

DREDGING FOR GOLD.

Practical Suggestions as to How to Make it Pay.

Many men whose opinions are trustworthy on other subjects are entirely unable to form a sane or just conclusion on matters connected with gold. Many, if not most, men also are inclined to put a better face on the question than usually exists, and the sight of a few yellow colors leads them at once to figure out a bonanza. If investors would only bring to bear on gold mining the same prudence and business sense which is necessary in any other business, it would greatly reduce the number of failures. The investor has to guard against two classes of evil advice. One is that of the professional swindler who "promotes" the property for the sole purpose of transmitting the funds of the subscribers into his own pocket, and the other is the well-meaning man who, perhaps, has a fairly good thing if properly worked, but who has more self-confidence than experience and skill.

The ground should be surveyed—if not accurately at least approximately—and a map prepared on which may be recorded the positions of the test-pits, the area available, and the extent of the ground worked every season. Test-pits should be sunk at sufficiently frequent intervals to place the nature of the ground beyond conjecture. The examination should show the full depth of the gravel, the nature of the bedrock, if any, and the distribution of the values; whether they are greatest at the surface, in layers, or on the bottom. Values are never uniformly distributed, and nothing is more deceptive than a glib statement of so much per cubic yard.

The nature of the material should also be ascertained, and this not only on the surface. The sizes and percentages of the gravel, from coarsest to finest, should be measured. This is necessary to determine the character of screens to be used, or whether any at all are necessary. The action of the gravel while being washed or sluiced should be experimentally determined. Some gravels wash very freely; others, again, are of a clayey or sticky nature, often with large boulders, which increase the difficulty of working. The condition of water supply is most important. Water is essential to the recovery of gold, and its presence in suitable quantities is a great desideratum.

The disposition of tailings is a subject which must be carefully studied. Unless the dredge can get rid of all material passed through without choking or piling up, in such a manner as to interrupt its work, it is liable to be stopped, and the entire enterprise brought to a standstill until the difficulty can be remedied. The configuration of the ground, the character of the material, the depth of the water, and the height of ground worked above water, all enter into the question and should be carefully determined. As to the gold itself, the question is threefold. There are to be considered, first, the character of the gold; second, its value per cubic yard of material handled; third, the best method of saving it. On the satisfactory determination of these points the whole success of the enterprise depends, and here long experience and sound judgment are absolutely necessary. The gold may be fine or coarse, of all degrees, and may be easy to save or difficult to save, and the most effective method of saving it depends upon its character. There is no new discovery for gold saving. All known methods depend on one thing for their successful action, namely, the great specific gravity of gold as compared with the gravel. Their separation can be effected only by washing with water, aided sometimes by

amalgamation, but the methods of washing are subject to wide variation.—Cassier's Magazine.

Good Copper Ore Around Burkemont.

Mr. John W. Cliff, mining man of Des Moines, Iowa, who is spending a few days in Baker City, said to a reporter this morning: "I have just come through the mineral belt of Nevada, your neighboring state, where I found many rich properties and indications of many more both in gold and copper. I find here the same general belt of minerals and believe it extends on through to the north. I consider this the richest mineral country in the world and with a great future before it, little dreamed of even by the residents here. Just think, the entire population of Nevada does not equal one-half the population of a single county in Iowa that I can name, and one-half our people know nothing of this great country out here. Yesterday I visited the mines in the vicinity of Burkemont to the northeast of Baker. I was surprised and delighted with what I found there. Rich copper and gold properties abound. I am convinced that you do not yet know your own wealth in copper, and before many years expire you will have at the door of Baker City as great copper producing mines as the world has ever seen. I am coming back to this country before long, as myself and friends are already interested here."—Republican.

Trust Absorbs Guggenheim Smelters.

A New York press dispatch, dated the 19th instant, says: Announcement was made today of the proposed absorption of the Guggenheim silver smelting plants by the American Smelting and Refining company. To accomplish this the stockholders of the latter company will be asked to assent to the proposition that the capital be increased from \$55,000,000 to \$100,000,000. Of this amount \$15,000,000 will be added to the working capital of the company. Officials of the smelting company decline to make known how much it has been agreed to pay for the Guggenheim property, but the inference permitted to be drawn was that the Guggenheims received something like the difference between \$55,000,000 and \$100,000,000, less the \$15,000,000, which it is proposed to utilize for extra working capital. It was also stated that none of the new stock would be offered for sale. It is expected that the stockholders of the smelting company will hold a special meeting within the next two weeks to ratify the action of the directors.

Ten Feet Average \$14.40 in Gold.

Manager R. W. McMitchell, of the Gold King company, returned from the mines this morning and has a splendid report to make. The property of the company consists of two claims on Quartz creek, near the Van Anda and two claims on Mill creek, near the Red Boy. All of the claims make a good showing. Mr. McMitchell, who has just completed this year's assessment work on the Golden Chariot claims, on Quartz creek, said to a reporter this morning: "Yes, our work for this year is all done and I am more than satisfied. We have opened a 60-foot ledge which contain veins of rich ore. The whole ledge to a depth of ten feet averages across its face better than \$14.40 to the ton in gold. Next year we will work the property for all there is in it." The officers and directors of the company are as follows: President, Dr. E. B. McDaniels; secretary and treasurer, Dr. R. R. Meyers; directors, J. Goodwin, V. Bildner, M. Wright, Chas. Condon.—Republican.

Notice of Dissolution of Partnership.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership existing between Ed Turk and Minot Austin, under the style of Austin Meat company, was dissolved on October 29, 1900, and said Minot Austin has assumed sole control of said business.

MINOT AUSTIN.

Sumpter, December 15, 1900.

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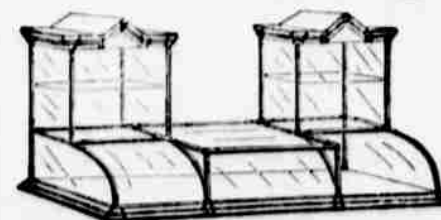
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