

**FRENCH COMPANY WINS.**

**Termination of Hard Fought Case Over Flick Bar Mines.**

An important mining decision was handed down by Judge Eakin a few days ago, it being in the case of the suit involving the possession of the Flick Bar mining property on Snake river, for which, all told, the French company paid in the neighborhood of \$60,000.

The decision was in favor of the French company. The case has been in the courts since 1898. The French company was represented by Attorney J. L. Rand, of this city, who has made a stubborn fight for his clients.

The suit was brought by E. A. Stephens, J. S. Brice and others to regain possession of the claim on forfeiture of contract, the plaintiffs claiming that the property should revert to the original owners in case of a forfeiture.

It appears from the statement of the case that the sum of \$40,000 should be paid for certain claims, upon a patent being secured for the same. The company paid something over \$38,000, leaving a balance of something less than \$1,800. Part of the ground, 15 acres, was contested and no patent was issued therefor. The company therefore refused to pay the balance of the \$40,000.

The following are the salient points of the decision:

"There is not evidence before the court of the value of the said fifteen acres of the said unnamed claim, or of the value placed upon the same in the purchase thereof, other than pro rata of purchase price of the whole ground, and this pro rata of said fifteen acres would exceed in value the amount at this time of the unpaid purchase price of the property.

"That the patenting of the mining ground was a condition upon which the final payment should become due and payable, and the failure of the trustee to obtain a patent to the said fifteen acres of the unnamed claim was not the fault of the defendant Wood, or of the Flick Bar Placer Mining company.

"That there is no breach of contract by the defendants that entitles the plaintiffs to a forfeiture of the contract, or a reconveyance of the property, or if there were such a forfeiture, or right to rescind the contract, it could only be claimed upon the repayment by the plaintiffs to the defendants of the purchase price, less the damages suffered in consequence of the breach, as there is no forfeiture of the purchase price under this contract in case of a failure to perform.

"That the plaintiffs should take nothing by their complaint in this suit, and that the defendants should have a decree for their costs and disbursements."

**MEXICO'S SILVER COINAGE.**

**Oriental Demand for its Dollars Raises Price of White Metal.**

In reviewing the commercial and industrial conditions in the Republic of Mexico during 1900, the Bureau of American Republics gives the following figures relating to silver exports and coinage for the year:

One of the singular movements of the year was that of the exports of Mexican silver dollars for the use of other nations, in China and the Philippines. This not only drained the Republic of its medium of exchange, but caused an advance in the price of silver. The director of the Mexican mint says the demand for Mexican silver dollars is increasing, but the production of silver is not commensurate with the demand. The smelters are shipping a large proportion of their output to the United States, paying the 5 per cent export tax. The silver that is exported is argentiferous lead silver, of which the stock in the banks and stores of the Republic is 100,000,000 pesos. The production in 1899 was about 80,000,000 pesos. The present heavy use of silver is due

only in part to the demand in the far east for Mexican dollars, of which 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 were shipped to China in the last year, to be converted into Chinese dollars. The Mexican peso contains 244 10 grains of fine silver, being thus unusually rich in the white metal, and hence a favorite with the Chinese, Philippine and Strait settlers. The demand is due also to the increased industrial enterprises in Mexico, requiring silver coin for wages and expenses.

Silver coinage reached its maximum in 1892 with 30,000,000 pesos. This decreased in 1897 to 22,000,000, and in 1899 to 19,000,000. The mints during 1900 coined 1,500,000 pesos monthly. On the other hand silver exports are increasing. The maximum in exports in silver in 1892 reached 46,000,000 pesos, coincident with the date of the first sterling loan contracted by Mexico. Since that time the exports have increased, being 57,000,000 pesos in 1897. In 1899 the silver exports were as follows: Ores, 13,000,000; bullion, 34,000,000; coin, 25,000,000. For the year ending June 30th the mints of the Republic coined 43,754 gold pieces, having a total value of \$599,432, and 22,957,898 silver coins, worth \$21,066,443.

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