Notes on Batopilas Mexico made in 1885 with autograph letters. Description of the town, market prices, murder of C.C. Mayhem, mines etc. etc. etc.

By Dr. Edward Palmer.
Prices in Market

Cattolica

Beer

Bottle of Kenmorebrush beeswax beer $1.25

50 a case and pint wholesale

Coffee hot and cold 85 cts in. U.S. cost 1.50 here.

Candles tallow 9 cts each retail

40 lb. box = $6.

Coal oil 1 gallon

Fire wood 50 for $1.00

Per. cord = 9 to 12

Chips

$1.50 + 2.50 a box, .50 in a box.

Cigarettes 6 packages for 50 cts., of 50 in a packages = 6 cts. each.

Spice

Nutmeg = 6 1/4 cts. each.

Cinnamon = 1.25 per. lb.

Chocolate = 1 lb. ground here

Salt = 1 an arabia wholesale, 1.25 retail.

Soap = small squares 6 cts. retail
Coffee
Retail = 37 cts. lb.
Wholesale = $22 per 100 lbs.

Sugar
Wholesale = $22 per 100 lbs.
Retail = 25 cts. a lb.
Brown sugar = 18 cts. a lb.

Beef = 15 cts. a lb.

Chickens + Turkeys
Chickens = 50 cts. each (young ones) +
a. dog (old ones).
Turkeys = 3 to $5 (each).

Eggs = 6 1/2 cts. each.

Cheese
150 per lb.

Milk = 75 cts. a gallon.

Ham = 45 cts. a lb.

Fruit
Peaches = 40 lbs. for $3 (ripe)
Pears = 6 1/2 cts. each.
Quinces = 6 1/2 "

Apples = 2.50 for 40 lbs.
Potatoes
25 lb. for $3.00
40 lb. for $5.00

Tomatoes
3 1/2 cts. a lb.

Onions
25 lb. for 2.00

Green corn
1/2 cts. an ear
Corn wholesale $8. a fanager and 75 cts. an almode - retail.

Canned Goods
Salmon 1.50 pte.
Tomatoe $1.75 per 2 lb. can
Green peas 1.12 1/2 per fruit.
Asparagus 10 cent can.
Sardines = 50 cts. quarter box.
Red beans = 12 1/2 cts. per lb.
Culite $2 for 25 cents.
Rice 12 1/2 cts per lb.

Flour
Barrel = 15 0. A. $11 cts. a lb.
Bread = 1 Real a lb.
Lard = 35 cts. a lb. retail.

Miscellaneous = 50 cts. a lb.

Pickle bottle (pint) = $1.50

Sour wine (pint) = $1.50

Olive Oil = bottle $1.25

Vinegar = quart = $1.

Brandy = 2 bottle (no duty)

Whisky = 3 bottle.

Claret wine = $1.50 bottle.
Owes to
Batopilas
Rep.

Eggs = —— 6.4¢ each
Chickens (young ones) —— 50¢ each
  (old ones) —— 1.00¢ a dozen
Green corn —— 4¢ an ear
Mine of San Miguel, Batopilas

Silver

This mine, after filling with water was for many years abandoned, was purchased by an American co. of its Mexican owners. Machinery was purchased and the mine cleaned of water to the astonishment of the natives.

The first shipments of ore under the new ownership were inside sacks on the backs of mules 500 miles to Mazatlan, Gulf of California.

I was a passenger on the steamer Continental for San Francisco, which carried 10,000 lbs of very rich ore from this mine. The agent with it distributed specimens to the much favorable talk was then created.
Left the Combre on our second days march the load of one of the mules so badly injured its back that it had to be unloaded and turned adrift to care for itself. After 13 hours ride at an elevation of 8,100 feet arrived at our nights Camp which was also occupied by several drunken campers.
Third day's Journey

Was a long ride from 6 a.m. to 5 1/2 a.m. in 26 mile back. My Animal gave out and I had to walk several miles. All the animals was very tired. Our outfit consisted of 29 animals, 5 men, a Conductor and myself. The station was in a wet but beautiful flat plant. Now out of bloom but on my outward journey this spot was beautiful with many blooms.
Fourth day's journey was without particular incident.

