

By 1890 less than ten percent of the population was employed in the industry. Technology had replaced manpower. Hydraulic mining went the way of the lawsuit and dredge mining visited the county's watercourses. Larger stamps, vanners, and chemistry concentrated ores for smelting.

These innovations resulted in a very productive period between 1901 and 1916. But the 1920s and 30s saw the industry grind in slow gear. That trend has continued to the present, with metal prices, production costs, and environmental litigation slowing the lode mining enterprise. Today the new mother lode industries are recreation and retirement homes.

The authors meticulously follow the industry and all of its component parts in incredible detail. Readers will find this volume heavily illustrated. Maps fix locations in the mind and the glossary makes the technology and nomenclature of mining accessible to any reader. Further, the notes reveal meticulous research in primary sources. This book is clearly a model for mining history and a book that every western historian should read to understand the industry.

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Duane A. Smith. *Henry M. Teller: Colorado's Grand Old Man*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2002; 264 pages, 35 b&w photos, map, cloth, \$29.95.

Henry Teller was a household name in Colorado a century ago. Today his name is found in places where he made his mark, but few people really know who he was or what he contributed to Colorado. Teller was born in Illinois in 1830, studied law there, and relocated to Central City, Colorado, in 1861, where he set up a law office with partner Hiram Johnson. He got involved in politics early in Colorado and supported Union efforts during the Civil War. In 1864, he sup-

ported a movement to gain statehood for Colorado that was part of an effort to be sure that Lincoln had enough electoral votes to be reelected. However, most people in Colorado Territory were not ready for statehood, and his efforts in favor were defeated at the time.

When statehood did come in 1876, Teller played an active role in establishing the new state government, and its Republican legislature elected him as one of Colorado's U.S. senators in 1877. At that time state legislators elected senators, so Teller did not have to face voters as one would today. In the 1876 presidential election, Colorado played a key role in electing Republican Rutherford B. Hayes president; without its electoral votes, the election would have gone to Samuel Tilden. Democrats accused Teller and other Colorado Republicans of using their influence and power to decide the election in Hayes' favor. At no other time has Colorado played such an important role in a presidential election.

Teller effectively represented Colorado's mining interests during his first term as senator. In 1882, he was appointed secretary of the interior by President Chester A. Arthur, ending, for the moment, his senate career. Teller's role as an advocate for Colorado's mining interests is one thing he is still remembered for, and his fight to protect the mining industry is well documented here. A significant contribution this book makes is putting Teller's time as interior secretary into context.

Teller had an undeserved reputation of being anti-Native American. In the context of today's cultural and political climate, that reputation might be warranted, but in his day he held progressive views. He believed in "civilizing" the Native American through education, so that he could make a living. Teller did believe that Native American cultural beliefs and languages had to be suppressed, and that English would be an important means of assimilation, but his views on these issues were mainstream for the time.

Teller favored Indian education over military campaigns, pointing out that the twenty-two million dollars spent on military campaigns at the time he was interior secretary could have educated thirty thousand Indian children. Teller also supported the rights of legitimate settlers on public land, urging reforms that would mitigate land fraud. Smith aptly points out that Teller was no policy innovator as interior secretary, but that he advanced new and original ideas for running the department.

Teller was reelected as a senator from Colorado in 1885, and he went on to champion the free silver or bimetallism issue. One of the strengths of this book is its account of the silver issue and why it was so important for Colorado mining. But the real linchpin of the book is relating how Teller's life was so interwoven with everything that took place in Colorado in the last half of the nineteenth century. A photo essay visually documenting Teller's long political career adds context. This book is not only about Teller's life and long career, but is about the early history of Colorado, since Teller and that history are so closely entwined.

Teller's political beliefs led him to eventually abandon the Republican Party in 1900 and support William Jennings Bryan for president. In doing so he kept the support of Coloradans and, to their satisfaction, remained a stalwart supporter of Colorado's economic and political interests. In all, Teller served the federal government and people of Colorado for thirty-three years. He retired in 1909 well respected by Coloradans. Teller, while secretary of the interior, stated that: "I hope that I may so discharge the duty of my office that when I lay down the trust, no citizen of Colorado will be ashamed." That succinctly describes Teller's entire career in politics and is something any Colorado politician today would do well to emulate.

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Dan L. Mosier and Earle E. Williams. *History of Tesla: A California Coal Mining Town* (2nd ed.). Fremont, CA: Mines Road Books, 2002; 415 pp., b&w photos, drawings, maps, bib., gloss., append., ind., paper, \$29.95.

One does not usually think of California as a coal mining state, hence it is a most pleasant surprise to receive this highly enjoyable history of a largely-forgotten California coal mining town. The authors successfully and exhaustively describe the all-too-brief life of Tesla, its rise and fall. A strong personal touch pervades this history, especially in the beginning and near the end.

Coal was mined in Tesla, a good twenty miles southwest of Stockton, from 1897 until 1905, and the town developed and died over the same period. This book describes its history in forty (obviously brief) chapters, followed by a bibliography, twelve appendices, a glossary, and an index. Because the town existed for mining coal, coal mining is a core element in this history, but it is not the exclusive, nor even the main, focus—the town itself is.

The first few chapters describe the discoveries and the start of coal mining. Of particular interest to mining historians will be the fact that the Treadwells, of Alaska gold-mining fame, were a driving force behind this coal-mining endeavor. The critical importance of developing market access—meaning, in this case as in so many, the building of railroad connections—is very nicely outlined, as are the challenges involved in actually building the railroad. The intimate connection between coal mining and railroad development is described clearly.

With coal mining developed and access to markets, a town grew up named after Nikola Tesla by John Treadwell, apparently a great admirer of the a.c. genius. The growth and life of the town are documented in considerable detail in eleven topical chapters. Similarly, brief chapters deal with different aspects of coal mining,