

**MACHINE DRILLS
AT BLUE BIRD.**

**Plant On Ground And Will
Be Installed At Once.**

E. J. Thorp, superintendent for the Blue Bird, returned last week from a business trip to Portland. He says that the six drill compressor plant now on the ground is to be installed right away and development work to be pushed more vigorously.

Mr. Wheeler, of New York, fiscal agent for the Blue Bird and the Valley Queen, is expected here in a few days when plans for a reduction plant which is to be put in this summer will be determined upon and work in this direction started. The capacity of the mill has not yet been settled, nor the kind of mill it is to be, but it is stated it will be not less than thirty or forty tons a day to begin with.

In the meantime development is proceeding on the property. The drift has been carried a distance of 300 feet on the ledge which a couple of crosscuts have shown to be from fourteen to thirty-eight feet wide. With the installation of machine drills a large amount of development work is expected to be accomplished this summer.

THE SOURCE OF GOLD.

**A Rich Vein Does Not Always Produce
Rich Placers.**

The greatest incentive the miner has to seek for gold is the discovery of rich ore or placer gold in an unsuspected place. There are streams, gulches and flats, famous in mining history for the rich placer mines developed in them, but the source of the gold is not always apparent. Generally, in these later days there are those who at once seek the source of the gold found in rich placers, in the belief that a more valuable and permanent mine is likely to result if this source can be found. There are instances where years have passed before the source of gold in a placer gulch has been recognized, and in some instances the original source of the gold still remains undiscovered. The trained geologist in some cases, after careful investigation, can usually reach a conclusion, satisfactory to himself, but the miner is often at a loss to account for the existing condition of things. It is not always found that a rich vein produces rich placer deposits. The erosion of veins and deposits which produce telluride gold ores does not always result in rich placers. The erosion of the telluride ores of the Black Hills, South Dakota, has not, as far as known, resulted in placer deposits, though those of Cripple Creek, Colorado, occurring under entirely different conditions—in fissures, instead of blanket deposits—have produced placers.

In some regions rich placer deposits have been discovered and worked out, and the source from which the gold came has never been satisfactorily determined. The ancient river channels of the Forest Hill divide, Placer county, California, which have produced many millions appear to have not derived their gold from quartz veins such as exists in other portions of the State, but seem to have been the result of erosion of a slaty or schistose rock, in which the

gold occurred in narrow seams and in pockets. In some of these mines large nuggets have been found in which the edges of the crystallized gold were still sharp, being little or not at all abraded by the detritus of the stream, being conclusive evidence that the gold is found near its original source. Gold has also been found in the bedrock in situ, further proving that the gold of that section is derived from the pockets and seams in the rock, and not from quartz veins of the ordinary type.—Mining and Scientific Press.

RESUMED WORK.

**Drifting On Tunnel Level
Started At Golden Wizard.**

Superintendent McPhee resumed work on the Golden Wizard last Friday. He is drifting on the tunnel level. The shaft had to be abandoned several days ago on account of water. Mr. McPhee had about concluded when the water forced him to leave the present shaft, to sink a three-compartment shaft about 250 feet from the hanging wall thus avoiding the water which drains to the foot wall, but he has decided to leave this matter over till later.

L. O. Miller, of Three Rivers, Michigan, president of the Golden Wizard company, will be here in a short time when plans for the stamp mill to be erected this fall will be taken under advisement. It is stated that the plant will probably have a ten-stamp capacity to start with, and that the three-compartment shaft will be started when the mill is ready for operation.

Miller cap protectors. T. G. Harrison agent for Baker, Grant and Union counties.

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