

Tens of thousands of cattle are now roaming along the Humboldt and adjoining valleys, and surrounding hills. It is computed that there are not less than 350 000 head between Promontory Mountain and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. One firm near this station has over 40,000 head, and one range fenced of 28,000 acres.

A few miles after leaving Argenta, Reese River Valley joins the Humboldt—coming in from the south. It is very diversified in feature, being very wide at some points—from seven to ten miles—and then dwindling down to narrow strips of meadow or barren sand. Some portions of the valley are susceptible of cultivation, and possess an excellent soil. Other portions are barren sand and gravel wastes, on which only the sage-brush flourishes. This valley is also known by old emigrants as "Whirlwind Valley," and passengers will frequently see columns of dust ascending skywards. Reese River, which flows through this valley, rises to the south, 180 to 200 miles distant. It has many tributaries, which find their source in the mountain ranges that extend on either side of the river its entire length. It sinks in the valley about 20 or 30 miles before reaching the Humboldt. During the winter and spring floods, the waters reach the Humboldt, but only in very wet times.

Near where Reese River sinks in the valley was fought the celebrated battle between the Whites and Indians—settlers and emigrants, 20 years ago—which gave the general name of Battle Mountain to these ranges. A party of marauding Shoshone Indians had stolen a lot of stock from the emigrants and settlers, who banded themselves together and gave chase. They overtook them at this point, and the fight commenced. From point to point, from rock to rock, down to the water's edge they drove the red skins, who, finding themselves surrounded, fought with the stubbornness of despair. When night closed in, the settlers found themselves in possession of their stock and a hard-fought field. How many Indians emigrated to the Happy Hunting Grounds of the spirits no one knew, but from this time forward the power of the tribe was broken.

From Argenta, it is 11.8 miles to

Battle Mountain—This is a dinner station for passenger trains from both the East and West, where trains stop 30 minutes. The waiters are Chinese, and very lively while serving a good meal.

Water for the little fountain in front of the Battle Mountain House, the railroad, and the town, is conducted in pipes from a big spring in the side of the mountain, three miles to the south.

There are several stores, hotels, restaurants and saloons, on the south side of the depot; also some large freight buildings, as this is the distributing point for a great number of mining districts, towns, and camps to the southward.

The surrounding country is alive with herds of cattle, particularly on the north side of the river, and this station has become quite a point for cattle buyers, from California, to stop at and make their selections. A stage leaves Battle Mountain daily, for Battle Mountain mines, seven miles, Galena, twelve miles, Austin, 90 miles, where connections are made for Eureka, Hamilton, Cortez, Belmont—171 miles—and all intermediate towns. Stages also run to Lewis District, 14 miles, and to Tuscarora, 68 miles, connecting for Rock Creek, twelve miles further, and Cornucopia, 20 miles. Lewis is a new mining district, 14 miles south, where some rich silver mines have been discovered within the last two years.

Fast freight lines leave Battle Mountain daily for most of the cities, towns and districts above named. The tonnage from Battle Mountain Station averages about 500 per month. The *Messenger* is a weekly paper published here.

Battle Mountain, Galena, and Copper Canyon mining camps are in the mountains just south of this station, and further to the south are the mining districts of Reese River, Washington, Kinsley, Cortez, Diamond, Dun Glen, Humboldt, Grass Valley, and several others. In all of these districts rich mines are being worked; stamp mills and smelting furnaces are numerous. Since the building of the railroad, low freights have resulted in the introduction of more and better machinery, the reduction in cost of milling ores, and the opening and working of veins of lower grade ores, which could not be profitably worked when wagon freight prices ruled.

Battle Mountain Station is in Lander county, the county seat of which is Austin, 90 miles south.

AUSTIN—is situated near the summit of the Toiyabe Range, on the ground where the *first* silver ore was discovered in this district, in May, 1862. The discoverer, W.