

## MINE DISCOVERY, ROMANTIC SIDE

### Prospectors, Like Soldiers, Have The Courage Born of Fatalism.

Miners, as a class, are gifted with a vein of romanticism in their mental makeup. It is well that it is so, for without the hardihood, the adventurous spirit that goes to make up a romantic disposition, most of the mineral wealth of the world would be still hidden in savage fastnesses.

We do not think that the fortitude displayed by the Alaska or Matabeland pioneers was entirely due to the thirst for gold. The spirit of the pioneer and prospector is similar to that evinced by the soldier or the sailor, who surely do not take up their professions because of monetary considerations. As one who has foregathered with all of these classes of men, we recognize a similarity of instinct and characteristics in their natures. They all have the reckless courage, born of fatalism; they are all more or less superstitious, and, lastly, they have the imaginations that cause them to do great deeds.

Today it is recognized generally that to do great work imagination is essential. Scientific men even write learned works, showing that imagination is essential to the scientist's mentality. We have been told lately that a "financier is only a pawnbroker with an imagination."

That miners have this gift of imagination needs no demonstration to those who have camped with them and have listened to their free, untrammelled flow of ideas. Then, too, can we not proudly claim the immortal Baron Munchausen as an honored member of our craft?

This gift of imagination is not necessarily concentrated into the purpose of work. It has a lighter and more fanciful side. Half, or more than half, the traditions of lost mines or of the discovery of famous mines are pure imaginings, invented to pass an idle hour. For instance, some of our readers may have heard of a certain "Dead Dog" mine in Arizona. There may be such a mine, but the one we allude to is mythical. The value of the ore in this mine approached the fabulous and its alleged doings obtained wide publicity. The whole story was evolved from the fertile imaginations of two invalid mining men recuperating at Phoenix, Arizona, hotel. We knew them well and knew that the whole story originated in a joke on a callow newspaper reporter. The fine, jovial fellows have crossed the range, but the story still survives and it would not surprise us if an active search should be instituted for the "Lost Dead Dog" mine.

The romantic side of mining has a perennial interest for the general, as well as the mining reader. Possibly no more widely copied item ever appeared in Mining Reporter than a column article on the traditions relating to the adventitious discoveries of some famous mines. To these stories may be added the legendary discovery of the El Tajo mine in the

state of Sinaloa, Mexico. The story, told us around a camp fire on the crests of the Sierra Madre Occidental was so circumstantial that it might possibly be true.

On a stormy night in August, 1665, a belated peon by the name of Leon Rojas had the misfortune to catch his rosary on a bush or rock, scattering the beads on the ground. Unwilling to lose the sacred beads, and being unable to see them on account of darkness, the peon made a fire and stayed by the spot all night. In the morning he found, to his amazement, that where his fire had been, was a solid plate of silver that had been smelted from other rock. Of course he developed the find and opened up a very famous El Tajo vein, which is still working on a very large scale, and which has turned out many millions of dollars in gold and silver. It is well authenticated that the mine produced a million dollars per annum for a number of years.

Such stories as this are common in all mining countries. If told to pass an idle hour, they serve as an innocuous amusement. Often, however, the yarns are used to bait a prospectus trap or, in the case of legendary "lost" mines, they cause a great loss of valuable effort in attempts to rediscover them. We presume that hardly a year goes by without some party attempting to find the fabulous Gunsight, Lost Squaw or Lost Cabin mines. In spite of circumstantial evidence we have always felt that the mines just mentioned were only lost in the imaginations of some cheerful descendant of the old-time miner, Munchausen.—Mining Reporter.

### DIAMONDS OF THE WORLD PRICE AGAIN ADVANCED

As the result of last month's advance of 5 per cent, diamonds are now dearer by 20 per cent than at any time since the consolidation of the De Beers mines in South Africa. The United States last year imported diamonds to the value of \$8,403,222.

The output of the De Beers companies, which control 93 per cent of the world's supply, was for the year ending in November, 1903, \$26,205,000, on which was realized a profit of \$11,500,000. It is estimated that the South African mines have added \$400,000,000 worth of diamonds to the world's stock. Surprise will be excited by the statement that not 5 per cent of the diamonds in the world have been lost in a hundred years.

Amsterdam is still the center of the diamond industry. There 8,956 persons are engaged in splitting, polishing and cutting these precious stones, in sixty-four "factories." Considering the expertness demanded for this work their weekly wages of from \$10.05 to \$20.10 appear disproportionate to the skill required.

The United States has become the chief importer of diamonds, with Russia next and France and England in the order named. No doubt their increased popularity with us is in part due to the recognition of their desirability as an investment not liable to great financial fluctuation in value.—New York World.

### To Increase Force.

Manager Bain, of the Overland, has arranged to increase his working force at the property. Additional men will be sent out tomorrow, and development prosecuted still more vigorously than in the past.

# FOR SALE

**\$2,000**

Ten Roomed Residence. One of the Best Locations in town.

**\$2,000**

Home. Completely Furnished. Location and Grounds Delightful. Piano, Large Range and other valuable Furniture included in this. Barn and Outbuildings.

**\$800**

New Six Room House and Lot, nicely located. Easy terms.

**\$250**

Choice Resident Lot near center of town.

**\$50, \$75, and \$100**

Buy Choice Resident Lots not far out.

**\$300**

Buy House and Lot with Barn. A Comfortable Little Home.

## LAUNDRY BUSINESS

I am instructed to sell the Steam Laundry business, of Sumpter, which is the Best Paying Business in town for the amount of capital required to handle it. Call and see me and get figures.

**20,000**

Acres now under irrigation in one of the best localities in Oregon. Are you interested in securing a home of this kind, from 40 to 160 acres. These lands in three years will be worth three times what they can be bought for at the present time. Call and see maps and get prices and terms on this property.

## PLACER PROPERTY

Do you want something good in a Placer Proposition? We have rich placer ground near Sumpter, and an opportunity to secure an abundance of water for long season's work. Here is an opportunity for a person with small capital, to secure a proposition with such merit as will increase on investigation in the estimation of the most critical examiner. If interested, call and see us and get particulars.

**1.280 ACRES**

One of the most attractive large bodies of land in Burnt River Valley. Level as a meadow. All can be irrigated. Can be sold in size tracts to suit the purchaser, at \$15 and less per acre.

## INLAND EMPIRE INVESTMENT CO.

JESSE HOBSON **MANAGER**

**HOTEL SUMPTER**