

MINES AND MINING

The Search for Wealth in the Depths of the Earth Luck of the Prospector and Some Late Strikes

Many New Producers In the Butte District

The long list of paying mines in the Butte district is being increased with astonishing rapidity. Ten years ago there were not more than thirty-five good claims in operation here, but since then that number has been more than doubled, and the end is a long way off. There are mines everywhere—east, west, north and south and in the center. Portions of the mineral zone which years ago appeared to have no chance for recognition in the ranks of the ore producers have left the maiden class, and ore for to the front in the great race for prominence. This fact is apparent by the discoveries that have been made in the section known as the Parrot and on the flat which connects the range of mountains at the east and the Anaconda hills on the west. Ten years ago no one thought of looking for pay ore in either place, but now all the ground embraced by the two is in demand for mining purposes. The traces of the ore veins in other directions has not been so great, but this can be accounted for in the fact that the district east is known to be full of copper ore, while the ground south of the center and western part of the city has not given forth substantial evidence that it contains this class of mineral. This may be due to its undeveloped condition, for with a few exceptions no very deep shafts have been sunk. The ore of the Britannia, located in the extreme southwest corner of the town, is the first in that section, it is claimed, to show the existence of copper there. All of the ore of the south and west, however, is rich in silver and gold, and would pay handsomely for its extraction if the price of the former metal could be increased to the point at which it belongs.

One of the many great mining enterprises of the present is the work which the Smokehouse company has begun right in the heart of the city. So far its operations have been confined to the sinking of a shaft opposite the west side of the McDermott hotel. The company is working along in a modest way at present, but is planning great things for the future. It intends to sink 800 feet, and then cross-cut north and south to intersect the ledges known to traverse the ground east and west. On each of these veins levels are to be driven, and as the company owns a vast area of ground the magnitude of the undertaking can be readily understood. In the sinking of the shaft the services of only a few men are required, but after the cross-cut and levels are started the force will be gradually increased as the work progresses, and there will be no limit to it. That ore in paying quantities will be struck, those interested in the enterprise have no doubt, and they are therefore not wavering over what it is costing them in the preliminary work.

In the district north of Centerville there is not much doing. Before the price of silver drifted so low that section was full of activity, but outside of the work being done by a few lessees, mining there is at a standstill. East and south of town, though, it is different, for there is where several of the great copper mines of the Amalgamated company are located.

ness on account of a lack of proper machinery to enable them to go deeper. The Homestake company, however, has money back of it, and it will be able to overcome the obstacles encountered by others.

BUTTE MEN NOW IN ARIZONA.

They Will Operate Large Copper Mines at Clifton—Ore in Sight.

The Shannon Copper company of Arizona has bought the property owned by the Arizona Copper company, the deal having been made by W. E. Thompson of this city, who went east for that purpose a short time ago. The area of ground now owned by the purchasing company is 600 acres, and it is said that it lies right in the heart of the mineral district of Graham county. The prop-

will be making copper before the first of the year. The management of the company will be in the hands of P. Wiseman, an experienced mining man formerly of Butte, Mont. W. F. Clymo will continue as superintendent at the mines, and P. O. Wells, who has been lately connected with the Anaconda and Boston & Montana companies, will be in charge of the smelting and concentrating operations.

THE DIAMOND HILL COLLAPSED

Hassel Group Closed Down—Big Stamp Mill Sold For Junk.

The Diamond Hill mines at Hassel, Broadwater county, this state, have received a terrible set back and it is doubtful if they will ever recover from it. The big 140-stamp mill, which a Scotch company erected on the property for the purpose of demonstrating the value of the mines when worked on an extensive scale, has been sold and will soon be jugged down and disposed of in pieces to whoever desires to buy.

The property has certainly had a checkered career. In the early days of

THE DISPATCH IS PRODUCING

A Large Quantity of Ore in Sight When the Slump of 1893 Occurred.

The Cleveland company now in charge of the Dispatch mine, which is situated in the southern part of town, is making good progress in the preliminary work of developing the property. The company took hold of the Dispatch on April 1 and on the 10th began pumping the water from the old workings, which extend to a depth of 400 feet. Stopping is now in progress between the 180 and 120 foot levels. The vein at this point is from 18 inches to 3 feet thick and carries a silver assay value of from 19 to 111 ounces, in addition to which there is some gold. The property is in charge of Thomas Barton, formerly foreman at the Gagnon. Ten men are employed, but as soon as the water is all out of the lower levels the number will be increased. A new boiler is being added to the power.

The Dispatch is one of the mines of this district which the slump in silver in 1893 closed down. For a year or two prior to that time it was operated by George W. Farlin of this city and Noyes B. Allen of Connecticut, but when the '93 crash came they became disheart-

HEINZE IS THE STUMBLING BLOCK.

