

A ONE-TRACK RAILWAY.

The First of Its Kind on the American Continent.

[San Francisco Call:] At the town of Caborca, in the Altar district of Sonora, Mex., construction has been commenced on what will be, when completed, the first and only one-rail tramway or railway in operation on the American continent. This novel railway will run from San Salinas to Caborca, a distance of twenty-five miles.

The tramway is a French invention, owned by the Monorail Portatif a Niveau du Sol, or Single-rail Portable Tramway Company of Paris. M. A. L. Caillett of Paris, who is one of the engineers of the company, is superintending the construction of the railway at Caborca. According to M. Caillett the single-rail railway was invented only about five years ago. He states that he never heard of it before then, or heard that anybody had tried it but the French company for which he is engineer.

It is, M. Caillet says, very effective on long hauls through a mountainous country where the grade is irregular. The car can be operated at a very small cost, as one mule or a donkey can haul a load weighing five tons, providing the road is fairly level. The track costs only \$300 a mile, ties and all.

A French mining company, Compagnia Mina San Salinas de Altar, of which M. Lejeune, a well-known Parisian, is manager, is to operate the road that is at present being constructed in Sonora. This company has some very rich gold and salt mines at San Salinas in the Altar district, while the offices and smelters of the company are located at Caborca, a distance of twenty-five miles from the town of San Salinas.

The monorail tramway will be used in conveying gold ore from the mines to the smelter, and in transporting passengers and provisions from Caborca to the mines. The car is to have a capacity of thirty tons per day according to the contract between the mining and the tramway companies. The contract calls for the use of only one car. By putting on more cars a capacity of 350 tons per day can be reached.

"We have," said M. Caillett, "another order in Mexico in addition to the one we are now filling in the Altar district. We have not placed one of our tramways in the United States, but before I leave for France I may try to introduce the monorail into some of the mining districts. It is not known in this country and the only notice it has ever received was a short one, which appeared not long since in a New York paper."