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THE SUMPTER MINER

HUNTING FOR ORE BODIES.

Large Sums of Money Wasted in This Vein Effort.

A mining engineer of experience enters into the matter of expending large sums of money in mines in hunting for ore bodies, and exposes some of the fallacies of mining in the following manner in the Mining Engineer:

It is not uncommon to see large sums spent in hunting ore along the edges of some worked-out ore shoot. In other cases the barren vein areas between shoots is explored by the same close and expensive network of shafts, winzes and levels that would be used within the areas of the shoots themselves. Since shoots stand up and down in a vein, there is more chance of striking one by horizontal than by vertical workings. Incidentally the former are much cheaper. Notwithstanding this, the chief hopes in development work are apt to center on the shafts and winzes, because these gain depth.

The old and never dying delusion that mines always improve with depth, is partially responsible for this. As a matter of fact, mines improve when any workings gets into an ore shoot. But now and then some shaft headed for the earth's center chances to run into a shoot on its downward slope. The same shoot might have been found with little delay or expense by a short level from the shaft while it was shallow. Indeed, it may come to the surface and a little skillful prospecting expose it there at the beginning of operations. Nevertheless, such strikes are always heralded as

proof of the depth theory.

When mining in fissure veins, a part of the development work is often wasted by being "run off the vein." The filled and cemented fissure which constitutes a vein of this class is not often a simple, clear-cut break. Like any other fracture in a solid mass, it has branches, side bows and parallel crevices in every conceivable form. These may be distributed through a width of 20 to 100 feet and are more or less connected by inter-lacing crevices. It is not easy, and sometimes impossible at first sight, to distinguish the principal ore-bearing fracture or "main vein" from the others. At every split there is a chance of following the wrong clew and the sum total of such possible errors in a single mine is evident.

The difficulties are increased by the fact that an ore shoot frequently jumps from one crevice to another, and mine levels, therefore, pass by it. In addition to the difficulties of identifying the main crevice of one vein, are those which come from the existence of other veins close by. Every time the vein must be reached anew by a lower shaft, crosscut or tunnel, there is danger of mistake. There are no tags on the veins and a large expenditure of good money on the wrong one is a familiar sight.

Will Develop the Deadwood Group.

Minneapolis and Dakota capitalists have organized a company and taken over the Deadwood group of claims in the Greenhorns, and will commence development works shortly on an extensive scale. The group consists of the Morris No. 2, Merrimac, Bull's Eye and Syndicate claims, and is located in the Greenhorn mountains, at the head of Clear creek, not far from the Tempest. Wilson and Bucknum were the former owners of this group of promising claims.

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