

that he went a few feet further than I did, but he too came back. So we held a consultation and came to the conclusion that we could get along very well without that property, in fact we did not want it at all. As we were taking supper that night a man came along and begged supper, the poor fellow had no food and not a cent. As we were taking supper and telling about our accident he asked what we would give to get the stuff over, we said \$5.00; he agreed to do it and did it next day. I don't know whether he was any braver than we were but he was certainly much harder up.

On the same prospecting trip and a few days subsequently we came to the Divide. At this point was the actual back-bone of the American continent or I may say part of the back-bone, one of the vertebrae in fact, for the back-bone runs 4 or 5000 miles. On the eastern slope, the water runs into the Gulf of Mexico and on the western slope, the water runs into the Gulf of California. We climbed nearly to the timber line and found quite a large party, about 100 men, camped there. It was impossible to go any further, on account of the snow which for 8 or 10 miles was from 5 to 10 feet deep on the trail. The days were warm and the snow melting rapidly, nights were cold and when cold enough freezing a crust on the snow that made a good road for man and beast. The first night we camped there some of the party got up about 2 a. m. to see if the crust was hard enough to travel upon, but did not report favorably, but on the following morning it was reported practicable and the whole party started and travelled about eight miles on the snow crust, about 100 men and 200 pack animals, this was on the 28th of May. As I stood on the Divide on the snow crust, I could look down the western slope into the Los Animos valley and see cattle grazing on the green plains, being simply the difference in altitude. The descent on the western slope was very abrupt in places, impossible to go straight ahead, we had to zig-zag down. As we were on the Divide, mountains towering on both sides of us, one of the party pointed out to me farther up on the mountain side one