

Gravel Mining.

The late rains have furnished a supply of water to most of the hydraulic mines that are ready to commence piping. At some of the mines they were not prepared for such early rains, but they are rapidly hurrying up repairs and getting ready to wash. We hear of claims which have begun washing all over the State, and most of the miners report a long and prosperous season. Large extents of gravel have been prepared this year, for hydraulic, and if the season is long, as is hoped, the bullion yield of California for the next year will be measurably increased.

In Placer county hydraulic mining is very active. More ground has been fitted up for operations this winter than ever before. The Iowa Hill canal company will be able to furnish several thousand inches of water, and a large tract of very rich ground heretofore but imperfectly worked, will therefore be thoroughly mined. The Placer Argus says that at Todd's Valley, Yankee Jim's, and in fact all through the mining camps of that divide, the preparations for work have been extensive, and the prospects are of the best. Gold Run and Dutch Flat will begin in earnest this winter to work the Blue Gravel, the richness of which has been thoroughly tested, but which for want of fall for the sluices, they have been unable to work. The Dutch Flat tunnel was so far completed early in the summer that washing on one claim begun, but a scarcity of water limited the extent of their operations. The Gold Run tunnel, one of the most important mining works in the State, will soon be ready for use. By employing the facilities it will afford, the miners of Gold Run, will be able for the first time to draw on the real store-house of their wealth. The surface gravel has paid well, but nothing to what the lower stratum will yield. Altogether the future of the mines of Placer county never looked better. In fact from all parts of the State where gravel mining is carried on we hear encouraging news. New ditches are being built, new mines are being opened, old ones put in order, and everything ready for a prosperous season. The California as well as the Nevada miners can congratulate themselves on the prospects of a busy time.

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