

The May Flower G. M. Co., The Newest Placer County Bonanza.

The late rich strike at the May Flower mine, near Forest Hill, continues to be the absorbing topic of interest to miners and all others who are connected with mining enterprises in this county. That ninety or a hundred thousand dollars have been taken out in a little more than a month is in itself a statement of the splendid results which pluck and perseverance will some times command. In this connection, a brief synopsis of the history of the mine will be timely, and very welcome to our readers. The May Flower Gravel Mining Company was organized October 26, 1877. The mine, which was bought of W. A. Freeman, is situated in Second Brushy Canyon, a mile and a half northeast of the town of Forest Hill, and comprises a large extent of ground in May Flower Canyon, Crary Canyon, Young America Canyon and Stone Canyon. The public of Placer county well know the obstacles and discouragements that beset the company at the outset of its career. "When it became necessary to give up hydraulicking, Mr. Chappellet gave his attention to the study of the best method of working the mine by means of tunnels and shafts. A shaft was sunk on the plateau in Crary Canyon, July 26, 1883, the top gravel having previously been washed off. The directors of the mine did not approve of this rash and costly experiment, as they doubtless regarded it. But Chappellet was an old Comstock miner, and they had great respect for his opinions, and they did not thwart him to any great degree.

Opening the Mine.

But there was more discontent yet when the energetic superintendent continued to sink other shafts. After many vexatious delays and difficulties of various kinds, after shafts and tunnels and winzes had been run thousands of feet into the earth, when the head men of the company had had their patience finally worn out, it was all but decided that Chappellet must go. It is said he had tendered his resignation, but, like Columbus, when his sailors were about to mutiny and turn the ship back, he wanted just one more chance. And lo! like the immortal navigator, his vision was greeted with the crowning glorious discovery, his faith was rewarded, his triumph was complete. A quarter of a million of money had been expended, and how many there were, not only among directors and capitalists, but of the outside mining world, who were sorry to think that not a dollar of it would ever come back to the pockets of the too-confiding stockholders. On the 27th of May last the pay lead was struck. It was found to be seven feet thick on the bed-rock in the river bed, by 75 feet wide. The last run of one week, prior to the writing up of these notes, produced \$32,000, equal to an average of \$92.65 per ton. The present outlook is far better than when the run above mentioned was made.

The May Flower is the first company that has ever tapped the main channel on the Forest Hill divide. No other gravel mine on that divide, or anywhere else, so far as known, has made so good a showing of gold produced in so short a time* as the May Flower has done during the past six weeks. That the output of the precious metal will continue there seems no reason to doubt; the channel is large and the company's claim is extensive enough to give employment for a century.

The Works.

The company's works comprise some of the largest, most imposing and altogether best mining outfits in this State or any other State. They have fine hoisting works, with three large boilers, a 10-stamp mill, which will very soon be enlarged to 20 stamps, if, indeed, the enlargement has not already been made. The frame-work covering these works and all this machinery is the largest of any in California, and is built in a very substantial manner. The hoisting-tower is 106 feet high, this height being deemed necessary in order that the mine should have a good dump. About 65 men are employed by the company, which, we may say, en passant, has its own boarding-house and workmen's cottages, and will soon have its own general merchandise store, butcher shop, etc.

In fact, the mine has become in itself the nucleus of a thriving village.

This brief and hasty, but, so far as it goes, accurate sketch of the mine would be lacking in one important matter of interest to the public, did we not give the names of the gentlemen who compose the Board of Directors of the company. These are: James Newlands, president; R. Martinez, vice-president; V. M. Foucault, Chas. Collischonn and J. St. Denis. Messrs. F. Chappellet and Jos. Morizio, the very efficient and able secretary of the company, are the two oldest members of the company—and who were, in fact, the originators of it—and they are, of course, as already intimated, consulted about everything, and indeed they are the arbiters of the mine's destiny, for had it not been for their intelligent management and courageous persistence, the May Flower strike would not be, as it is now, the theme of conversation on Pine street and Pauper alley, as it is in Placer county and to some extent all over the coast.

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