

The Daily Examiner.

A VOICE FROM THE BORDER

CERRO GORDO, INYO COUNTY, CAL

August 8th, 1871

San Francisco Daily *Examiner*

EDITOR *EXAMINER*: - Having promised you some time ago to give you a description of Cerro Gordo and its mines, I herewith enclose you the following which you will favor by publishing in your WEEKLY *EXAMINER*:

THE MAIN TOWN AND CAMP

of Cerro Gordo lies on top of a mountain, and is twenty miles from Lone Pine, and thirty eight miles from Independence, the county seat of Inyo county. In leaving Lone Pine to come to Cerro Gordo, you pass along the Owens River until you reach the head of Owens Lake, at a place called Swansea, where you find a smelting works, known as the Owens Lake Silver Lead Company, owned by New York capitalists, and under the superintendence of Mr. James Brady. Here we also find two hotels, at which men who work at the smelting works board. This is also a stage station. After you leave Swansea, you commence to ascend the mountain, where it takes a wagon commonly loaded and drawn by eight or ten animals, an entire day to reach Cerro Gordo. On reaching Cerro Gordo, you find a camp consisting of four stores, three to four hotels or boarding houses, two to three barrooms, livery stable, etc.; also the smelting works owned by Mr. Beaudry and M. W. Belshaw, which you perceive are in operation night and day, and each run from 100 to 125 bars of bullion per day; and those two parties last mentioned, have heretofore controlled this entire camp. The principal hotel at this place, lately built, is owned by Mr. John Simpson, the pioneer of this camp.

NOW FOR THE MINES

By the kindness of Mr. J. Simpson, who is superintendent of the mines here, I visited the several mines known as Buena Vista Tunnel, which is the main one – Omega, Freiburg, Union and several smaller. The main lead or ledge is the Buena Vista, which is partly owned by Mr. Beaudry, and the biggest portion by the Owens Lake Silver Lead Company. After the 13th of August, Mr. Beaudry will receive no more ore from the Union, and all will then go to the Owens Lake S. L. Co. In this mine ore is in abundance, and is right here. They employ about seventy-five men, who work both night and day in shifts of twelve hours each set, and the ore that comes from here is lead and a little silver. The next is the Omega Tunnel, located by Mr. John Simpson together with several others on April 8th, 1870, and they are about 1,000 feet in now. This tunnel is composed of a solid mass of limestone for quite a distance. It required but very little timber for the tunnel. On the 23rd of June, 1871, the workmen came upon a

SMALL STEAK OF SILVER

and lead ore; but that did not go in very deep and consequently it was not the original lead as yet. They are still advancing further, and are in hopes of making connections in about a week's time. There are also several more tunnels run by Mr. Simpson and others, such as the Alpha and others.

MR. SIMPSON

deserves great credit for his energy and hard labor to bring this camp to what it is today, and what, with a little more outside assistance, it can be made.

THE PRINCIPAL LACK WE HAVE HERE

Is water; although there is water enough here, it is very hard to be obtained. It has to be packed in small kegs upon mules for a distance of five to six miles, and we have to pay 10 cents per gallon. There is a very extensive spring about 15 miles from here. If a company started together, and laid pipes and brought the water into camp, they could make a fortune out of it in a little time. It surprises me that some enterprising men with capital from your city have not undertaken this before now. It is certainly

A GOOD LAY-OUT

and would not require much capital. There is also another thing worth mentioning; and that is, if a party of moneyed men would come here to start a mill of six or eight stamps to crush silver ore, they could likewise make a fortune; for these things are an actual necessity to the camp, as this camp is not half prospected yet, and new developments are found every day. And then, two mills here have things their own way; and they pay for ore whatever they please. It is also required to have

A GOOD ASSAYER

here, who would tell the men correctly what their ore assays, as it is hard for them to find out now with all their improvements. Cerro Gordo would be the best mining camp in California today, if it could be treated right, as we have the metal here. All we require is a little outside help to cooperate with us, and all would be well.

Truly yours,
DEMOCRAT