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SOUTHERN PACIFIC
SUNSET ROUTE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, INQUIRE OF
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ARIZONA

THE LAND OF

SUNSHINE AND SILVER

HEALTH AND PROSPERITY

THE PLACE FOR IDEAL HOMES

BY JOHN A. BLACK,

COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

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caves have not been thoroughly explored, but extend back thousands of feet. Gowan, the owner of this "two-storied ranch," has spent weeks in underground travel, and there yet remain a number of caves which he has not yet visited.

One especial peculiarity of this mysterious and uncanny neighborhood is the fact that the waters of several springs above have the property of petrifying all objects with which they come into contact. Over the brink of the cliff the waters drip, gradually turning to a silicate of lime the vegetation below. Moss grows in luxuriance upon the cliff in long festoons, the outermost being green and thrifty, the second yellowed with a coating of lime, and the third and inner line completely petrified, the delicate lace-like tracery of the moss showing beautifully distinct in its mineral counterfeit. And thus the cliff creeps forward and the caverns are lengthened. Mr. Gowan states that these petrifications extend to the farthest depths of the caves he has explored.

One remarkable petrification is a cedar tree, broken off about sixteen feet from the ground. It is but a few feet from the cliff and the falling spray has not as yet done its full work. The exposed roots and a few short limbs have been turned to stone, and the vegetable matter of the stump has hearily disappeared.

These, briefly sketched, are the attractions offered by the Natural Bridge to the curious and to the lovers of Nature's sublimest beauties. The pathway may be rough and the journey arduous, but none will ever regret a brief visit to this spot.

Twelve miles to the east lies the thriving little village of Payson, the centre of extensive cattle ranges, and a place that will be important when the long-looked-for railroad makes its appearance.

The Mineral Belt, or as it is now called, the Arizona Central Railway, is designed to run from Flagstaff to Globe and to Phoenix. Dropping from the lofty Mogollon plateau to the level of Tonto Basin has been found to involve many engineering difficulties, but it is understood that all have been overcome, and that construction southward will be soon resumed. The Globe branch will keep to the line of Tonto creek to its mouth, thence to Pinal creek and up the canon of that stream to Globe. The Phoenix wing will either skirt the northern edge of the Mazatzals, into the Verde Valley, or will leave the other line at the mouth of Tonto creek and follow down Salt river to Phoenix.

Good timber is to be had around Pine, on the northern slope of the Mazatzals, in the Pinal Mountains, near Globe, and on the Sierra Anchas. This last-mentioned timber region is of especial excellence, and, being easily accessible from Salt River, there seem to be no obstacles in the way of floating the logs down Salt River, even to Phoenix.