

Bear River, north, and one mile further to Battle Creek, where it forms a junction with the Bear. There it was in the winter of 1863-4, that Gen. Conner had his celebrated fight with the Shoshone Indians.

Stages leave Franklin daily for the north and west, carrying passengers, mails and express. The fare is 15c. per mile—Tim Henderson, agent. Distances from Franklin:—Old Fort Hall, 80 miles; New Fort Hall, 105 miles; Taylor's Bridge, on Snake River, 130 miles; Helena, via Sansbury, 425 miles; Virginia, 355 miles; Deer Lodge, via Glendale and Butte, 400 miles; Missoula, via Deer Lodge, 500 miles; Fort Shaw, via Helena, 500 miles; Fort Benton, via Helena, 570 miles; Deer Lodge, via Helena and Blackfoot, 480 miles; Bozeman and Fort Ellis, via Virginia, 430 miles; Bozeman, via Helena and Gallatin City, 535 miles; from Franklin to Boise City, via Old Fort Hall, 200 miles. The above distances are authentic.

The amount of bullion forwarded by the stage company, as express matter, during the year of 1877, from Franklin, amounted to \$500,000; and the amount of freight shipped on wagons to Montana and Idaho during the same time by H. C. Kinney, forwarding agent, was 1,300,000 pounds.

Game of all kinds abounds in the valleys and in the mountains, while, along the water courses, wild geese and ducks are legion. The streams, little and big, are full of fish, notably the trout, which are very abundant and bite with a snap that makes an old sportsman feel happy. In fact, in this country, the old sportsman will find his beau ideal of a "happy hunting-ground."

Fruit, apples, peaches, pears, cherries, plums, currants, and in fact, all kinds of fruit are raised by the Mormons, in this and adjacent valleys in great abundance. Although we are now in Idaho Territory, and shall speak of the chief towns and the routes to them in another place, we shall pass it by for the present, until we know more about it, and take a look at

Montana Territory.

This Territory lies to the north of Idaho, and is generally considered solely as a mining country. Montana at one time possessed excellent "placer" mines and "gulch diggings," but they have been to a great extent, worked out. Yet there are still some camps where *good pay* is being

taken out, and many of the "old diggings" are being worked over by the "heathen Chinese," with good results. The mining is now mostly confined to quartz, some of which yields rich returns.

Although many rich mines of gold have been discovered within her borders, the importance of her agricultural resources are not to be ignored. The valleys of the Missouri, Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone, and many other rivers, possess the very best of farming and grazing lands in quantities sufficient to support a large population. In the mines, enterprise and capital have, and will continue to develop great wealth, but here, as in other mining countries, expensive machinery must be erected and a large capital invested before the mines can be developed and worked with profit, while to the agriculturist and stock-grower Montana presents, with a continually increasing home market, inducements to the poor emigrant second to no section of the United States. The people of the Territory are energetic and persevering, with full faith in the future of their Territory, and will, in time, render it what they contend it really is, one of the wealthiest sections of the Union.

Helena is the capital of the Territory, and contains a population of about 4,500. It has suffered fearfully in the past by fires, which have several times completely destroyed the business portion of the city, but the energy and enterprise of her people soon re-built it with substantial materials, brick and stone. The *Herald* and *Gazette*, both daily and weekly newspapers, are published here. The chief occupation of the people is quartz mining

VIRGINIA CITY—contains a population of 1,000. The *Montanian*, a weekly, is published here. It is one of the most spicy papers in the far West.

DEER LODGE CITY—is the third in point of population in the Territory. It contains 1,000 inhabitants, and has one weekly paper, the *New Northwest*

BOZEMAN—is another thriving town, and the *Avaunt Courier* its representative newspaper.

The Great National Park is located in a portion of Montana, and the balance in Wyoming, for a concise description of which we refer our readers to ANNEX No. 26.

Returning once more to Ogden, we will now take up the Overland Route.