MINES AND MINING

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

MONTANA'S SUCCESSFUL WOMAN MINERS.

Montana has a woman mine manager and it is safe to wager that she will occomplish more in the way of making the property in her charge a success than did the two men who formerly handled the business of the company she represents. Her name is Mrs. Caroline Van Horne and the property she is managing is located about seven miles from Butte, just beyond the apex of the range of mountains at a point in line with the poor farm. It is known as the Blackwell company's property and consists of the Blackwell mine and one of the best 10-stamp mills in the state. The district in which it is situated is called the Homestake station on the Northern Pacific.

Mrs. Van Horne lives in Chicago. When the Blackwell company was organized, which was about four years ago, she became a heavy stockholder in it and has been more than anxious to see it achieve the object of its organization. A man named Klenze was first employed to manage the property owned by the company, but after a short run he made way for his successor, named Goetz. A 10-stamp mill was built on the Blackwell, but about the time it was started a disagreement arose among the stockholders on account of alleged mismanagement and a cessation of operations resulted. This was a year ago last February and since then up to a day or two ago the stamps remained suspended. Recently, however, a majority of the stock changed hands and the new holders, realizing that proper management would bring the property out all right, decided to take a fresh start. Accordingly, Mrs. Van Horn, who is one of the large stockholders and a woman of considerable ability, was requested to take charge, and she consented to do so. She arrived on the ground last week and at once made preparations for starting the mill and developing the mine. A day or two ago the stamps were unlatched and are now dropping on ore with prospects of continuous operation during the summer.

The shaft on the Blackwell is located about 100 feet from the mill and is 100 feet deep. At the bottom there is a ledge of vein mater 6 feet wide between well defined walls. The vein at the present depth is not solid, but it is the belief of mining men that an additional 100 feet will take in into the solid state. The shaft is now being sunk to the 200. The mill is now working on custom ore, district. The batch now being treated consists of 50 tons, which was taken from a claim owned by Dr. J. P. Reins of this city. It is located about three-quarters of a mile from the Blackwell and is under lease to Duncan MacDougall and the Brown brothers, who have opened up a 6-foot vein of gold bearing ore in the tunnel by which it is being developed. This property was worked several years ago and the ore shipped to Butte.

There are many other good properties in the district that will be heard from in the near future. In one, known as the Red Rock, owned by John Roush, a 4-foot vein has been opened at a depth of 35 feet. An assay across the face of the vein gives the ore a value of $15 in gold and 30 ounces of silver per ton. The ledge, it is said, can be traced three or four mines on the surface.

The deepest shaft in that section at present is on the Mountain Chief, owned by the Thompson estate of this city and a Helena man. It is 200 feet deep and in the bottom there is a vein of ore that assays 2 per cent. copper along with its other values. This is the first indication of copper found there and it leads to the belief that copper ore of a much higher percentage will be struck at a greater depth. The Mountain Chief and Blackwell are close together, the latter being the east extension of the former.

GREAT FALLS MEN IN LUCK

They Strike a Body of Rich Ore in an Idaho Property.

A recent issue of the Salmon City, Idaho, Herald says that some Montana men have struck it rich on a mining claim near that city. The article is as follows:

"Word reached Salmon Sunday that the long tunnel at the Goldstone has cut the ledge, and that the ore body opens up rich and strong. This is the tunnel which has engaged the public attention for the past six months, and its successful terminus is the cause of much satisfaction. The strike was made Saturday night.

"This is the mine which Soule Bros. sold last fall to a syndicate of Great Falls people, of whom Richard Ries and Jack Turnblade, an experienced mining man, have given the work their undivided personal superintendence, and shown a character for driving perseverance equaled by few men in such operations. Two months ago the miners struck a serpentine dyke which would neither drill nor break to advantage. Such encountrs were enough to break a miner's heart, and for a season it was impossible to make more than a foot a day.

"This tunnel taps the ledge at a depth of 600 feet, and opens up immense re-230 feet deep, in ore all the way, and the new discovery gives them a pay shoot two feet wide, extending 400 feet overhead and about 800 feet in length. The ore averages $45 in gold and about $4.50 in silver. Most of the gold is saved on the plates. A 10-stamp mill is on the ground, which will soon be strated for a permanent run. The owners are to be congratulated upon their new uncoverings, which hold a fortune in sight. The report puts a long shining feather in Mr. Turnblade's cap, and lifts him to a front rank among mining managers."