Kidder, Peabody & Peabody, have notified the Boston Stock Exchange that more than two-thirds of the stock of the Boston & Montana and Butte & Boston Mining companies has been voted in favor of a consolidation of the two companies with the Amalgamated company. The brokers have requested that receipts for the stock turned over to them be placed on the unlisted department of the Stock Exchange.

This makes the consolidation a sure go provided the injunctions obtained by the Heinze forces in New York and Butte do not hang on too long. One of the large shareholders in the Boston & Montana is credited in the east with the following remarks in favor of the proposed consolidation:

"The situation at Butte is very complicated, but the Boston & Montana settlement, so far as stockholders having the opportunity to get a good price for their stock is concerned, will be found, in the very end, very simple.

"Nobody in New England should object to the Boston & Montana stockholders getting a very good price for

copper. Two of the big foreign bears have recently settled, and there will be more of them to settle. It is perfectly true that copper is going both ways on the Atlantic at the same time, and that the foreign buyers are holding off in hopes to break the price of 17 cents per pound. But the situation is entirely different from what it was formerly. The selling of copper is centralized, and the best evidence of whether the Standard Oil people can hold the copper market is in the fact that they have held it, and while they have been holding it Montana has been able to pay quarterly dividends at the rate of \$40 per share per annum.

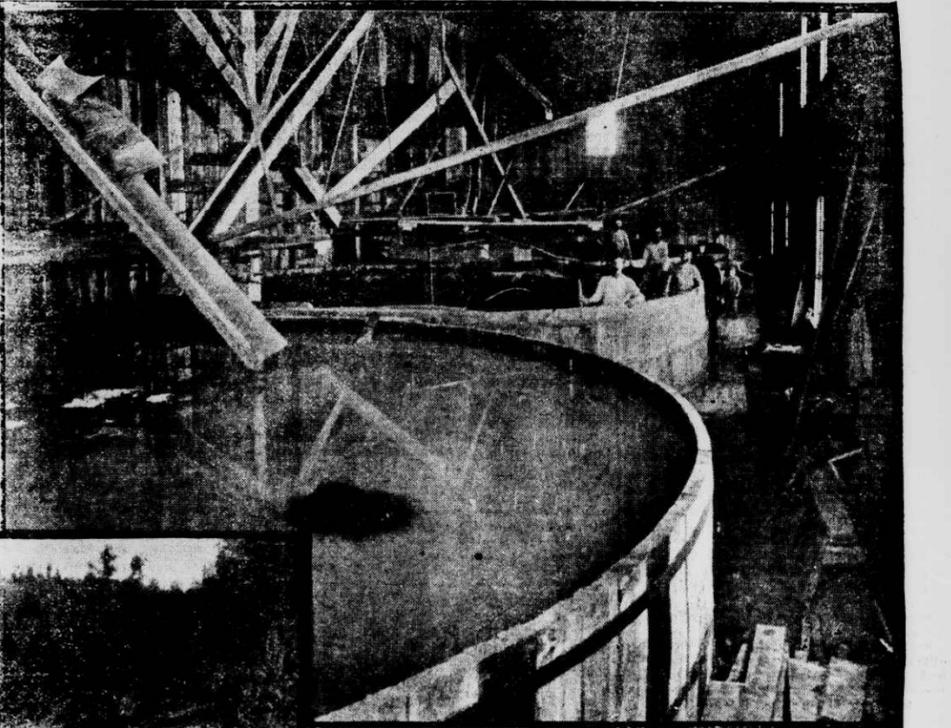
"Now, if there is not an amalgamation of copper interests in this country, the price of copper will not be held up, and Boston & Montana will not be able to pay \$40 per share, or the \$50 per share it is now earning. But if the price of copper is held up and there is a fair trade with the Amalgamated Copper company, Boston & Montana stockholders will see a very

Leaching Vats of the Kendall Mill in Fergus County

Harry T. Kendall of Fergus county is demonstrating to the mining world that the cyanide process of extracting gold from rock is easy enough when it is fully understood.

A little over two years ago he bought two mining claims in the North Moccasin district of Fergus county, paying \$550 for one and \$1,500 for the other. The first is known as the "Leaking" claim and the other as the Klondike. Knowing that the ore could be treated successfully by the cyanide process, he built a plant costing \$25,000 and began operations. His anticipations soon blossomed into a reality, and along about January 1 he bonded the entire property to an eastern syndicate for half a million dollars. One of the conditions of the bond, however, was that he should manage the property during the life of the bond, and this he is now doing. When the property was bonded there were about 150,000 tons of ore in sight, it being shown up by means of shafts and open cuts.

