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**AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE
FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

Mines and Miners,

Of Southern Oregon.

The Passing of the Arrastra.

Like the pocket hunter and the rocker the arrastra is fast becoming a thing of the past in the gold fields of the west. But like the veteran of the rocker and trail, the arrastra played an important part in the development of America's choicest industry. And to its credit let it be said that the arrastra played well its part. The few crumbling remains of the old time mills, hand-made and crude, are fitting reminders of the day, not over fifty years ago, when mining was a babe in arms. These bramble covered relics of a bygone age tell more eloquently than words of the great progress the mining industry of America has made—a progress that is not equalled, or at least not outdone by any other industry of this country. Still, men sometimes deplore the slow progress of the mining business of America. Truly, it is a long, long cry from the crude arrastra and its dragging stones of fifty years ago, to the great cyanide plants and thundering stamp batteries of today.

The arrastra is purely of Mexican or Spanish origin. Down there where mules tramped out the pure metal from the rich muck, the arrastra had its beginning. It first done service in America in California, on the blood-red tracts of the Buccaneer. Then it followed the line of gold hunters northward, climbing the Siskiyou, coming down into the pine-covered hills of Oregon.

A few days since, while traveling thru' the Southern Oregon mineral fields, I came upon two relics of the old days—a broken down arrastra and an ancient rocker. Both had seen good service during the palmy days, both had done their work, and done it well. Not far from the crumbling pioneers, mute witnesses of the day when the miner went to his diggings each morning with a pistol in his holster and a rifle on his shoulder; not far from these, towers a great stamp mill, like some great hungry monster, squatted and gnawing at the very vitals of the everlasting mountains. And just a little distance further on, a hydraulic giant hurls its mighty shaft of white against the gravel bank, melting the hills away and robbing them of their gold. Here they were, the old and the new! Though they were but a few yards apart, there was the distance of half a century between them. The entire history of mining from the beginning in this country was mutely told in that brief step from the arrastra to the stamp mill, from the bramble-covered pit and stones and wooden cog wheels, to the towering mill house and its thundering battery of stamps.

Just above the old arrastra, from which an ore chute led in the days of yore, are the "coyote diggings" that supplied the rich rock to the crude mill. A gray-haired Old-Timer who was on the ground said that nearly a half-million was taken from those diggings, ground from the oxidized ores. Cleanup every week, and such a clean-up! Then the proposition "pinched," and the miners moved on in quest of other fields. Since that time a genuine prospector, whose limitations are not gauged by the length of his shovel handle, has sunk on the pot-hole and struck the main ledge. Then came the big mill and a million dollar mine. The arrastra served only to scratch the surface, but surely it was an infallible indication of better things deeper down. It led the way to the ledge-ribbed mountains from which the capital and genius of modern times has extracted fortunes. The principal feature of the arrastra

was its verticle axis and horizontal arms. To these arms huge stones were attached and dragged about in a circular pit, over a smooth stone floor. The ore, broken into bits, was fed into this pit and ground into powder by the revolving stones. A small stream of water, running thru' the pit, turned the powdered ore into a thin paste and washed it out through a sluice provided with riffles, into which the gold particles settled. The refuse was dissolved and carried off with the waste water.—Mining Review, Salt Lake City.

Oregon Belle Company.

Messrs. H. E. Foster and A. H. Gunnell visited the Oregon Belle property near Jacksonville this week, of which they are the managers for N. Y. and Western Mining Co., and they report development as going ahead rapidly. Mr. Gunnell has been in the East for over a year on business connected with the company operating this mine and he reports the owners of the property as highly pleased with the property, that the stock has gone to par value and that it has been withdrawn from the market. Foster and Gunnell are enterprising young gentlemen who believe in this country and are doing everything in their power to build it up. Mr. Gunnell says that much interest is being taken in Southern Oregon in Eastern mining circles and that he gave the country a thorough advertising as far as lay within his power.—Oregon Mining Journal.

Placer Prospecting Drill.

One of the latest and possibly the best devices for prospecting placer ground is a seven-inch drill that is now being perfected and constructed by Messrs. Potter and Clements, of San Francisco, who are now in Grants Pass. The machine will be operated by hand and a mull bit will be used, which will enable the operators to sink a 60 or 70 foot hole in a day in soft ground. It is proposed to fit the machine with but about 75 feet of shafting as they think that will be as deep as will be required for prospecting the auriferous ground of Southern Oregon. The drill will be built on the "take-down" plan and can be carried upon the backs of three pack animals. The shafting is of 1 1/2 inch pipe and is cut to ten foot sections. The entire work of constructing the drill is being done at Grants Pass and is said to be first class in every respect. Messrs. Potter and Clements are prospectors of many year's experience and have used a drill formerly similar to this one and have been quite successful in operating it. They expect to prospect, not only on their own account but for other parties who have placer ground which they wish to have thoroughly prospected.

SICK HEADACHE.

This distressing ailment results from a disordered condition of the stomach. All that is needed to effect a cure is a dose or two of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. In fact, the attack may be warded off, or greatly lessened in severity, by taking a dose of these Tablets as soon as the first symptom of an attack appears. Sold by City Drug Store.

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