

SUMMER STORY OF A \$35,000 POCKET

In '72 we located a bit of placer property in Nevada county, California, said an old miner. All about us was activity, the giants with their frightful throw of water were eating into the great gravel banks and bringing down with their tremendous energy the virgin hills, rocks, boulders, gravel and dirt. Mixed with these and captured in the sluice boxes was gold nuggets large and small, and in apparently never ending quantity. There were a prosperous lot in these diggings and the district's output materially helped to swell the grand total of the state's gold production.

When I began mining there, the camp was a young one and but little ground had been turned over. A few years ago I made a visit to the camp and such a sight. It seemed as though some mighty convulsion of nature had occurred, the hills for miles had been overturned and spread out over the land. It looked as though a vast plough had furrowed the earth this way and that way, until nature had called a halt. Man, hungry for gold, had wrought this seemingly impossible change on the face of the earth, an instance of the great and ever drawing magnetic qualities of gold. The place was deserted, save for a few Chinamen, who day after day hunted for the little metal overlooked by former operators.

However, back to my story, our claim was not over ten acres. It then lay about two miles from the main mining center and was off to the side, but when we struck the pay stuff we knew we were well within the favored district. We found color at a number of points on our claim, but after careful search we found one spot that had the appearance of being very rich and there we concentrated our efforts. There were three of us, and we had stuck together for several years. We had been fairly successful, nothing big having as yet come our way, but on the whole we had no cause to complain.

We went to work with a will on our new claim. We used no giant, but merely dug and dug and panned as we dug. It was a slow, very slow work, but as almost every pan that we put the water to showed colors, we were more than satisfied, for we were, for us, making big money. After a time we found that we were following a well defined vein, so to speak, in the gravel. It was but a few feet wide and zigzagged here and there, and our workings had the appearance of our having burrowed for a ground mole. The gold that we had been taking out was rather fine gold and as the vein progressed it appeared to be growing richer.

For upwards of six months we followed the peculiar trend of that gold streak and we had as yet gone not more than a dozen feet below the surface. Every foot of the vein almost yielded us ample returns and we were beginning to think that this same gold-bearing streak stretched away for an indefinite distance. Of a sudden it dipped, not straight down, but slanting, and the gold as we followed the dip grew coarser. There was no zigzag to this part of the vein, as it was about a straight away, and we followed it down and down for a distance of 100 feet, when abruptly

it ended at bed rock, and such an ending!

There in a bowl-shaped indentation in the rock, hewed out as if by some magic power, the bowl a few feet deep and about five in circumference, there, placed as though by human hands, reposed a heap of gold nuggets, big and little, and the bowl literally overflowed. It was a grand climax of a most peculiar phenomenon; the vein comet-like, with its long tail, its tail of lesser glow, on it went, it expanding in brightness and the bursting into that great glowing head. And this nature's storehouse, this vault filled with gold, virgin gold, it was our lot to discover.

We cleaned up \$35,000 just from the pocket. Though we found more or less color in other parts of our diggings, it was not in paying quantity, and we soon after, with much regret, abandoned our bonanza. —Miner Jones in Mining World.

BIG PARTY FROM EAST TOMORROW

Proprietor Levens, of Hotel Sumpter, had a letter from F. Wallace White, of Cleveland, Ohio, this morning, stating that Mr. White and a party of eighteen interested in the Sanger, Oregon Chief and other properties, will be here tomorrow, and asking for hotel accommodations.

Mr. White and his people will remain here for several days looking after their various interests. The party will arrive in Baker City tonight.

READY TO OPERATE WITHIN TEN DAYS

The machinery for the Imperial mill, under the McEwen, Arthur & McEwen lease and bond, has all been sent out to the property, and is now being set up. It is thought that the plant will be ready for operation within the next ten days.

The new people figure that they will have the mine on a producing basis in thirty days. The mill practice has been thoroughly tested and no guess work enters into the situation. The results of the ore treatment are a foregone conclusion.

New York Buys Claims.