The ore averages from \$3 to \$1 per ton, but the ease with which it can be taken out and placed in the mill reduces



150,000 Tons of Ore in Sight. A Plant Costing \$25,000.

the expense of the work to a minimum, which is 25 cents for mining and placing it in the mill and \$1 for treating it after it is delivered there. Two men extract all of the ore and five convey it to the mill. About 100 tons are treated each day. The ore body is 125 feet wide and 1,500 feet long, but just how deep into the ground it extends has not been demonstrated. It may crop out in China, so sorting is necessary.

In extent and value the ore is similar to that from which the Homestake company, operating in the Black Hills of South Dakota, has been panning gold for twenty-two years, and is likely to keep right at it for a century more.

Mine Location Law Changed.

The last legislature changed the laws relating to mining locations in this state. By the law as it now stands, work must be done within sixty days (old law ninety days) after location. The locator, if he makes a defective location, or desires to alter the boundaries of his claim, is now permitted to file an amended declaratory statement, provided it does not conflict with intervening rights or other locators.

STRIKE IN THE HOMESTAKE

Brown's Gulch Adds a Dividend Payer to Silver Bow County's Long List.

Phil Daniels, Charles Strowbridge, Charles F. Woodman and other large holders of stock in the Homestake Mining company are about to have their hopes realized in a very handsome manner. The claims owned by the company are five in number, and are located about twelve miles northwest of Butte in a section known as Brown's gulch. Mr. Daniels is president of the company, Mr. Woodman secretary, and Mr. and Mrs. Strowbridge general manager of the property. On Tuesday the latter sent word into the city that he had struck 3 1/2 feet of rich ore in the cross-cut 64 feet from the 100-foot station, and that the shoot gave promise of being extensive. Accompanying the information were three samples of the ore, which were assayed on the following day. Sample No. 1 showed a gold value of \$55.60 and 387.4 ounces of silver per ton; sample No. 2, \$118.40 in gold and 457.2 ounces of silver, and No. 3, assorted on the dump, \$83.20 in gold and 402.4 ounces of silver.

The company began operations on the property on the 27th of last November, and has worked it continuously since that date with a crew of five men. The stockholders have always had faith in its future, but it was not until last week that indications pointed to a strike of rich ore in the near future. These indications were so good that the sale of treasury stock was stopped at once.

At present the road leading to the property is impassable, which will prevent the ore from being shipped just now, but as soon as the weather settles ore teams will begin transferring the product of the property to this city. There is already considerable ore on the dump.

The strike is considered quite an important one to the public, for it practically opens a new field for ambitious prospectors. For years a little mining has been done in that neighborhood, and some shoots of good ore have been found, but on account of the limited capital of those engaged in the work, depth sufficient to demonstrate the permanency of the ore bodies could not be obtained.

Another drawback to the section was the absence of a good road by which prospectors could get in and out during the bad season.

Several years ago Peter Kendrick and others worked on a claim there with good results, but found it up-hill busi-

ness will be managed by Philip Wiseman, W. F. Clymo and P. O. Wells, formerly connected with mining companies in Butte.

In regard to the company and its possessions a recent issue of the Copper Era, of Clifton, Arizona, says:

"There is by actual measurement over 600,000 tons of good grade smelting and concentrating ore blocked out in the mine. Of course this quantity will be largely augmented by further and deeper development. The deepest work on the Shannon is 300 feet, but by continuing tunnels on recently acquired ground into the Shannon mine the ore body will be encountered at a depth of about 1,000 feet, which will double the quantity of ore in sight, and furnish a reserve sufficient to run a 500-ton smelter a great many years. The company has been so greatly encouraged by the development of the Shannon mine that it has decided to enlarge its field of operation, and has acquired the Yankee group, consisting of eight claims, and the eleven claims from the Amalgamated Copper company. The number of claims now controlled by the company is thirty-three, upon several of which development will be pushed at once. Since the commencement of operations, including recent purchases which added to the amount necessary to erect the plant, railroad connections and the purchase of other property, the company has expended an amount approaching \$1,500,000.

"Grading for the Shannon road from the line of the Arizona and New Mexico railroad to the smelting plant of the company was commenced this week and will be finished and the road in operation within three months, when machinery for the plant will begin to arrive, and it is safe to say that the company

civilization the hill on which the mines are located was found to contain gold, and locations were made, but the locations were abandoned many times because the locators did not consider the ore in them rich enough to suit their purpose. Some of the ground was finally patented by John S. Miller, John B. Wilson and Thomas Cooney of Helena, who erected a 10-stamp mill on it. The mill was operated during the high water season for several years, and it is claimed that the returns paid a little more than expenses.

