

## SOME MINING EXCITEMENTS

Have Been History Makers  
in Ancient as Well as  
Modern Times.

Desire for the precious metals, rather than geographical researches or military conquest, is the chief motive which has led to the dominion of the earth by the civilized races. Gold has always invited commerce, invasions has followed commerce, and permanent occupation has been the usual result. In fact, the history of man may almost be written by telling of his quest for gold, and the first faint glimmers of authentic historical knowledge reveal man searching for the yellow metal. Nay more; the golden age of man's innocence and happiness, by its very name, expresses his highest and greatest love.

People have dreamed that on the fabled "Lost Island of Atlantis" there was great wealth and luxury, typified by the possession of immense quantities of the precious metals. In the palaces of the nobility of the day stood life-sized statues carved or cast in gold, and when the awful deluge of volcanic fire obliterated the doomed land, the vapor of the metal rose high above the ruins of the cities. (See Ignatius Donnelly and other authors.)

In the voyage of the Argonauts from Calchis in Thessaly for the Golden Fleece, we find an early rush, though its exact date is uncertain—probably about 2,000 B. C. It was a rush for gold, which was to be collected in sheep's fleeces placed in the torrents flowing down from the flanks of Mount Caucasus.

Still older was the westward movement which Chaldean records of 3,800 B. C. chronicle, to the gold bearing land of Melukkan, afterward known as Midian.

Later on, but still at a very early period, there was a rush from Egypt to the desert lands on the banks of the Red Sea and in Nubia. Diodorus Siculus, long afterwards, described this rush, and even left a map showing the gold fields, the roads leading to them, and the wells dug to supply water for the gold seekers. These mines are now being reopened by English capital.

About 1,000 B. C. there was another rush of miners in search of gold into South Africa. Its extent can readily be guessed by the immense ruins left behind the workers, and which are now again attracting the attention of the gold seeker. This is undoubtedly the gold of Ophir, from which Solomon drew his supplies. It has been calculated that at least \$350,000,000 was won by these early prospectors.

Strabo declares that the famous voyages of Ulysses, described so graphically in the Odyssey and Iliad of Homer, were made to Iberia (ancient Spain). At any rate, Spain was the Golconda of Phoenician and Roman days.

From then on for many centuries the gold fields of the earth seemed exhausted. Everything stagnated in medieval darkness.

The discovery of America in 1492

by Columbus opened wonderfully rich new deposits of the precious metals, and the Spaniards worked them to the limit.

Brazil gave its placers to the miner in 1573.

During the nineteenth century there was greater activity than was perhaps ever known before. The record of the opening of notable mining districts and rushes to them has been almost constant.

In 1803 the famous San Francisco placers in Sonora, Mexico, were discovered; the Melkowka placers in Siberia, in 1816; the wonderful silver district of Fresnillo, Mexico, in 1824; the silver district of Chauracillo, Chili, in 1832; the silver district of Gaudalupe y Calvo, Mexico, in 1834; the silver district of Guadalcanal, Spain, about 1830; the rich gold placers of the Altai mountains in Siberia, in 1830; the gold placers of California in 1848-49; the placers of Australia in 1851; the placers of New Zealand, in 1857; the silver-gold deposits of Washoe (the Comstocks), in 1859; the gold-silver mines of Idaho, in 1861; the placers of Montana, in 1862; the gold ledges of the Black Hills, South Dakota, in 1876; the gold-silver-lead lodes of the Coeur d'Alenes, Idaho, in 1876; the gold reefs of the Transvaal, South Africa, in 1884; the gold mines of Randsburg, California, in 1896; the placers of the Klondyke, Yukon Territory, in 1897, and the placers of Nome, Alaska, in 1898.

The new century has opened auspiciously by giving us the wonderful gold-silver camp of Tonopah, Nevada, and the promise of perhaps still greater things in the near vicinity.—L. E. Glover, in Mining and Engineering Review.

## DISCOVERED REMAINS OF A MASTODON.

A miner, whose name was not learned brought in today a curious piece of bone from the Greenhorns, which he claims was discovered in the neighborhood of the Virginia mine. Several persons who profess a knowledge of anatomy examined the piece, and urge that it is not from the remains of any living species.

It is an irregular fragment weighing between four or five pounds, and has the appearance of being from the pelvic region of some enormous animal. Those who have seen and are to some extent familiar with paleontology say that it would be an easy matter to complete from the fragment the restoration of a gigantic mastodon, the species of which has been long extinct. The miner who discovered the bone says it came from a prospect at which he was doing some work, but no other bones were near it.

### Extensive Work at Lucy.

M. P. Keogh, of Milwaukee, treasurer of the company operating the Lucy group in the Greenhorns, who arrived here yesterday, Sam P. Stott, president of the company, and A. W. Ellis and Morris Sullivan, stockholders, left today for the property. Mr. Keogh will remain at the mine for some time, familiarizing himself with the details of the work. The company is now in a position financially to prosecute development and extensive operations are planned for the coming season.

## BELCHER MILL HAS ARRIVED

P. A. Brady, superintendent of the Belcher, was on the train to Baker this afternoon to make arrangements for the transfer of the twenty stamp mill to the property. The machinery is now at Baker City.

Mr. Brady was joined here by B. L. McLain, the mill-wright, who has the contract for building the new plant. He thinks that the machinery will be transferred at once and work on the mill started. The fact that the snow is liable to remain on the ground for some time to come will make the hauling easier now than to wait later, when the snow begins to leave. It was this end in view that the trip was made to Baker today. It is probable, says Mr. Bradley, that things will be gotten in shape at once for immediate construction. Mr. McLain, who is among the best known millwrights in the district, is to have entire charge of the work. The plant will be of twenty stamps and modern in appointments.

## PROGRAM FOR MEETING OF AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS

The following program has been arranged for the meeting of the American Mining congress in Portland:

August 22—Reception, organization addresses of welcome by Mayor Williams and Governor Chamberlain; responses, etc.

August 23—President's address on the Lewis and Clark Exposition, to be delivered by some distinguished Oregonian; address, "The Relation of Mining to the General Industries of the Country," probably by William J. Bryan or ex-Senator Towne.

August 24—An address setting forth the need of a Department of Mines and Mining at Washington. This will be delivered by some statesman of great reputation, among those now considered being Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, and Senator Newlands, of Nevada. The establishment of a branch mint or assay office at Portland will also be considered.

August 25—This day will be devoted to the plan of establishing permanent headquarters for the congress and general business.

August 26—Presentation of scientific papers and routine business.

August 27—Election of officers, selection of next meeting place.

### Tunnel Twelve Miles Long.

The Simplon tunnel in the Alps, one of the greatest works in the world, is rapidly approaching completion. Its total length will be a little over twelve miles, of which distance six and upward have been penetrated on the north, or Brigue side, and four and upward on the south, or Italian side, leaving only a fraction over one mile yet to be completed. It is expected that the two sections will be joined together in the coming May or June, and it will not be long thereafter when trains will regularly be running through. The organization of the work is of high efficiency. No sickness exists among the men; the use of the Brandt drill immediately suppresses all dust and there has not been a single case of miner's phthisis, although some 3,000 men have been at work for five years.—Exchange.

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