

FORTUNE AWAITS THE SUCCESSFUL INVENTOR

Millions In It For the Man Who Perfects a Process for Saving Flour Gold From Snake River Sands.

The article in last evening's Miner, chronicling the perfection by an Ontario, Oregon, man of a machine to save Snake river gold, brings to mind the fact that from Blackfoot falls to Lewiston the turbid old Snake is strewn with abandoned dredgers, not one of which has proven profitable, and many of which cost from \$25,000 to \$50,000 each. Every conceivable system for separating the flour and flake gold from the muck mixed with black sand on Snake river bars have been tried at much cost and found wanting. The nearest approach to success has occurred in the case of General Weaver, once a national populist leader, who is operating a dredge near the confluence of the Payette and Snake. This machine aims directly at amalgamation, without recourse to intermediate processes involving concentration of the auriferous black sand. The pay dirt is thoroughly mixed with water and is sprayed an endless number of times upon a copper plate coated with quicksilver. It is estimated that each particle of sand containing the infinitesimal particles of gold is forced into contact with the amalgam plate one thousand times. While the saving by this process is high in percentage, the machine's capacity is obviously limited.

Snake river flour and flake gold is certainly abundant. Every bar from Shoshone west and north to Box canyon below Ballard's Landing prospects high. The gold is inconceivably fine, however, and most generally assumes a flat flakey form, which, when occurring, as it usually does, in sand heavily impregnated with a heavy muck or alluvial silt, endowing it with a predilection to float off, renders it impossible of saving by any known process.

High scientific opinion asserts that the auriferous black sand of Snake river must first be cleansed of its adhering muck. Thereafter, separation of the sand and gold would be a comparatively easy matter. On the other hand, equally high scientific opinion, predicated upon a belief that a separating of the muck and bulck sand is impossible without causing more or less of the precious metal to be lost in the process by floating off in the muck—urges that first the black sand, minus the gold, must be separated from the muck, for which the gold displays almost as much of an affinity as for the sand. Thereafter, by dry process, the gold and muck could be separated.

Thus the problem stands, and an immense fortune awaits the man with a solution.

GOLD MINING OF THE WORLD

The Scotsman, in a recent issue published an article on "The Gold Mining Industry," by J. H. Carle. The writer treats of gold mining throughout the world, and the following is what he has to say of that industry in the Americas and of Mexico as the coming gold country:

"Lastly, we deal with the great American continent, the birth place of sound gold mining. It was in America that the scales first fell from my eyes, and I learned the inwardness of mine valuation; let me once more acknowledge the debt.

"Beginning at the north, I will say that there is no gold mine in Canada worth buying into—indeed, there are very few working at present at any real profit. The richest part of the Klondike deposits has been taken out, and so great is the cost of working that the lower grade gravels there can hardly be worked at a profit. The British Columbian mines are mostly failures or semi-failures, and the small mines of Ontario and Nova Scotia are of little importance. Alaska is a much more prom-

ising country, but Alaska belongs to the United States.

"The principal English-Owned gold mines in the states and Mexico are Alaska Treadwell, Camp Bird, Tom Boy, El Oro Esperanza. These, as a group, offer good value to the speculator, and, as in the case of the eight Westralian mines, a sum of money spread over all five would probably earn a good profit.

"The biggest gold-producing mine in the world is in the United States. This is the Homestake, in South Dakota, which is owned by Americans. The last figure I heard was a production of about £90,000 a month, and there is ore in sight for many years. The richest field is at Cripple Creek, in Colorado, but this field has seen its best days. The principal English-owned mine there is Stratton's Independence, now worked out. The largest producers at Cripple Creek, such as the Gold Coin, Portland, Strong, and Vindicator, are owned locally. Next to Colorado, as a gold-producing state, come California; the richer ore has long ago been worked out in California, and many of the mines there, with an average production of only about ten shillings a ton, hardly pay expenses. There are scattered gold mines in Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, and, in fact, all the western states, but English capital is not greatly interested in these.

"Mexico I look on as a coming country for gold, and I would rank it next to West Australia in this respect. There has been mining in Mexico for 400 years, since the days of the Spaniards, but chiefly for silver, and I think the next few years will unearth some good gold mines. The El Oro field has a big future. Besides the El Oro, Esperanza and Mexico, on the main rade, there is a great mine in the Dos Estrellas, owned by Mexicans. In Central and South America there are many scattered mines, but few of real note. The El Callao, in Venezuela—now worked out—was the biggest gold mine South America has had; today the best are probably the Luca mine in Peru, and the St. John del Rey in Brazil, but I believe the latter has seen its best days. In time to come I expect great mines will be discovered in the eastern slopes of the Andes (on the western slopes the ores are mostly silver and copper), but these regions are still in the possession of the Indians, and progress is very slow. Patagonia gives some promise of turning into a gold-producing region."

BARN WARMING AT SNOW CREEK MINE

General Manager Fred D. Smith, of the Snow Creek mine, assisted by his charming wife, entertained at a big barn-warming at the mine Saturday night. Prominent people from all parts of the camp accepted the hospitality of the Snow Creek, and partook of one of the most elaborate banquets ever provided in these gold fields. Alamo was represented by a delegation of ladies and gentlemen headed by Mayor McPhee; Greenhorn by a delegation headed by Mayor Draper; Tipton sent Mayor Jack D. Goss, and Sumpter's delegation consisted of M. Frank Muzzy, the Ward McAllister of the Hill Town, with whom Tony Mohr went along to lend dignity.

Seventy-six covers were laid for the banquet, which followed a dance in the new barn. "Twas the swellest feed I ever flopped my lip over," says Mr. Muzzy.

Notice.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Little Cracker Gold Mining and Milling company will be held in the company's office in Sumpter, Baker county, Oregon, on the 7th day of November, 1904, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, for the purpose of electing officers for the next year and for the transaction of such business as may come before said meeting.

D. L. WILLARD, secretary.

Prairie Diggings Concentrates.

Joe Waddell, superintendent and general manager of the Prairie Diggings mine, near Prairie City, is in Sumpter today on business connected with the smelter, to which recent heavy shipments of Prairie Diggings concentrates have been made. Shipments have now ceased and Manager Waddell received returns from the smelter. He returned to Baker this afternoon.

At Jackson Brothers.

Just arrived—fresh fish, salmon, halibut, smelt, black bass, cutfish. Fresh eastern and Olympia oysters.

Pitfalls of Mining Finance

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