

PROFESSIONAL AND NOVICE.

The Different Classes of Mining Men Described.

There is probably no vocation in the line of human endeavor which is more enticing, or has more glamor associated with it than that of mining. There is also, it can be truthfully said, no occupation which requires more deep study, more application and more practical experience than this industry, to qualify a person to follow it successfully.

It is a business to which there is no end, it is continually going on with rapid strides. Especially is this true when the science of metallurgy is added to the extraction of the metals from the earth. Methods of mining and means of manipulating ores, are more or less changing all the time, and alert the miner or metallurgist must be, who keeps in touch with all improvements so he can be up-to-date.

Notwithstanding the above facts, there are possibly more experts in both branches of this business than in any other known.

Somehow those who have an unusual amount of gall, to use a common phrase, when they are fortunate enough to get an audience with an investor, and have loaded themselves up with a number of scientific terms, can cause the man with money, if he be a novice, to think that they know all the secrets of a profession which it has taken a qualified person many years and cost him considerable money to acquire.

There is quite a difference between the educated man in the mining and metallurgical professions and the expert who has picked up his knowledge from observation. The former is generally modest. He has an up-to-date office in which all necessary instruments are kept for performing work of precision. He remains in his office when not otherwise engaged and meets and arranges his business affairs with his clients there. In fact there is now nearly as much of a code of ethics among the scientific men of mining affairs, as there is in the medical profession.

On the other hand, the would-be, the person who has a smattering of the business, is on the curbstone; he is on the lookout for the tenderfoot. He is liable to buttonhole him anywhere and, if the stranger is easy, he is likely to part with some of his wealth in exchange for a mining claim which would not be recommended were he to employ a person who has a reputation to keep sacred, and who is fully capable of coming very close to the merits or demerits of anything of a mining nature.

In these days there is no necessity for anyone to be taken in on a mining deal, unless they belong to that class, described by the late P. T. Barnum, those who love to be humbugged. Of course if man wishes to gamble, it is his glorious privilege as long as he violates no law, and there is probably no more fascinating form of courting Dame Fortune's favor than trying his luck seeking for wealth which lies hidden in the bowels of the earth.

Banner Year For Mining Stocks.

In the last issue of the Western Mining World, the following prediction is made regarding mining stocks for the year 1903: The new year has opened as

we predicated with an increased demand in general for all the better class of unlisted stocks, but with the shares of mining companies well to the front. Judging from the business done during the past month, it is safe to predict that 1903 will be a banner year for mining stocks, especially as a great many of the mines that were incorporated last year will go on the permanent dividend paying list before the present year is brought to a close. We again caution investing before thoroughly looking into a company, its mines and the men behind it. There are altogether too many companies that won't stand an examination.

ON COMSTOCK MINES.

Property Near the Red Boy Being Developed

Two shifts of miners are busily engaged in extending the crosscut tunnel into the hill whereon is located the mineral veins of the Comstock Gold Mining and Milling company, situated northeast of the Red Boy and adjoining the Blue Bird.

This company is a Spokane concern, it is incorporated for \$60,000 with shares at only five cents each. The present contract is for 200 feet, fifty of which has been completed.

At present this tunnel is 540 feet in length, two leads have been penetrated and the bore is being extended so as to cut another known to be some distance ahead. The rock is very hard, therefore progress is quite slow with hand drills.

The first vein encountered was cut at a depth of 150 feet from the surface and the second one 175 feet in depth. They are about 400 feet apart. The first averages ten feet in width and is of satisfactory grade, the second vein is twenty feet wide and like the first, carries pay values, both containing free gold.

These lodes are described as carrying porphetic quartz, said to be a splendid indication for permanency in that section. No drifting has been done on either of them, the company desiring to push the tunnel ahead and open up the other vein before more thoroughly exploring that which they already have in sight.

There are four claims in the group, the Poor Boy, Mineral Chief and two others, whose names are not at hand. On the surface a considerable quantity of work has been done in the way of open cuts, sinking pits etc, which prove the continuity of the lodes and justifying the present development work.

REDUCED RATES FROM THE EAST

Commencing February 15 and continuing until April 30, there will be low rates from the east via the Illinois Central railroad to all Washington, Oregon and Idaho points. If any of your friends or relatives in the east are coming west while these rates are in effect, give us their name and address, and we will make it our business to see that they are given the best possible service. We operate through personally conducted excursion cars, and in fact give you the benefit of the latest conveniences known to modern railroading. We have fifteen different routes between the east and the west, and are in position to give you the benefit of the best combinations. Write us and we will give you full particulars.

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