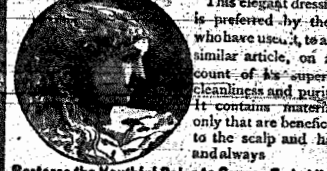
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CUTICURA.

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If you are a lawyer, minister or business man, exhausted by mental strain of anxious cares, do not try intoxicating stimulants, but use PARKER'S GINGER TONIC.

If you have Constipation, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Kidney Complaints, or any disorder of the lungs, stomach, bowels, blood or nerves, PARKER'S GINGER TONIC will cure you. It is the Greatest Blood Purifier and the Best and Surest Cough Cure Ever Used.

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COLOGNE

NATURAL FRUIT FLAVORS

Dr. Price's SPECIAL

anger and reflects sadly upon the management of the colony. If, perchance, the Town Site company should see fit to eject the refugees from their land, what would become of these sixty-three souls? Notwithstanding the glowing description of Cotopaxi, present and prospective, given by Mr. Schwartz in his report, wherein he says (page 3): "Cotopaxi is the headquarters of a rich mining district; is situated in a beautiful valley surrounded by high mountains, most of which contain valuable minerals, especially silver and copper, galena and lead. The Arkansas river runs at the foot of the valley. It is a pretty lively railroad station and is by means of its favorable site destined to become one of the best places in the Centennial State." The fact still stares us in the face that Cotopaxi contains in all but sixteen houses and a water tank.

FARMS IN A DESERT.

For the present we will leave the colony at Cotopaxi and proceed to the farms. Proceeding up Oak Grove creek we came to the first of the so-called farms. Here are three "farms" of 100 acres each, and we know of no instance where quality was so sacrificed to quantity. We do not exaggerate when we say that a beast could not subsist on these lands. It is a mean, narrow strip of land extending a few yards on either side of the creek, which runs dry in winter and contains no water in summer, except when the snows melt in the mountains above and suddenly come down in a flood terrible in its devastation, inundating the whole valley, sweeping everything before it and leaving deposits of sand, huge boulders and drift wood to tell of the remarkable action of water and the freaks of nature. The farm on this creek which Mr. Schwartz describes as looking "like a flower garden" (see page 4, Report), is either visionary with him or was swept away before our arrival at least we can assure you that there is not the faintest vestige of any such farm to-day.

A steep mountain range, 2,000 feet higher than even Cotopaxi, which is 6,200 feet above the level of the sea, strewn with gigantic rocks, separates the "farms" on Oak Grove creek from those in the Wet Mountain valley. Here are six so-called farms.

These farms contain 100 acres each, and after a careful inquiry we find that two-fifths of these lands are absolutely worthless, because the soil contains nothing but rock, and the other three-fifths cannot be made available because they cannot be irrigated, all the water in the creek (and that all is a little), having been previously appropriated by two earlier settlers, and to bring water from the Lake of the Clouds, the nearest source of supply at a distance of eight miles, could not be done for less than \$100. The next "farms" are three and a half miles further on and are as worthless for farming purposes as all the other farms. The total amount of land embraced in these farms is 1,780 acres. And there is not 100 acres of it fit for cultivation. As an illustration we need only tell you that one of the colonists who sowed 14 bags of potatoes reaped as a return 15 bags of a poorer quality than what he planted, and this with the most favorable wet season that Colorado had for 20 years.

The question may be asked, was this the fault of the land or the farmer? To this we answer, both. The land is as poor as we represent it. The farmer, who was probably an expert in Russia, is a mere novice in the art in Colorado. The possession of the clearest printed book cannot make a man ignorant of the alphabet. Nor are you a Paganini because you own one of the violins of his make. You cannot preach a sermon simply because you stand in the pulpit. Nor are you a carpenter because you own a chest of tools.

PRACTICAL FARMERS WANTED.

