

### Our Drift Mines.

To drift mining, a method by which hydraulic mining operations are sometimes very effectually supplemented, the remarks in an article on hydraulic mining last week may be largely applied; this branch of the business, like the others, having worked itself year by year into a better position, its present status hardly suffering by comparison with any kind of mining extant. While drift mining is, to some extent, practiced wherever placer deposits abound, still in only a few localities do we find it prosecuted with system, and by methods that involve the employment of much engineering skill and necessitate expenditure of large sums of money. The following may be accounted the sites of its greatest activity and largest success in this State; where the business is carried on upon a scale not even approximated in any other part of the country: On the Forest Hill divide, Placer county, where the most noted mines consist of the Weske claim, near Michigan Bluff; the Hidden Treasure, at Sunny South; the Mountain Gate, at Damascus; the Bruce & Wheeler, at Bath, and the Dardanelles, lying near the town of Forest Hill. The Sunny South Co. extracted from their claim, last year, \$98,000 in gold dust, of which \$37,000 were paid, in the shape of dividends, to the owners; this being about the average rate of production made by the leading companies on this divide.

The ridge that separates Bear river from Steep hollow in the same county constitutes another noted drift locality, the prominent mines here being the Swamp Angel, which for several years has been distinguished for its large profitable production; the East New York, which is now yielding liberally with heavy deposits of rich gravel opened up, and the Morgan claim, adjoining the Swamp Angel on the north, and in which the developments are represented to be first-class in every respect, if they lie not ahead of any thing yet found on this ridge. This mine has also been explored and equipped in a very superior manner, having had the benefit of ample capital and an able management. The gravel in these mines yields from \$150 to \$300 per carload, a higher grade than the average throughout the State. At Forest City, Sierra county, the Bald Mountain mine maintains the forward position which it has for many years held as a drift enterprise, there being a number of other companies operating in that vicinity with an already achieved success, or prospects that may be considered equivalent to the same. The basin of Slate creek, lying a few miles farther to the northwest, is also the scene of many prosperous drift operations, of which latter there may also be counted not a few in Yuba, Butte and Plumas counties. In the northwestern group of counties, before alluded to, much gold is taken out by the drift method, though the claims there are for the most part worked only in a small way. Drift mining, though it yields hardly more than a third or a fourth as much gold as is taken out by the hydraulic process, possesses some advantages over the latter in that it calls for less capital, and can be more generally engaged in. In short, the requirements necessary to success are, as a general thing, more easily met in this than in the hydraulic department of the business.

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