A PARK COUNTY ENTERPRISE

The Robinson Company Developing Its Mines Preparatory for Business.

The Livingston Enterprise says a small force of men in charge of James Hall were put at work Monday by the Robinson Mining company at Jardine in doing development work on their property. The mines will be cleaned up and put in shape and the ore taken out placed in the bins and everything gotten in readiness for the starting of their mill, which will hereafter be run by water power. This change will necessitate some delay, as it is expected it will take aboue six weeks to make the change. Alex. Livingston, who returned Thursday from Butte, where he had been on business in connection with the mine, stated that the mill would be running by about the middle of July, when it is expected this property will make a handsome showing and prove a paying investment for its owners.

TWO CARS OF CONCENTRATES

Find Their Way From Madison County Mines to Utah—Whipperwill to Resume.

The mines around Sand Creek, Madison county, are fast coming to the front. Of two the last issue of the Pony Sentinel says:

"The Garnet company will ship two cars of rich concentrates today to Murray, Utah. They run 50 per cent lead, one ounce in gold and five ounces in silver. A bar of bullion worth $1,500 was shipped Monday.

"President F. C. Wood, of St. Louis, made a hurried visit to the mine Monday and is enthusiastic over the showing. Nearly 30 men are employed.

"The old Whippoorwill mine at Sand Creek will soon emerge from its state of inactivity. F. H. Stock is superintendent for the Minneapolis-Montana company which will operate it, and went to Butte Wednesday to buy an engine and boiler and two No. 7 Knowles pumps. A car of lumber has been ordered and work will be pushed. They have a 60-foot shaft and will sink another hundred feet.

BIG MONEY IN THE TAILINGS

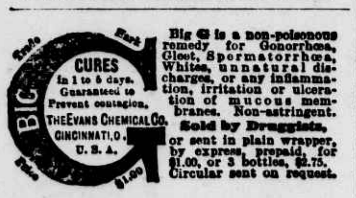
And Some Butte Men Are Getting It Out—Nearly $20,000 in Two Months.

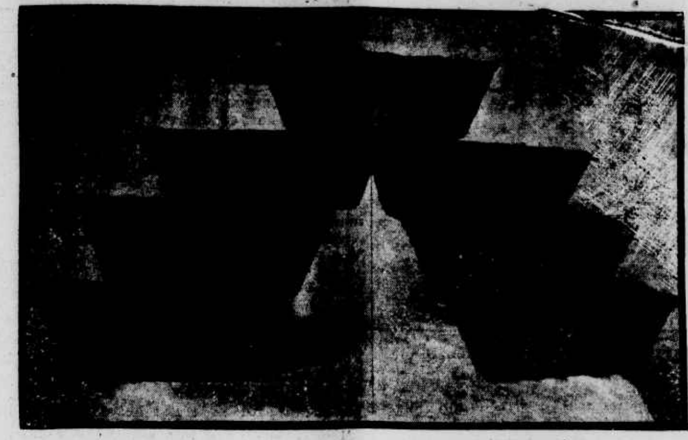
The mines owned by the Hecla Mining company in Beaverhead county have yielded a total of 209,623 tons of ore. Between 1881 and 1900 the total earnings of the company were $10,189,648 and the expenses of operation $8,123,071, leaving a net balance of $2,066,577. Of the latter sum $2,027,500 was divided among the stockholders and $39,077 left in the treasury.

The company has just paid a total of $2,220,000 in dividends. It once operated a smelter at Glendale, but found it cheaper to ship its ore to Omaha for treatment. The tailings of the old plant are being worked by D. T. Haslatt and others of this city, who are making money out of them. Last year the lessees of the dump paid the company $3,968 on a 20 per cent, royalty and worked only two months. They are now putting in additional machinery at a cost of $20,000 and expect to save at least 85 per cent. of the metal contents of the tailings with it.

GERMAN GULCH PLACERS.

David N. Upton began operations on his German Gulch placers about the middle of the week and expects to make a continuous run during the summer. The gulch is located about seventeen miles from Butte and has been a large producer of the yellow metal. "Doc" and Perry Beal have also commenced work on their claims farther up the gulch.





ORE CLEAN-UP FROM GILT EDGE MILL—$15,000.

THE NORTH BUTTE DISTRICT

Claims There Have Not Been Worked Much For Several Years.

John Cadigan has taken a lease on the Cadigan mine north of Walkerville, but will confine his operations to that portion of the vein which lies above the water level.

