

Spring Garden District,—Cor. Placer Argus, Jan. 7:

I have noticed the many reports of the mines on this "divide;" but there is one section which I think has been somewhat neglected by our county press; that is the Spring Garden Mining District on the lower portion of the Forest Hill Divide. The rapidly increasing interest which is being taken in that section by enterprising and experienced mining men both here and below, would indicate that they are thoroughly convinced that the same deep channel, which is an established fact from Red Point, above Damascus, all the way down the Ridge to the May Flower and Excelsior mines, continues its course down the ridge through the Dardanelles, Mountain Tunnel, Old Centennial, Grey Eagle, Spring Garden and Blue Gravel mines, and probably has its outlet into the Middle Fork Canyon near the latter. This theory would seem to be still further strengthened by the fact that of all the shafts which have been sunk in that section, notably the Mountain Tunnel, Centennial, Grey Eagle, Spring Garden and Blue Gravel, although they have attained depths of 100 to 240 feet, not one has ever yet reached the bottom of the channel, for wherever they have sunk into the bedrock it has been found to be 'pitching off,' indicating greater depth. All the above mines, however, with the exception of the Grey Eagle, were under the control of men or companies, either lacking the necessary wealth, experience, or courage, and faith. But the Grey Eagle bids fair to solve the problem of the richness of the channel in that section. It is between the property known as the Spring Garden ranch and Owl creek. The company have erected suitable buildings, within sight of the Auburn and Forest Hill stage-road, and at a point which {by surface indications and shaft sunk to the "rim-rock" on either side) they conceive to be directly over the deepest part of the channel. Here they are sinking a shaft which has already attained a depth of 175 feet. The water which has been encountered in sinking and which is always considered a good indication in gravel mines, is raised to the surface by means of a fine double-cylinder steam pump. The dirt is at present raised by horse-power, but I hear this will soon be supplanted by a steam hoisting engine which will facilitate operations in general. The Grey Eagle is in active operation, but it is reported that a large and powerful company represented by two of our local mining men have obtained control of the Blue Gravel mine and adjacent properties and will soon begin the excavation of a large tunnel to tap all their ground. The strike in the Dardanelles has also accelerated the interest in the "lower divide," so that now there is scarcely a foot of available ground which has not been secured for mining purposes—that is, around Owl creek, Spring Garden and Paradise—and even farther down the divide where it is known that no gravel deposits exist. A great many quartz claims have been located. From this it will be observed that the lower portion of Forest Hill Divide is not only deserving of notice but that present prospects indicate a bright and prosperous future.

*Mining and Scientific Press, V. 56, 1/14/1888, p. 24*