

**LACLEDE COMPANY.**

**Has Valuable Gold and Copper Mines on Powder River.**

G. G. McNamara, a resident mining engineer, of this city, returned a day or two ago from a visit to the Laclede Consolidated Gold and Copper Mining company's property on the North Powder river, about twenty-two or five miles from North Powder station on the O. R. & N. railway.

When Mr. McNamara was seen by a Democrat reporter he said: "The property consists of 160 acres of land upon which a United States patent has been obtained. The 160 acres seems to be the center of an extensive mineral bearing zone, there being no less than seven or eight distinct veins, varying in width from two to twenty feet, each carrying good values in gold and copper, the copper predominating. However, some of the large veins carry only gold and are entirely free from copper, making the treatment of the ores amenable to stamps and the cyanide process.

"The surface prospecting has been very thorough; test pits have been sunk at many different places on these veins. These test pits are from three to ten feet deep. Their object was to define the strike and dip of the veins as well as to ascertain the surface values. Besides the above there are about 400 feet of tunnels and shafts and a depth of 170 feet has been obtained. In all these deep workings the veins are well defined and the ores are of high values, yielding from \$20 to \$140 per ton in gold and copper. There is several hundred tons of this high grade ore on the different dumps ready for shipment or treatment on the ground.

"Making calculations from the dip or inclination of five of the copper bearing veins, which are from two and one-half to five feet wide, the indications are that they will converge into one at a depth of a few hundred feet.

"Much credit is due Mr. G. H. Downs, the company's manager, for the substantial and miner-like way in which all the work has been done. Everything shows careful attention to detail.

"The property is well equipped with large and commodious bunk and boarding houses, blacksmith shop, etc.

"Heavy and substantial framework is now completed and ready for the hoisting machinery to be put in place as soon as it arrives from the east, where the order was placed some weeks ago, and it is expected to be in operation by the first of the new year. At the point where the hoist is being placed a double compartment shaft, well timbered and ready for the cage, is now down over 50 feet. It is the intention of the company to continue this shaft to a depth of 400 feet, making it the main working shaft for the different veins contiguous thereto."—Democrat.

**Treadwell Ore Treated for 92 Cents a Ton**

The annual statement of the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining company for the year ending May 31, 1900, which has just been published, is an object lesson on the worth of economy in quartz mining. This is the great gold quartz mine located on Douglas island. During the year covered by the report two mills have been operated, one containing 240 stamps and the other 300. The former was running 154 days by water power and 158 days by steam. The latter started May 6, 1899, and its stamps were hung up during the winter from January 3 to March 21. Excepting the holiday—July 4—and the time occupied in cleanups, neither of the mills were idle, except when there was a shortage of water. The total quantity of ore mined and milled amounted to 557,960 tons. The average yield of bullion ob-

tained was \$2.0671 per ton, the total amounting to \$1,153,368. It cost to mine 49.86 cents, or a little less than 50 cents per ton, and to mill and concentrate 19.88 cents, or a trifle under 20 cents per ton. Other charges against the product of the mine, including new construction, brought the total expense up to 92.14 cents per ton. There was a net working profit, after paying all expenses, of \$1.2079 per ton, making a total of \$673,691. Out of this \$300,000, equal to 6 per cent. on the stock was paid in dividends, leaving a balance of \$373,691 to be added to the reserve fund of \$230,717 brought forward from the previous year, making a total reserve of \$604,678 at the close of the year. The total net working profit of the stock amounted to 13.48 per cent. on the stock. The men are well paid. Besides board and lodging (excepting Indian laborers), they receive the following wages: Machine drillers, \$2.50 in summer and \$3 in winter; machine helpers \$2.25; white mine laborers, \$2; amalgamators, \$90 per month; feeders, \$70; vannermen, \$65 to \$100; machinists and helpers, from \$2 to \$6 per day; blacksmiths' helpers, \$2; Indian laborers, \$2 without board. Labor was scarce through the year, the gold discoveries at Cape Nome and elsewhere in the north having attracted all the surplus.—American Mining News.

**Mystery of "Rusty" Gold.**

The mystery of "rusty" gold, or gold that will not amalgamate, has never yet been satisfactorily solved. Theoretical metallurgists state that it is a condition in which the grains or scales of the metal are covered with a "metallic oxide," but do not state what oxide or what metal. Practical metallurgists do not attempt to explain it, but hope the day may come when it will be understood. Persistent rubbing or grinding will often change "rusty" to "live" gold; sometimes acids will have the same effect, and sometimes alkalies. One of the most likely theories on the subject is that the particles of the precious metals are enveloped in a film of very finely divided clay or talc and that is the reason of its suspension in water. Again it is asserted that the trouble is always with the mercury and not with the gold.

A fine selection of goods suitable for Christmas presents will be here in a few days, including the following: Fine French china ornaments and useful articles, solid sterling silver table ware, novelties, Rogers Brothers knife, forks, spoons, etc; also a full line of watches and jewelry. F. C. Brodie, Opera House building.

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