It was learned yesterday that two of the leading officials of the New York Consolidated Mining company, in the Greenhorn district, L. Y. Keady, secretary and manager and S. B. Watrous, director, who have been in the Greenhorn district for several days, purchased the claim adjoining the New York and lying between it and the I. X. L., for a good round cash figure. This gives the New York the extension of the Morning Glory ledge, also the east extension of the I. X. L. and adds very materially to the already valuable holdings of the New York. —Democrat.

Compressor Plant.

The boiler for the compressor plant at the Gold Coin in the Cracker Creek district was sent out today. The compressor went out yesterday. Superintendent Doyle is busy making preparations for immediate installation.

PRODUCTION OF COEUR D'ALENES

Reports received from the silver-lead mines operating in the Coeur d'Alenes in Idaho show that the production thus far has exceeded the output for a like period for any other year. The July output was so large that the smelters that handle the ore from this section were unable to take care of several thousand tons, so that the past month's production fell below that of June. Estimates made at Wallace, Idaho, figure the July output at 20,000 tons, as against 23,000 tons for the preceding month. The June tonnage was the largest shipped from the Coeur d'Alenes since the present extensive working basis was established.

Thus far the Coeur d'Alene ore tonnage for 1904 approximates 111,195 tons, whereas for the same period last year the total production was slightly in excess of 99,000 tons. These figures indicate a gain for the present year of more than 15,000 tons and if the present operating schedule is kept up the increased tonnage for the year will show a gain of more than 25,000 tons over the 1903 output.

For the past four years the tendency to increase the Coeur d'Alene ore tonnage has been manifest and the increased production in that mine has been eighty per cent. In 1901 the mines produced 148,000 tons of ore and concentrates, in 1902 the production was 160,130 tons, last year it was 200,590 tons, and this year it is estimated at 225,000 tons.

This puts the Coeur d'Alene district forward as the largest single producer of lead in the United States, giving the section an output of thirty-six per cent of the country's production. The next largest lead producing districts are in Utah, Colorado and the Missouri Kansas section. Plus its lead output, the Coeur d'Alenes yield about 6,000,000 ounces of silver annually. The increased production comes largely from the discovery of new mines and the further development of properties already producing.

The total tonnage of ore and concentrates shipped during the first half of 1904 was: Federal company (four mines) 48,000; Bunker Hill & Sullivan, 27,485; Morning, 16,914; Hecla, 6,842; Snowstorm, 7,500; Hercules, 6,197; California Consolidated, 562; Frisco leasers, 350; Stewart, 160; Hunter, 150; Wyoming, 35; total, 111,195.

The largest individual factor contributing toward the production comes from the properties now belonging to the Federal Mining & Smelting company, whose output together with that of the Morning, Hercules and Hecla mines, reached 13,000 tons last month. The output of the Bunker Hill & Sullivan fell to 3000 tons in July, as against 7,000 tons in June. The reduction was caused by the lack of facilities to smelt the ore.

Alpine's New Mill.

Richard Addoms, superintendent of the Alpine, has a good force of men at work both on the construction of the twenty-stamp mill and in the mine. Mr. Addoms, who is now in town on business, figures that the mill will be completed about October 1.

O. R. & N.



OREGON SHORT LINE

AND UNION PACIFIC

TO

Salt Lake,

Denver, Kansas City.

CHICAGO ST. LOUIS

NEW YORK

Ocean steamers between Portland and San Francisco every five days.

Low Rates!

Tickets to and from all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe.

Through Pullman Standard and Tourist Sleeping Cars daily to Omaha, Chicago, Spokane; Tourist Sleeping car daily to Kansas City; through Pullman tourist sleeping cars (personally conducted) weekly to Chicago, Kansas City; reclining chair cars (seats free) to the East daily.

For particulars, call on or address

H. C. BOWERS,
Agent, Baker City, Or.

THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE AND THE RIO GRANDE WESTERN

Only transcontinental line
passing directly through

Salt Lake City

Leadville

Colorado Springs

and Denver

Three splendidly equipped trains
daily TO ALL POINTS EAST.

Through Sleeping and Dining Cars
and free Reclining Chair Cars.

The most Magnificent scenery in
America by daylight.

Stop overs allowed on all classes
of tickets.

For cheapest rates and descriptive
literature, address

W. C. McBRIDE, - General Agent

RIO GRANDE LINES

PORTLAND

OREGON