Fifth day reached Tenapa. The station at the declivity of the mountains where we took stage by which we left at 3 p.m. proceeded on to dark when a hot rose compelled us to stop for the night at a ranch by the roadside.

Left at an early hour, one of the coaches turned over having the outfit of the party and my collection, nothing was injured, everything taken out the coach righted and reloaded.
The text on the page is not legible due to the quality of the image. It appears to be handwritten notes, possibly discussing a topic related to writing or literature, but the content cannot be accurately transcribed.
Just before this mishap the break in the king bolt of the other coach in which Mr. William Shepherd and myself was riding and the twenty bars of silver. The contents of the coach was soon removed a spare bolt replaced the broken one. Silver bars was returned and we moved on during the night one mule died the third on the trip.

Noticed the Indian huts along the road had Chimney pots.

After a journey of 60 miles Parral was reached word had reached the placed that the coach had been taken in and five or so killed.
Left Parral for Jimenes the Rail R. Station 30 miles. It was Friday bungars day the City was alive with the usual variation of bungars to be found in every Mexican settlement.

On the road to day met a Sewing Machine Agent who reported that it was noise about that our party had been taken in by robbers and 9 killed.

Nevertheless we camped for the night outside of the walls of a Hacienda. And next morning left for the Rail Road and arrived at 8.30 A M Nov 7-1885.
Often Shepherd's money is preferred to that of Chihuahua, as it is redeemable dollar for dollar in silver, yet if you ask those in town for silver you will pay 12% premium. Silver bills redeemed at par, with red letters across to that effect. The paper bills on copper base are very convenient at 8% discount. Sir. Shepherd issues for his convenience $5, $5, $50, and $25 paper bills. Placi are used for smaller change. A 1 cent revenue stamp has to be put on each $5. made. No 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 bills are made.
In May 1885 - a party of men formed a plan to capture a bank of several thousand dollars of a party at a roulette in Batopilas. In order to have arms they had recourse to arms at Sombrerich Mine. The arms were easily obtained but the men guarded as to mode of attack, but some say that they had whisky which caused delay. A certain miner hastened to Governer Shepherd to give the alarm. They had spies in town. A reward of $1,000 was offered for the party dead or live. The authorities sanctioned if parties were soon out & killed 4 of the party & the rest escaped & left. Sept. 28 At night a door of the Azoguería was broken in & $2,500 Guatuic silver was taken - no clue off the thief.
Feb. 2, 1884.

We received a letter today by special courier that Ascenio Betran Truchleno, Arredondo, and Alejandro Torres, the 3 men who murdered Charlie Maghen in the Descubridora “Arroyo” last Feb. 1884, were executed in jail at Chihuahua by order of General Fierro.

On the afternoon of Feb. 2, 1884, word was announced of the death of Charles C. Maghen of Sevano, Tenn. He was employed at the mine in a clerical capacity and it was the custom for him to come with a guard to the hacienda on Saturday for the money to pay off all expenses at the mine. It was, while on the return from this errand that he met his death. Six of the employees of the office were sent to the place of
the murder and found him shot in the back. His mule quietly grazing nearby. In his right hand he held his self cocking revolver with 4 barrels discharged and the finger of the trigger as though endeavoring to discharge another shot.

Gor. Shepherd at once notified the Hife Politico of Batojulas, the principal municipal officer, Sr. Don Jesus G. Hernandez, of the fact of the murder and of his desire to cooperate with him in the detection of the person or persons responsible for it, at the same time authorizing him in his (Gor. Shepherd's) name to offer a reward of $1000 for the arrest & conviction. Don Jesus was prompt & his trusty assistants soon found the scene of the murders.
Batophilace

Chihuahua

Oreg.

Meteorology

1871 Season.

Raining season commences June 23 to 25
and continues to the Sept. 15 to Oct. 1.

Rains occur occasionally in winter
are misty with snow on the mountains
then the valley is cold and fires
are appreciated.

In summer rains are from E. to S.
in winter from S.

Sept. 8 - thermometer at noon = 86°.

9 - rainy season seemed to
have ended for only a slight shower
or two occurred during the latter
part of the month, and vegetation
soon commenced to dry up. In
the mornings it was cloudy until
9 a.m. when at noon Therm. = 90°.

