

ronize the Southern route and take a run into the

State of Colorado,

the youngest, the fairest, and the "Centennial State" of the United States; admitted to the Union, July 1st, 1876. The State has an area of 86,029 square miles, and a population of 150,000.

It is not our purpose to enter into a very minute description of this remarkable country. Volumes would not suffice to do justice to her vast resources; her mines of gold, silver, iron, coal, and copper; her rich and fertile valleys; her broad plains, on which roam thousands of cattle, sheep, and horses; her vast agricultural resources; her dense forests and lofty mountains; her genial climate and whole-souled people, cannot be described in one small volume with any degree of accuracy or justice; in fact, they cannot be described at all, they must be seen to be appreciated, and the reader of any work treating on Colorado must live among her hardy, hospitable people before a correct understanding of their real character can be obtained.

The climate is dry and very healthy, the Territory being unsurpassed in this respect. Diseases common to the older States are unknown here. Pulmonary complaints are either eradicated from the system of invalid who resorts to this country, or the disease becomes so modified that the sufferer enjoys a marked improvement in his condition. Within the past few years Colorado has become noted as a resort for invalids; and we hear of some remarkable cures, resulting wholly from a change of climate.

The report of the Agricultural Society of Colorado shows that stock-raising is carried on to a *very great extent*, and with very flattering results.

Oats, barley and corn give handsome returns. Wheat is said to yield from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre.

No State in the Union, California excepted, can excel Colorado in the production of vegetables. In some portions of the Territory, owing to the dryness of the black loam, irrigation is necessary to secure good crops, for which purpose canals and ditches have been dug from the neighboring streams, which afford all the water required, and also ample water-power for mills of various kinds.

Colorado is rich in the precious metals, gold and silver being found in different

parts of the Territory. "Pike's Peak" became famous in 1858-9, though it is said that gold was discovered in the Territory in 1849. The placer mines were never very extensive, at least those which have been discovered were not lasting ones. It appears that the chief wealth of the mines lies in the gold and silver-bearing quartz lodes. In many of the mines, the ore is very refractory, and large fortunes have been expended to find some way to work the ores in such a manner as will secure a profit. Many plans of de-sulphurizing have been tried without any marked success. About the only works that have proved a success are those of Professor Hills, at Black Hawk; these works are the largest and most successful in America.

Along the base of the mountains, for many miles north and south of Denver, extensive coal mines have been discovered at various points. Good authorities estimate the extent of the coal fields at 5,000 square miles. To the north of the city several companies have opened mines, which are yielding—besides enough to supply home consumption and the various railroad companies—immense quantities for shipment to the North, East and South.

This coal is bituminous, and is harder, brighter, less dirty and odorous, burns with a purer flame, and leaves less residue than the coal from Illinois.

Large quantities of iron ore, of good quality, are found in connection with the coal deposits, and will eventually constitute a great source of wealth to the country. Manufacturers of machinery and all kinds of iron implements would find in Colorado an almost unlimited market, and would be able, while under selling Eastern dealers, to reap a rich reward for their outlay.

The following are among the minerals and precious stones found in Colorado: Moss agates, chiefly in Middle Park; amethyst, at Nevada, Mill City, and on Soda Creek; chalcedony, in South Park; feldspar, near Idaho and on Elk Creek; garnet, in South Park and about Breckenridge; jasper, in South and Middle Parks; mica, near Georgetown and Genesee Rancho; opal, near Idaho and in South Park; onyx, near Willow Creek, in Middle Park; quartz crystals, at many points; satin spar, near Mount Vernon; silicified wood, in Middle and South Parks, on Cherry Creek, the Platte, and Kiowa.

Many of the grandest mountains are