

county seat of Boulder county, one of the richest in the State.

The chief business in which the citizens are engaged, is mining and agriculture—gold, coal and iron being the principal minerals. There are three ore sampling works, one smelting furnace, one iron furnace, two flouring mills—the latter turning out 350 sacks of flour daily—one large foundry and machine shop, and numerous small manufactories.

There are many good business blocks, four church edifices, and several good schools, besides the State University, which is located here. Of newspapers there are two, both weekly, the *News* and the *Banner*. The American is the principal hotel. Population, about 2,000.

Boulder Canyon, at the mouth of which the city is located, contains some magnificent scenery,—see illustration and ANNEX No. 11,—and is the outlet to the valley for some of the richest mines in the State. In the western or mountainous portion of the county are located the Gold Hill, Sugar Loaf, Caribou, Pennsylvania, Snowy Range, Gold Lake, Ward, Jamestown and other rich mining districts, containing numerous stamp mills and reduction works, which yield a wealth of the precious metals daily.

Near the station we cross the track of the Boulder Valley railroad, of which Boulder is the western terminus. This road connects with the Denver Pacific at Hughes' station, 17 miles north of Denver. It is operated by the Kansas Pacific Railroad Co. It was projected in the first place for a coal road, but afterwards improved, and is now in good condition and doing a good passenger and freight business.

Looking down the valley, as we leave the station, two high peaks, or buttes, can be seen, rising some hundreds of feet above the plains, which are near the site of the town of Valmont, started in 1863 to rival Boulder, but did not succeed.

Crossing Boulder Creek to the south side we soon pass Pettis Lake, noted for its numerous sunfish; and 5 5-10 miles more brings us to

DAVIDSON—on South Boulder—a small side-track. Two miles further and we reach

COAL CREEK—on the stream of that name—after crossing which we commence a heavy up grade, through deep cuts, and on for ten miles to

CHURCHES—This is a small side-track,

named for a butcher and cattle dealer who lived near by, in 1862-3. It is in a region where irrigation was first resorted to in Colorado, ditches for which purpose take the water from Ralston and Clear Creeks.

From Churches we proceed over another dividing ridge of prairie-land seven miles to

RALSTON—Situating on the creek of that name, which comes down through a deep cut in the "Hog-back" Ridge, two miles to the west.

From Ralston, our course is to the southwest, up a heavy grade, two miles to the summit, where we run between the Table Mountain on the east, and the "Rockies," on the west; then, as we descend, on the west, can be seen the old Golden Gate wagon road into the mountains, over which—until the building of the "Central," through Clear Creek Canyon—passed up and over the "Guy Hill," all the travel for the mining regions of Gilpin and Clear Creek counties.

One mile further, down grade, making three from Ralston, and we stop at

GOLDEN—This city is often called the "Lowell" of Colorado, on account of the number of manufactories located in and near the city.

Golden was first settled in 1859, then, it was a lively place, owing to the gulch mining on Clear Creek, both above and below the town, but these "placers" having been worked out, the place declined. In 1863 it took a step forward in the establishment of a pottery and paper mill, the first within 800 miles; but since the completion of the Central, rapid progress has been made. The town now contains about 4,500 inhabitants, and besides the manufactories above named, has three flouring mills, a manufactory for making fire brick, the Golden Smelting Works, which turn out about \$300,000 worth of bullion and lead annually, and the Golden Smelting and Dressing Works, another very extensive establishment. Besides these, there are several saw mills and manufactories of small wares. The School of Mines for the State is located here.

Golden is the county seat of Jefferson county, is due west of Denver 14 miles by wagon, and 16 miles by railroad, situated on Clear Creek, or Vasquez Fork, just below where it debouches from the mountains, and close above the Table Mountains, which rise 1,000 feet above the town, in what must have been at one time a great basin or lake, before the waters of the