

conduit some six inches above the water level, from the aisles between the channels. A policeman stood near one end of the shelter to be on hand if needed, but there seemed no work for him to do.

More than two-thirds of the 120 tubs were occupied by Mexican women, doing their family washing; for this was the free public wash house. Here every day the tubs are used by hundreds of women, who find clean running water ready for them, the stream entering at one end of the conduits through a water gate, and flowing with a moderately rapid current out at the other end.

On this particular early morning there were about 100 at work. There was no loud voice except in laughter, and no sign of a quarrel as to who should have the best places. They show a disposition to exchange friendly courtesies. Some of them were old and some young, some comely and some the contrary. But on none of the faces was to be seen the signs of hopeless discouragement, or grief, or passive misery that would be found in a crowd of a hundred of the poorest women of any American city. The gentleman of long residence in Durango who was the escort to this place of course found a large part of the explanation for this in the fact that they