Nights often cloudy. Therm. = 80° -
morning 70°.

The last 3 or 4 days of the month 3 or 4
good showers fell, with thunder & lightning.
Jan. 1885

 devotion. coldest a.m. = 39°; once = 10°
  " " p.m. = 44°
  " " coldest " " = 64° at 1 p.m.

Feb. = 44° coldest at 8 a.m. & 50° at 10 a.m. - Hottest at 1 a.m. = 69°

March

Coldest = 53° at 8 a.m. & 60° at 10 p.m.
Hottest = 81° at 1 p.m.

April

Coldest = 61° at 8 a.m. - Hottest = 64° at 10 a.m.
at 1 p.m. = 85°

May

Coldest = 69° at 8 a.m.
70° at 10 p.m.
Hottest = 91° at 1 p.m.

June = 8 a.m. = 72°; at 10 p.m. = 70°
Hottest = 99 at 1 p.m.

July

Coldest = 71 at 8 a.m. & 73° at 10 p.m.
Hottest = 89 at 11 p.m.

The Rivers were high the last day.
of August to Sept. 7th. rains very heavy, coming often before or after moon & again heavy at night. At night coastcomfor- 
table & also in the morning. When the rains are late in the afternoon, then the good mid-
day sun feels very oppressive. Good sleeping is the recup-
erative season for man.

Oct. 23, 1885
at 7 a.m. Ther. = 60°
" midday " = 88°
" night " = 82°
} = average

Description.

The town of Batopilas is one mile from the Hacienda San Miguel and owes its existence mainly from the operations under Gov. Shepherd. It is 2,490 feet above sea level on the western slope of the Sierra Madre in the South Western corner of Chihuahua, Mexico. Long. 107° 26' West from Greenwich. Lat. 27° 30' North.

The valley has drusy, veins of calc spar permeate the silver mines. (Batopilas means "Surrounded Rim") Ba-cho-tijon = enclosure of the river.
Pay day is one of the sights.
The toilers are in white.
How patiently they sit round cut boulders.
4 to 6 bits a day for common hands and 8 for best hands.
Task work is their customary usage.

480 miles —
14 carre
1500 to 2000 men.
Mines at Batopilas, Chihuahua

Aug 7, 1885.

Bonaverlic mine.
2 miles from San Miguel, is 32,000 feet above sea level.

San Mochis mine.
3 miles from San Miguel is 36,000 feet above sea.

Descubidora mine.
5 miles from San Miguel is 4200 feet above sea.

Descubidora mine.
5 miles from San Miguel is 4800 feet above sea level.

Cuico de Grayo} = opposite San Miguel.
Ballinas
Sta Maria

San Miguel mine.
1 mile from the Hacienda owned by same company.
Oct 29, 1885 this mine yielded a small pocket worked 2 days, then ceased to be rich. Each day yielded 1780 lbs. of remarkably fine ore worth $6.75 per lb.
Batopilas

Chihuahua, Mex.

Butcher Shops.

Opposite shepherds on the other side of Batopilas River, may be seen tied to trees at two different places around the to be slaughtered. After the animals are cut up only a pile of excrements is left.
Bataan

Mexico

Customs

Women are always washing yet you see so little result from it.

In passing in the streets, Americans turn to the left instead of the right as with us.
Clothing

Batopilas

The high crown hate they wear are said to be cooler than low ones.
The men wear square white cloth round the waist so in sitting down saves the clothing.
Batopilas Chihuahua
1885

Large patches of the European medical mallow are quite common about the original Spanish settlements of this locality. Introduced into the country for their medicinal properties—bruised or wilted plants make good poultices for inflamed surfaces.
Dear Dr. Palmer,

Your Nov. 23 and 27 were duly received. I have been slow in replying.

Your plants are all named and the list in the printer's hands. Also some additional labels ordered.

Please send the keys and the list to Cambridge by Express at once.

They were making up a box for St. Petersburg on the Smithsonians at short notice age. Please ask them whether it has been

carmine colored plant in a Castilleja - C. arvensis, Cham. & Schltr. 