The claims in that district, of which there are a large number, have not been worked very extensively since 1893. The ore contains gold and silver and some of it is very rich, but near the surface, to which development work has been confined, it is in pockets. North of the Amy & Silversmith and Goldsmith mines the deepest workings are only about 450 feet. These workings are on the Blue-eyed Nellie. Outside of this claim the shafts range from 25 to 300 feet. In some places water is found within 25 feet of the surface, which fact is a detriment to prospectors who depend upon their own resources in the development of claims.

Some time in the near future that section of the Butte district will doubtless receive the attention of men who have means with which to carry on operations on an extensive scale. The theory that below a certain depth all silver-gold bearing ledges hereabouts merge into copper is growing stronger, and at some period it will be tested in the northern part of the district. It may come out all right and it may not. When the Alice company ceased active operations the main shaft of the Alice mine was down 1,500 feet and the ore of the vein has not turned into copper. The Alice is a portion of the great Rainbow ledge, the croppings of which can be traced for miles—east and west. This ledge seems to be the mother of the numerous silver and gold bearing veins which begin where the copper zone south of it is supposed to stop in its northward course. These veins are parallel and are to be found within 200 feet of each other throughout the width of the entire district north of the copper belt.

ARE GROSS EXAGGERATIONS

Eastern Stories of Philippine Island Mines Are Characterized as Such.

The effort being made to stampede miners from this country to the Philippine islands is likely to fall flat. Recently some of the New York papers have contained glowing accounts of the alleged mineral resources of the islands, but the following from the islands would indicate that somebody has been given an untruthful story.

Manila, May 14.—Long articles which have recently appeared in New York under the titles of "Mining in the Philippines" are condemned by local miners as gross exaggerations. Captain Burritt, chief of the mining bureau, says: "Mines are described which do not exist. The presence of coal in Batangas is purely imaginative, The shipment of sixty tons of copper is a ridiculous statement. There is no developed mine in the archipelago today. The mining industry is capable of great development, but there is no El Dorado here. It is not a question of the presence of these commodities just now, but of ways and means of working them and transporting the products." Professor Worcester of the Philippine commission also characterizes the statements as gross exaggerations.

BUTTE MAN BOUND FOR PERU

He Will Inspect a Copper Mine for A. W. McCune of Salt Lake.

James MacFarlane, the well known mining engineer, for several years in the employ of the Anaconda and also the Montana Ore Purchasing company, has gone to Peru to inspect a mine for A. W. McCune of Salt Lake, in whose employ he now is. It is said the mine which Mr. MacFarlane proposes to examine has been a producer since 1630. It is located about 14,000 feet above the level of the sea. Although once a silver property with a yield of 700,000,000 ounces of the white metal to its credit, it is now said to be a copper mine of fabulous richness, the copper ore haveing been only recently struck. Mr. MacFarlane intends to report the condition of the mine to Mr. McCune and if the latter likes the property he will buy a portion of it at least.

A Montanian's Luck.

Ben Hatfield, formerly a resident of Pony, has secured control of a rich mine near Wilkenburg, Ariz. He calls it the Ore Grande. The property is fairly well developed. The present workings consist of a shaft 100 feet deep, at the bottom of which is a crosscut 40 feet to the west and 20 feet to the east. These cuts, with the shaft included, give an opening 64 feet wide, all in ore. Drifting has also been done north and south 15 feet each way, being in ore the same as the crosscuts. At a fair estimate the ore in sight can be placed at 12,000 tons, with an average value of $25 per ton, a total valuation of $300,000. This estimate gives the value of the strike at the most conservative figures taken from pan samples made both from the underground workings and grab samples taken from the dump. No wallls have been found up to the present time, and from the surface indications probably will not be until from 100 to 200 feet of cross-cutting is done.

While the general average of the ore from present development can only be given at an average of $25 per ton, the rich pockets which occur in the ore body may put up the value of the mine at a much higher figure with further development. The bottom of the shaft is in a wonderfully rich streak of ore, which, sampled in the usual way for fair valuation, gave returns of 1,968 ounces in gold. The gold is of a high fineness and if the streak should hold its value with further exploitation the ore in that part of the workings could be estimated as being worth nearly $30,000 per ton. Pockets like this, however, are frequently found through the present workings, so no one can really form an idea of what the mine will do when deeper openings are made.

