

COVERS
THOROUGHLY
THE
GOLD FIELDS
of the
INLAND EMPIRE



EASTERN
INVESTORS
IN
OREGON MINES
Pay for
AND READ IT

MILL PRACTICE IN BLACK HILLS MIGHT WORK HERE

"I read an interesting article in an eastern technical journal the other day on milling practice in the Black Hills," said an old stamp mill man this morning to a group of mining men who had gathered around the radiator in a local hotel lobby to cuss and discuss the weather and yearn for either an out-and-out snow storm or sunshine.

"This betwixt and bechune business gives me an ache," grumbled an operator who is waiting for good snow roads to transport a big lot of mining machinery into the southern hills.

"And," continued the first speaker, "I hereby venture the assertion that the innovations described in the article mentioned will, within a very few years be adopted wherever wet crushing is practiced. I believe the scheme will work successfully on Sumpter district ores."

"The Black Hills mill referred to crushes with forty stamps a daily average of 180 tons of silicious ores of low grade. Cyanide solution is fed into the mortars instead of water, as is the practice here. The old Black Hills practice was to pass the pulp direct to cyanide tanks, until one day an experimental superintendent panned the tailings from his sand vat and found free gold, both fine and coarse. This discovery disproved two popular fallacies: That Black Hills silicious ores carried no free gold, and that cyanide would dissolve the metal when in an absolutely free state. There was a whole lot of reason for the belief that there was no free gold in Black Hills ore. Dozens of stamp mills with amalgamating plates have proven absolute failures in that camp, and all the mines up there have been forced to adopt direct cyaniding without attempting amalgamation at any stage of the game. Until the before mentioned experimentally-inclined superintendent, whose name was Steele, panned his sand vat tailings and discovered free gold, it was supposed that direct cyaniding was a success.

"Steele began figuring on the proposition, and after many experiments, evolved the following process: Amalgam plates were attached to the batteries, the cyanide solution fed into the mortars was reduced to a strength of 1.3 per cent, and, after passing over the plates, was raised to the usual practice strength as the pulp was pumped into the first tank. At first, a film gathered over the quick, which necessitated redressing every six hours. This was obviated by ceasing to feed lime into the mortars, that element being added later at the spitz katzen.

"The process worked out admirably. Free gold is being almost completely saved on the plates and

the remaining values are eventually precipitated in the zinc boxes. The total saving is better than ninety-five per cent.

"You know, stamp mill men for a long time considered cyanide a bug-a-boo when connected with amalgam plates. It was believed to be the sort of stuff that would everlastingly ruin the plated copper by direct chemical attack. The fallacy of this is proven by the fact that the Black Hills superintendent, in assaying samples from his zinc boxes, found not even a trace of copper. This in face of the fact that the pulp when it struck the plates was mixed with a fairly strong solution of cyanide—1.3 per ton.

"I would like to see this process applied, for instance to La Bellevue, California, Cougar, or Magnolia ores. I believe it would work."

GILKEY & KERSHAW POUNDING OUT GOLD

Tom Moffat and A. W. Ellis returned Saturday from the Gilkey & Kershaw mine in the Greenhorns, where a three-stamp Tremaine mill is pounding out gold from ore occurring in the form of a limespar in a fifteen-foot ledge. Free gold is visible in the ore to the naked eye. A depth of twenty feet has been attained on the ore body. Another ledge on the property, twenty feet wide, carries high free gold values in live quartz. The visit of Messrs. Moffat and Ellis was for the purpose of looking over the mill and suggesting improvements. It is understood that Mr. Ellis is negotiating for the purchase of the mine, and that pending a consummation of the deal he will take charge of the mill. The mine lies a short distance from the Morning.

MINING NOTES.

The 160-foot shaft at the Gold Bug, near Susanville, is still in ore. Drifting and stoping will begin at the 200 foot level.

A streak of sulphide ore assaying \$64, has been found on the hanging wall of the Oriole, near Susanville, under bond to Heaton & Haskell.

"I am selling ^{the} stock," bashfully murmured the town joshier, "in a company organized to manufacture gold from yellow carrots. There's millions in it. A barrel of carrots costs \$1. A barrel of gold is worth about a million. Think of the tremendous profit.