I enclose in advance the list of your letters of specimens, as you may wish it perhaps as soon as you can get it. You will see that the figs are left unannounced. There has been no recent revision of the genus, which is an immense one, and nobody can name satisfactorily the Mexican species.

It is very odd, yours finding a new species of logwood (Haema- toxylon) this the second species in the mountains of Chihuahua.

I hope that you are getting some your alburnes.

Yrs. Very Truly,

Anna Drinker
The fruit! In the photograph, while you were up at the canvas, I take it that the larger number of plants are of this kind, with a few specimens of C. thurberi intermixed, having more closely set ribs. Am I right?

The "grotte de la fleche" (5) — you do not note how large a plant it is. Is it a tiny or a shrub, and how tall? It is a pity that you did not see the flowers of it, for it is probably an undescribed species.

Your collection is a perfect concomitant in the way of novelties. There are about 50 or 90 new species, besides various rediscovers and other rarities.

The mulberry specimen also is too immature to make sure of the species, but it is probably Morus elliptica, H.B.K. The
Charlotte, Vermont,
10, March, 1885.

Dear Sir. Palmer,

Your letter of the 10th and later your set of Guadalajara plants are received. You astonish me by your liberality; for I am sure Mr. Drummond could not have sent you enough to merit a return. I did not order your collection of 1886, because after a hard, losing season I found myself too low in funds to admit of buying many plants. Now that I have $10, I feel that I ought to make some return, but after a second season of severe losses I am wary off than ever before. But you have my hearty thanks.
I am sorry to say that I can send you no more Mexican photographs this year. I think well for some last autumn; but my photos had got spoiled by heat, etc.

The earliest photographs provided our Chichimeca from the previous October until last August; and scarcely anything was to be obtained in the first half of the year. During two months of the fall, between rains and frost, I traveled westward from Chichimeca, and on the higher Cordilleras made a satisfactory collection.

The past winter has been unusually rainy and snowy in North Mexico, as I hear. I expect to return to the Cordilleras, after spending a month or more about Matamoras and Monterey, getting the specimens for the Amer. Mus. of Nat. Hist., N. Y.
Batopilas Mine
The official report of the Batopilas mine, Alexander
Territorial Compania property, for the year 1894-7 has been
published. The total workings for these years was 23,700 feet and ore to the amount
of 43,807,412 pounds was taken
out, valued at $9,074,296 (prorata)
of which $90,545 was in silver
bars. The shipments were $1,360,521, showing a deficit of $5,2896.
The debt of the Company is $1,347 (prorata) and $349,997 gold un-
bonded and 6 per cent bonds
for $59,700. The Porfiero Diaz
tunnel is now 60,69 feet and
advancing at the rate of 100 feet
a month. In 550 feet more
it will cut the Todos Santos vein and the Roncesvalles 340 feet further on which will reduce the cost of working these veins. The Company is now doing its own carting at a great saving of expense, and propose to increase its milling facilities. Modern Mexico.

July 1898.
Cambridge, Dec. 6, 156

Dear Dr. Palmer,

I have had 4000 labels printed, as you requested, which I sent to your recess one for our own use. Will these be enough. The Hebricium will pay for them.

So far as your plants are determined, they are proving remarkably rich in new species—a point, I should think—beside others that are rare. They are almost entirely different from the more northern collections. There will be no difficulty in disposing of your dozen sets, probably Dr. Gray says save a set for Kent, if you had better reserve another for St. Petersburg. Prof. Eaton wishes a set of the forms, if you can make one out for him. It will be easy to
joins a list of the names to go with the acts. I shall make a
paper, to come with notes or descriptions of new species, to include
my own work upon them, and the forms, and will be glad to make it
complete by the addition of Dr. Koenig's

Your advertisement might read
something as follows—

For sale—a few named acts of plants
collected in southwestern Chihuahua.
They are unusually rich in new and rare
species, and represent a very different
flora from that of northern Chihuahua.
They number about — species and will
be sold for — per hundred. Address—

It will be some little time yet
before the determination can be
finished.