The original locators sold the property for the paltry sum of $750, and $2,600 was afterward paid to clear the title. This is all the money that they received for their discovery and they sold for a song a property that will probably produce millions when it is opened up. The owners have received a cash offer of $350,000 for the property, but declined to entertain any offer.

Placer Mining in Oro Fino.

John Noyes is working his placer mines in Oro Fino gulch, a mile west of the Big Butte, and is not wasting his time. Washing gold from the gravel of the claims there is a regular summer diversion with Mr. Noyes. The gravel is not so rich as that of some of the claims in Alder gulch in the old days, but it is good enough to enable Mr. Noyes to credit himself with a few thousand dollars extra at the end of each season's work.

THE "LOST LEAD"

RICH COPPER PROSPECT IN THE GALLATIN MOUNTAINS.

LOST FOR A QUARTER CENTURY

Found in the Days When Gold Was the Only Thing of Value—Now the Grizzled Miner Turns to the Wealth So Long Hidden and Believes He Has a Large Fortune.

Bozeman, May 25.—A grizzled miner entered the county clerk's office one day this week and presented to one of the deputies a location notice, setting forth in the usual legal formula the claim as to metes and bounds and in respect to a natural monument or object by which the location could be found by any person ordinarily acquainted with the country in which the find is situated. The curious name given the claim attracted the attention of Deputy Clerk, O. P. Morgan, and upon inquiry as to the reason for giving a mine such a name, the prospector related the following story of the circumstances that impelled him to choose that particular name for his claim.

About twenty-four years ago, Thomas Morton, was prospecting in the hills near Spanish Creek, in this county, and one day while roaming over the country in search of indications of mineral, he observed a lot of copper float. He was nnot looking for copper at the time, as that mineral was not valued anywhere near the figures it is quoted at today. In lieu of anything better, for the time being, he concluded to examine a little closer into the proposition, as it might lead to finding a gold vein, which was what he wanted at the time, and wanted bad. With this idea in mind he did some digging, and found copper ore of excellent quality, indeed the rock showed a great amount of native copper, but gold there was no visible trace of.

Copper Was No Good Then.

The claim was of no use to him as it stood, but thinking that the future might have something in store for the metal of which there seemed an immense amount to be had out of the sixteen foot vein, he carefully shoveled the earth back and obliterated all traces of his work with pick and shovel.

Before covering up the lead, he had picked out a sack of quartz and this he brought into Bozeman and left it with the county clerk, who placed it in the safe where it lay forgotten for a number of years.

One day while several of the land agents of the Northern Pacific Railway company were in the office, the sack was brought to light, Cursory inspection showed that it contained ore, it was opened and then there was considerable excitement in the office.

The company men wanted to know where the stuff came from, and who brought it in, butnothing could be given them in the way of information, save that a prospector had left it with a former clerk, neither of whom were then in the country, so far as known.

The agents thought so well of the appearance of the ore, that they organized a party and for several days searched early and late for the "Lost lead" but their search proved fruitless.

Before leaving, they offered a standing reward for the man or men who would pilot them to the spot from which the ore contained in the sack was taken. The reward was never claimed, for the man who knew where the lead was did not care to divulge its location. In secret, he determined that some time he would return and find out what was hidden in that particular vein, not dreaming that almost a quarter of a century would elapse before he would be able to make that determination good.

In the years intervening he has followed many avocations in various parts of the state, and only recently he returned to the ground he prospected many years ago, annd was more than rejoiced that the secret had not been discovered by any other in all the long years it lay open to be claimed by any man who happened to stumble upon it.

Morton lost no time in doing the necessary work to enable him to file his location notice, and named the claim the "Lost Lead," in commemorationn of the search made for it, that proved of no benefit to the men who made it. From now on he will devote his time and means to develop the property and make of it one of the leading mines, circumstances permitting, in the state.

The location is near the Lemon ranch on Spanish Creek, a district of Gallatin county that has not heretofore been regarded as holding out the most shining promises for a mining region. The Spanish Creek people will see lots of strangers out their way as soon as the story of the find becomes known, few being aware of it at the present time.

With copper prospects at both ends of the county, there should be some about the center in order to keep things balanced, and for the good of the presidents of this section it is to be hoped that the finnd will prove all the man with unbounded faith in its possibilities imagines it.

"Heredity is not everything," said the fellows that were born gentlemen whom you would never suspect of such a thing."—Indianapolis Press.

Lord Robers—Kitchener, what do you think of De Wet?

Lord Kitchener—He is simply out of sight.