

The Mines of Placer County, 1889

Editors Press:—This section has been written up for the Press lately, and in consequence it is not necessary to go into an extended description. The success attending the working of the Hathaway has infused new life into the district. Now that it is proven beyond a doubt that the ores of the section are not only rich, but that the contents can be saved, it will be but a question of time, and a short time at that, until Ophir will see greater activity in her quartz-mining interest than at any previous time. The Hathaway had been worked for the gold contents of the ore. The antimonial silver ore was not recognized, but thought to be galena. Mr. D. P. Price and his able millman, Mr. H. C. Haupt, took bold of the property for the owners, Messrs. Valentine Bros., and soon had the ores under control. The Frue, Woodberry and Victor concentrators were set aside and the Garnier put in place. This concentrator is a canvas-belt machine, with a motion similar to hand-panning. The machines have the merit of being low-priced as well as successful. At first some difficulty was experienced with the concentrators, but Mr. Haupt has overcome that, and to-day the mine and mill are a decided success, the silver value of the rock equaling that of the gold. As depth is attained, the rock is more heavily mineralized. Some of the richest of the ore is sacked and shipped to Argo, Colorado, for treatment. Next in value to the high grade of the ore is the fact that the pay is continuous throughout the entire length of the workings on the vein and growing richer. The shaft is down 250 feet, with drifts run 1005 feet, showing a vein of an average width of three feet in granite walls. Unlike many mines, this property has opened up and in reserve sufficient ore to keep the 20-stamp mill running steadily for a year. Developments are kept ahead all the time, and in consequence the ore reserves are constantly being added to. It is hardly necessary to add that Messrs. Price and Haupt (formerly of the "Nevill's," Angels) are the right men in the right place.

Roseville.

At Trap Ravine, Blair & Morgan sunk through the hardpan and discovered the old channel underneath. This pays, as far as prospected, 5c. to the pan. A ditch four miles in length has brought in water, and the property looks promising. The area is about one-fourth of a mile wide by one-half mile long.

Penryn.

The 10-stamp mill of the Phoenix is running steadily. Surrounded on all sides by orchards, the Phoenix is apt to be passed as idle, but such is not the case. The shaft is now down 320 feet on a ledge averaging 2¹/₂ feet, though 20 feet in width in places. Drifts have been run 300 feet, proving the average value of the rock to be \$7 a ton in free gold.

The Julian is closed and its surface covered with golden fruits of every description. It is a question whether the old Julian mine in its best days was ever as profitable as the Julian fruit ranch is to-day.

Kendall Cement Mines.

These are located six miles northwest of Newcastle on Badger ravine. The ores, or cement is crushed in the mills of the president's invention—the Kendall. Just how rich the cement is, I was not able to ascertain. The survey of the operations would lead one to suppose

that it was not only "a good thing," but "a big one." At Colfax, the Rising Sun mine is closed on account of litigation. The mine has produced over 52,000,000.

Forest Hill.

All along the ridge mining is quiet, with the exception of a few big mines. The Grey Eagle mill is closed, while a drain tunnel 2700 feet long is being driven to cut the vein 417 feet deep.

The Mayflower

is the mine of the section. The old surface gravel was worked off with a hydraulic, realizing a vast amount of gold. When the mine was closed down by the debris decision, a shaft was put down 500 feet and the blue gravel found under the basalt. To work this a tunnel 5200 feet long was driven. This cut the channel on an average eight feet below its bed. From this gangway upraises are made to the gravel. An average of eight feet of the gravel next the bedrock is worked. The drifts have been run north 888 feet and south 975 feet, the channel running nearly north and south. In this blue gravel the value is \$2 to \$20 a ton. In working the blue-gravel cement a cross channel of quartz gravel was struck running east and west. This is free from cement and the three feet worked very profitably. This quartz gravel lead is quite an addition to the wealth of the section. Its presence was not known until it was drifted into. As it is entirely blind, it does not show on the surface. Everything about the Mayflower shows good management. The 20-stamp mill crushes the cement freed from the boulders. Immediately below the batteries are grinding-tables or polishers which polish the gold and catch all amalgam escaping from the batteries. The gold is coarse and shaped like a flax or pumpkin seed. A large air-compressor furnishes power for the drills and air for the ventilation of the mine. One hundred and thirty-five men are employed at this mine. The product of the mine since December, 1888, has been \$267,000.

Dardanelles.

This valuable property is closed for the present. From the upper channel \$3,500,000 was taken out. A shaft costing \$250,000 was then put down and the blue-gravel lead of the Mayflower struck. All this property wants is a bedrock tunnel.

The Mountain.

On this mine the tunnel was run too high, and the mine was closed down until another tunnel can be driven. This is the condition of the other locations on the lead, all wanting bedrock tunnels. Once they are opened up. Forest Hill will be a more prosperous camp than in her palmy hydraulic days. The gravel is now known to be there and to be rich. Time will see it worked and that extensively. I did not go beyond Forest Hill, so could not give anything but hearsay knowledge of it, which is not desirable.

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