In 1895 Mr. Miller went to Scotland, organized a company and got it to buy the property at a figure said to have been \$250,000. The company erected a 46-stamp mill and made Miller general manager, but Miller and the workmen fell out with each other, with the result that operations were suspended. At the time of the shut down it was given out that a larger mill would be required to treat the ore at a profit. Accordingly, an additional 100 stamps were added, the work being in charge of Col. H. H. Erving of San Francisco. Mr. Erving built a fine mill, but it was done at an enormous cost to the company. When the work was complete the company placed Andrew Urquhart in charge. During the rest season there was plenty of water and it is alleged that a considerable amount of money in excess of the expense of operation was realized, but the water finally failed and steam had to be substituted for electricity as a motive power. Then it was learned that the ore was of too low grade to meet the expenses and the works were closed down last July for good.

The purchaser of the mill was H. I. Keene, an eastern junk dealer; and while the price paid has not been made public it is said to have been very low.

ness and suspended operations. It is said that they then had in sight, blocked out and ready to be hoisted, about 11,000 tons of \$20 ore. It was then supposed that the drop in silver would be only temporary and that a better price would prevail in a short time, in which event work on the property would be resumed, but before the hopes of the owners were realized Mr. Allen drifted to other fields and never returned.

The mine contains about 800 feet of levels and was bought by the Cleveland company for \$30,000.

THE BRITANNIA IS A MINE

It Has Paid Its Owners \$42,000 in Dividends—New Strike Made In It.

The Britannia mine, situated in the southwestern part of the city, has been developed into a dividend payer or no mean proportions. Eighteen months ago a Milwaukee company took hold of it and since then enough money has been extracted from its veins to pay for the mine, its operation and leave \$42,000 to be distributed among its owners. It is being managed by Mr. Tickey, who keeps 25 men at work. The workings are only 230 feet deep. Last Monday the night shift struck a new shoot of ore six feet thick on the hanging wall and, strange as it may seem, the rock carries 2 and 3 per cent. copper, something unusual for ore in that neighborhood. The product of the property is all shipped to Northport, Washington for treatment.

The Home Copper Mining company, which has a \$25,000 bond on the Granters group of mines in Newmanville, is meeting good results and making extensive improvements in machinery.

their stock. New England investors were frightened out of a good deal of their stock at 25. If now more than twice this amount is offered for Boston & Montana, even though offered through the stock market, should any one object to New England taking it? Nobody has ever talked of Boston & Montana as intrinsically worth beyond four or five hundred dollars per share. Now, if anybody wants to get his money out of Boston & Montana he has an opportunity to do it, and he has not got to consider any questions of the relative value of Boston & Montana and Butte & Boston.

"Allowing that Butte & Boston has no great value intrinsically, it should be stated that the same people own both Amalgamated and Butte & Boston, and are responsible for both, and that they have right to put these two properties together, so far as Boston & Montana stockholders are concerned. Now, what is the position of the Boston & Montana man who claims that Butte & Boston is worthless, and that Montana is the only great thing on the mountain? Certainly Montana has got a considerable fight on its hands with Mr. Heinze. Its property is heavily enjoined at the present time, and its legal warfare must, from the present outlook, go on increasing. Allowing that it wins out and gets free of its injunctions and litigation, there must be a limit to its value, and that value depends largely on the price of copper.

"Now, the Boston & Montana people have not, it must be conceded, made the price of copper. The Standard Oil people have made the price of copper, and they are making it 17 cents today, and they are fighting an international battle upon it and are winning. Very few people know the extent of this international warfare over the price of

fair price for their property under the new regime, and they will have an opportunity of getting out or staying in, on very much better terms, I think, than they had expected some time ago.

"Since the stock was pegged at 25, they have received about \$100 per share in dividends, one-half of which is due to the maintenance of the price of copper, and if they get four shares of Amalgamated for one share of Montana, and Amalgamated remains at 125, making a practical stock market tender of \$500 per share for Boston & Montana, can they ask for more, or can they quarrel further with the people who have made the Amalgamated Copper company, held up the price of copper, and propose to pay themselves by taking into themselves their own Butte & Boston, at a higher price than that at which anybody else would value it?"

In regard to the Clipper-Boss Tweed mine deal, the last issue of the Pony Sentinel says:

"To all appearances there is something doing in regard to the Clipper-Boss Tweed deal. W. W. Morris went over to Butte Sunday and returned Tuesday accompanied by John Berkin, Charles Molsen, who represents the London Exploration company, and others, but nothing regarding the deal can be learned for publication. Mr. Molsen and associates are at the mine, and it is understood they are supervising the taking out of a car or two of ore for a mill test. Mr. Berkin returned to Butte Wednesday and is reported to be en route to Cape Nome. Mr. Morris started for Virginia City Wednesday and W. C. McKaskle, another of the owners, left on Thursday for Butte. If these movements would indicate that there is something in the wind.