

are all connected with the mining industry, more or less. The *Register*, a daily and weekly paper, enlightens the citizens on the news of the day, while the *Teller* and the Granite hotels, provide good accommodations for the traveling public.

Central is the center of an extensive mining section, composed of small villages, camps, or "diggings," some of which number 500 and 600 inhabitants, who purchase the greater portion of their goods at the county seat.

The mountains surrounding Central and Black Hawk—when gold was first discovered in them—were covered with a dense growth of pine and spruce trees, but they are about all cut off now, and the whole mountain top and sides, with the stumps and prospect holes, present a face,—“pock-marked,” we should say, were it a child, beyond the recognition of its own mother.

Gilpin county contains 19 quartz mills, with 595 stamps, which crush 450 tons of ore per day. We will now return to the

JUNCTION—cross the bridge and start up South Clear Creek towards Georgetown.

Soon after leaving the station our train arrives at a narrow gorge and a sharp curve in the road, where a huge spur of the mountains projects out, within 200 feet of its tall brother on the opposite side of the creek; and as the train passes *under* this over-hanging cliff, we enter *one of the grandest natural amphitheatres in the world*. The mountain rises over 2,000 feet above the stream which is here compressed to a rapid torrent, thundering at its very base. The scenery for the next two miles is unusually impressive. In places small pine and cedar trees can be seen in the gorges and crevices, which add an additional beauty to the scene.

In places the space between the mountain cliffs is just sufficient for the creek and road; in others, the road-bed has had to be blasted out from the mountain side.

About three miles above the Junction the road curves to the right, opposite the base of Floyd Hill, down which comes the old wagon road, from Bergins township to the south, and follows up the west bank and crosses the creek at

FLOYD HILL STATION—3 7/10 miles from the Junction.

From this point up to Georgetown, 21 miles, the creek shows many evidences of “placer mining,” and is one of the sections alluded to on a preceding page.

Passing up, the creek bottom widens, and the mountains are not as high. Several old deserted mills are to be seen, and some work in the placer diggings along the creek. Five miles brings us to

IDAHO SPRINGS—situated in Clear Creek county, on South Clear Creek, 22 miles west of Golden, and 16 miles east of Georgetown—elevation 7,800 feet. The population is about 1,000, nearly all of whom are engaged in mining in the vicinity. There are some good blocks of business buildings, a concentrating works, several stamp mills, a bank, stores and small shops of all kinds, many fine private residences, and two large hotels, besides a number of boarding houses. The Beebe House is the principal hotel.

In April, 1859, gold was discovered in paying quantities, on what is known now as Chicago Creek, a small stream that comes down from the south, opposite the station in Idaho, but these placer diggings were soon worked out, and then came the search for quartz mines, the result of which has made this county one of the most noted in the mountains as a gold and silver producing region.

Numerous quartz mills, and many rich lodes are situated near Idaho. The Seaton is on the side of the mountain, north, in plain view from the town; Virginia Canyon coming in to the north, has several; Chicago Creek, to the south, contains among others, the Cascade, into which a tunnel has been driven 550 feet.

Idaho, for its hot and cold mineral springs—and swimming baths—has become noted as an attractive summer resort. It is claimed the waters contain rare medicinal properties, and are nearly identical, in chemical ingredients and temperature, with the celebrated Carlsbad waters of Germany. Prof. Pohl gives the following as the analysis of the water in proportion to the gallon.

Carbonate of Soda.....	30.80
“ “ Lime.....	9.52
“ “ Magnesia,.....	2.88
“ “ Iron,.....	4.12
Sulphate of Soda,.....	29.36
“ “ Magnesia,.....	18.72
“ “ Lime,.....	3.44
Chloride of Sodium,.....	4.16
Chlorides of Calcium and Magnesium, of each a trace.	
Silicate of Soda,.....	4.08
Grains.....	107.00

At the springs are two swimming baths, one 30 by 50 feet, five feet deep, the other 20