FIRST NEWS OF COLORADO GOLD

An article printed recently in the Kausa City Journal gives an interesting account of the early days of that paper and, incidentally, of the Pike's Peak region. Colonel R. T. Van Horn, one of the early owners of the paper, has written the article, in which he tells many incidents of the early days and the opening of the Colorado gold regions. Colonel Van Horn bought the Journal in 1885 for \$250, when it was but ten months old. It was then known as the Enterprise and was a four-page weekly, five columns to the page. It was in this paper that Colonel Van Horn printed the first newspaper article ever published concerning gold in Colorado, and it alone of the newspapers west of the Mississippi, or anywhere else, kept it up against the ridicule of the press until the emigrants began to buy outfits to cross the plains. In his article Colonel Van Horn says:

It may be as well here to reproduce the first newspaper article ever published, as it gives the first facts ever publicly known about gold in Colorado. It was styled "Gold at Pike's Peak" because that was the one popularly known topographical feature of the Rocky mountain region. Cherry creek, the site of Denver, where gold was found, was then an unknown locality except to trappers and fur traders, and on reading the article it will be noticed it says "gold in Kansas territory," for there was then no Colorado and Cherry creek was in Kansas. The fact, is the exodus, stimulated by the gold articles in the Journal, where, for three months or more, they were exclusive, was the inspiration of the wonderful development of that wonderful state. But here is the article; of course the heading was of the customary display type of such startling announcements, but is here reproduced in the ordinary dress of quotation. But it is there, and every word of it:

From the Kansas City Journal, August 26, 1858.

The new Eldorado—gold in Kansas territory!!! The Pike's Peak mines—First arrival of gold dust in Kansas City!!! The mines fully opened!!!

We were surprised this morning to meet Monsieur Bordeau and company, old mountain traders, just in from Pike's Peak.

They came for outfits, tools, etc., for working the newly discovered gold mines on Cherry creek, a tributary of the South Platte.

They bring several ounces of gold dug up by the trappers of that region, which in fineness equals the choicest of California specimens.

Mr. John Cantrell, an old citizen of Westport, has three ounces which he dug with a hatchet in Cherry creek and washed out with a frying pan.

Monsieur Richard, an old French trapper, has several ounces of the

precious dust, which he dug with an axe.

Monsieur Boesinnette has several rich specimens.

The party consists of nine men, all of them old mountaineers, who have spent their lives in the mountains. Monsieur Bordeau has not been in the states for nine years until the present time.

We have refrained from giving too great credence to these gold discoveries until assured of their truth, but it would be unjust to the country to longer withhold the facts, of which there can be no longer doubt.

Kansas City is alive with excitement and parties are already preparing for the diggings.

The locality of the mines.—In order to give a correct idea of the locality of these mines, we will state that they are on Cherry creek, one of the most southern branches of the South Platte, in the center of the best hunting grounds of the Rocky mountains. Game exists in great abundance and plenty of timber, water and grass. They are in latitude thirty-nine degrees, and doubtless extend to all the streams of that region. The waters of the Arkansas and the south fork of the Platte rise together about the same parallel, and no doubt all partake of the same auriferous character.

The Route to the Mines.—The best route for immigration is by the great Santa Fe road to Council Grove, Walnut creek or the crossing of the Arkansas, by Beale, Fremont, and Gunnison's route to the Huerfano, thence following the Arkansas river, which will lead them into the heart of the mining region.

Outfits can be procured either at St. Louis, Independence, Kansas City or Westport, and the best natural road in the world for two thirds of the distance. We will give more details tomorrow, as we are compelled to go to press with only a synopsis of the intelligence we have.

Path to Gold Leads to Grave.

As "the path to glory leads but to the grave," so does the road to gold often present a way lined with the whitened wrecks of the argonaut and their animals. The story comes through the public print of the terrible sufferings last summer of some prospectors, who during the warm months braved the very breath of hell in their attempts to reach the place of the recent discoveries of gold in the heart of the famous Death valley district. The claims are appropriately located on Furnace creek. It is said that the ledge is over twenty feet wide and assays \$100 to the ton. Warning was sent out to the inexperienced and unseasoned against making the trip, but nevertheless many ventured during the hot months and their bleached bones now help to mark the fateful roads that lead towards the gold.—Mining World.

A pipe line to carry compressed air from the Badger mine to the Bell of the Woods, across the gulch, has been completed and machine drills are in operation.