

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. Schwarz, in his report, the fact still stares us in the face that Cotopaxi contains in all but sixteen houses and a water tank.

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 so-called farms. Here are three farms of 160 acres each. And we know of no instances where quality was so sacrificed to quantity as in the relation of these so-called farms. 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 the winter, and contains no water in summer except when the snow melts in the mountains above and suddenly comes 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. Schwarz describes as looking like a flower garden (see page 4, report) is either visionary with him or was swept away before we arrived; at least we can assure you 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 west mountain valley. Here are six so-called farms.

These farms contain 160 acres each, and after careful inquiry we find about 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 but 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 \$1,000. 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 that is fit for cultivation. As an illustration, we need only tell you that one of the colonists who sowed fourteen bags of potatoes reaped as a return fifteen bags of a poorer quality than what he planted, with the most favorable wet season that Colorado has had for twenty 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.

Instead of clerks and assistant clerks with which the colony from their accounts and 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 we copy from the report of Mr. Schwarz (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."

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 succumbs, the illy constructed doors and windows too small for their casements, admitting a constant draught of bitter cold air, the scarcity of blankets and bed clothing increasing the dangers of sickness and death.

The instances of suffering amongst the colonists are numerous and pitiful. On one occasion the family of Morris Minkowsky was without food for two days, his wife was sick, and the Arkansas River was swollen to such an extent that it carried destruction in its terrible course. It was a question of life and death, Minkowsky 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 lands being barred and not susceptible of cultivation for the reasons herein given, there remains nothing for these 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 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 18 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 ears besides.

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 thrice as much for what they received as an honest administration of the funds would warrant.

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 H. E. A. S. of the U. S. the immediate removal of the colony to 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. Schwarz in the quotation from Cicero: "There is nothing nobler, nothing sweeter, nothing more becoming to a free man, than agriculture."

THE COTOPAXI COLONY.

The Israelites of Denver, Col., held a mass-meeting on January 30th to take immediate action to relieve the distress of the colony at Cotopaxi. Messrs. George H. Kohn and L. Witkowski, who had visited the colony, made a full report of the condition of things, from which we make the following extracts:

From all the information that we could gather at present, consisting of the report of Mr. Julius Schwarz to the President of the H. E. A. 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 160 acres of land. It was the duty of him in whose charge the colony was placed to provide for them. How was it done? The houses, twelve in number, constructed of rough timbers, were built at a cost of about \$280 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 \$10. But what strikes us as being a greater outrage upon the liberality and confidence of the H. E. A. S. of the U. S., 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 Placer Mining Company as a town site, for which, we are informed by Mr. E. L. Saltiel, the resident director of that company, the colony have 49 years' leases. Upon inquiry, we find that no lease has ever been executed by the Company to the colonists. This is of itself a fact pregnant with dangers,