Yrs. Very Truly,

[Signature]
MILLS BUILDING, No. 15 BROAD STREET,

New York, July 2, 1885

Edward Palmer M.D.
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Sorgues requests me to say in answer to your favor of 30th ult. that he will be pleased to have you accompany him on his trip to Batopila. He is now one of the staff of this department, but expects it will be the latter part of next week or the early part of the week following. He will advise you fully when date is decided upon, and where to meet him etc.

If you desire R.R. tickets bought with rest of party please advise me and I will attend to it at the same time I get theirs.

Yours truly,

H. J. Wyman.
Hacienda San Miguel
Batopilas
Chihuahua
Emel. Mining Co.'s works. Que.

Aug. 7 - 1885

On Aug 7 - 1885 - at 11 a.m. arrived at the Hacienda San Miguel 2400 feet above sea level. This is the head quarters of the consolidated Batopilas Mining Company. - Alex. R. Shepherd. Manager.

15 stamp mills. Work mostly of a high grade ore. Works from battery to pan after amalgamation. It is washed, then retorted. Then base metal ore has to be roasted, salt is added to chloride it. It is also put into leach ore for base metal. 20 stamp mills to crush mostly lower grade ores. Works it over a concentrator - 2 1/2 to 1 1/2 ton in the frame.

100 bars of silver is the extreme taken out of Batopilas - 1/2 that number at 60 lbs. each is a good shipment.
Batopilar

Chihuahua

Partkee indebted for assistance.

Oct.
1885

Dese Christ Hernandez-
Alex. R. Shepherd, Hacienda San Miguel-
Sr. Don. Benar Olive
Water Brodie and to the people generally-

Mr. Jorgenson also.
Dear Doctor Palmer:

I find it impossible to obtain from the Bureau of Ethnology anything for your operations during the present summer; but I will furnish, on account of the Smithsonian Institution, fifty dollars ($50.00) a month for twelve months' service or less in proportion. This I hope will meet your suggestion of ability to make up the difference of cost in your proposed expedition from sales of plants.

Without restricting you particularly, I would advise your going to the Mountains adjacent to Chihuahua, among the cliff-dwelling Indians of that region. You know very well what is wanted and can act accordingly.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Doctor Edward Palmer,

Smithsonian Institution,

Washington, D.C.
Smithsonian Institution

Hood's Hall June 1, 1885

Washington, D.C. July 1, 1885.

Dear Dr. Palmer:

I have requested Mr. Rhee to pay you $250—an account of your collections of last year, and to send you $50—a month for twelve months, or a larger amount for a shorter time, if considered expedient; this representing all the means at our command for furthering your researches. I doubt whether this
will really be of any benefit; and unless you have money of your own, the expenses will be greater than you can afford. It is quite impossible for us to do more than this, and it is for yourself to judge whether it is worth making the effort.

I have written to the President of the Mexican Central Railway Company, asking if I can make an arrangement to pay freights to El Paso at
Washington; or, at any rate, to have the freight agent at that place send his bill to the Smithsonian for settlement without delaying the shipment of parcels. I presume that this will be done. If there is a quartermaster at El Paso, in regard to which I made inquiry, the other matters connected with the sendings will be comparatively simple.

Yours truly,

Dr. Edward Palmer

M. Bass

Smithsonian Institution

Washington
Dear Dr. Palmer:

Your letter of July 4th is to hand. As I wrote you, I can do no more this year than what I have promised in recent letters, and if this is insufficient I must withdraw from the project. Paying you, however, $250 on account of indebtedness for your expenditures, I hope to see my way clear in the course of the fiscal year to make further
advances to you.

If you prefer for any reason to change your field of research to some point in New Mexico, Arizona, or elsewhere, I am quite willing to authorize it and to continue the proposed arrangement. As, however, Gov. Shepherd is willing to render you considerable help, and you have free passes out, I think that more can be gained with the same means by going to Patopilas. There will probably be enough to occupy you in that immediate vicinity.
for the whole period of your exploration, I think I shall have no difficulty in arranging for the transportation of the specimens, especially if Gov. Shepherd's agent at Chihuahua helps you. I am in correspondence with the general agent of the road to have the bill of freight sent me at Washington so that it may be promptly settled. I enclose herewith a letter just received from Gov. Shepherd, which will be of interest to you.

Yours truly,
Dr. Edward Palmer

[Signature]

Smithsonian Institution