Instead of clerks and assistant clerks with which this colony, from their accounts and

ing necessary for another and child in such condition, are absolutely heartrending. These women must be cared for—they must either be properly attended where they are or they must be removed to Denver temporarily, where our Hebrew Ladies' Relief society will give them kind attention.

WILLING TO WORK.

The lands being barren and not susceptible of cultivation, for the reasons herein given, there remains nothing for the refugees to do save here and there a day's employment in the zinc mine at Cotopaxi, or an odd job for the railroad company, but at no time have all the men had occupation. At no time have they had steady employment, and if one earned a dollar to-day the unemployed would share that dollar with the family of the man who earned it. The fault is not as some suppose that the Russian refugee is lazy and unwilling to work. How eager they are to work and provide for themselves is shown among other instances by the fact that two men, one of them just able to be out after two weeks' sickness, hired out to the railroad to saw logs. These logs, probably eight inches thick, had to be carried from a considerable distance down to the railroad track on the shoulders of these men and there sawed and piled up for all of which these men were paid one cent per log, and earned together in one day \$1.39, and froze their afts besides.

WHERE IS THE MONEY?

We are at a loss to account for the expenditure of the \$8,750 said to have been expended up to October 23, 1882. We can assure you that the New York society, and therefore the refugees have paid more than twice as much for what they received, as an honest administration of the fund would warrant.

HARD WORKERS.

"Your folks are first-class workers," that's what I was pleased to hear about the laboring capacities of our people. There is no doubt that the refugees have shown that they are not that lazy mob for which they were taken. Under favorable circumstances they have done more than could be expected, only one who knows what it means to break up virgin ground with a common shovel can appreciate the industrious efforts of the Refugees.

They have broken up the ground with a shovel, they have done the hardest part of the work required to make a wagon bridge; they have filled the ditches with big rocks which they were compelled to cut and hew from the mountains; they went up to their throats in the swift Arkansas river to make a float bridge to enable them to reach their lands; they worked in dark damp mines as good and as perseveringly as trained miners, they worked on the railroad, giving entire satisfaction to their employers, they carried lumber on their shoulders to speed the erection of their houses, they walked often twenty miles a day to chop wood in the forest for the purpose of putting fence posts around their farms.

With one word I can testify, and I fulfill a pleasant duty in doing so; that our Russian co-religionists, as a rule, can work and will work if they are properly treated and understood.

SEND THEM TO A BETTER PLACE.

In conclusion we would earnestly recommend that immediate relief in the shape of clothing and provisions be at once and without delay sent to the colony. That some means be immediately devised for the care and treatment of the sick and those about to be confined. That we recommend to the Hebrew Emigrant Aid society of the United States the immediate removal of the colony to some other place. Some place where their eagerness to farm will be rewarded by crops that will keep them alive and reward their labors. Then we can agree with Mr. Schwartz in the quotation from Cicero: "Nihil uberius, nihil dulcius, nihil hominis Gibero dignius, ago vitura." There is nothing nobler,

This satisfied the court, and the examination continued. During the questioning he was asked to point out the man who shot Sam You. He walked up to Walker and stuck his finger on his nose; then he retired.

His testimony was in accordance with the above statements as was also that of Cu Chung, who was the next witness.

The prosecution is in the hands of District Attorney Luthe and General Sam Brown. Frank Naylor, Esq., is attorney for Walker. Mr. Naylor is confident of clearing Walker from the charge of murder.

Walker in appearance is not all bad looking. He is tall and spare with shoulders slightly bent. His forehead is square but rather low. His hair is a chestnut brown. He was attired in a suit that had doubtless done considerable service, as the pants were badly worn at the bottoms and the coat pockets torn. He had a band ring on his right hand which he kept fingering all during the trial. He was troubled with a cough, doubtless contracted during his confinement.

All through the trial he kept his eyes up on the witnesses and seemed very much composed.

When Ah Boh touched him on the nose he merely smiled and did not shrink as would have been natural.

The case will be called at 9 o'clock this morning.

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