

# Mines and Mining.

## FIRST COPPER MINE

IT WAS OPENED BY JOHN HAYS 58 YEARS AGO.

## MR. HAYS IS STILL LIVING

He is Spending the Remainder of His Days in Cleveland, Ohio—Is Now 96 Years Old—Indians Gave the "Tip."

John Hays, who opened the first copper mine in America, and who is now in his 96th year, is spending the winter of his life in a small house on St. Clair street, Cleveland. An article in a Pittsburg newspaper, way back in 1843, was responsible for the opening of the first copper mine during that year. Mr. Hays read in its news columns one day about the Indians finding pieces of that which was believed to be copper ore in abundance, says a correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch. Mines opened in that vicinity have since made many fortunes for many men. Pittsburg capital had a great deal to do with the opening of the first mines on Lake Superior, and later in the vicinity of the large rolling mills of today, near Cleveland, there was erected the first smelting works by this same John Hays, although smelting today is a part of the industry which is carried on near the copper mines.

### A Dangerous Trip.

When Mr. Hays started on his initial journey to the copper yielding territory of the present it was almost like going into an unexplored country across the seas. Each trip was fraught with dangers and hardships, to say nothing of the difficulties encountered at the destination. Yet, in this Klondike of 1843, this man, with his assistants, soon began to make it show the marks of civilization and thrift.

In 1844, after he became certain that there were great copper veins in the wilderness of the upper lakes, he, with nine laborers, all from Pittsburg, began actual operations on the first mine which they decided to open at Copper Harbor, a distance of nearly 150 miles west of the Soo. Here a vein of copper was soon discovered and began to yield in great quantities, considering the crudeness of the implements with which the laborers worked, and the lack of experience in this particular line. The second mine was opened at Eagle river.

### To Milwaukee on Snowshoes.

Elated at his success he left the mine

men to continue operations while he returned to Pittsburg to tell the news of his great discovery. With two Indians for companions he started for Milwaukee on snowshoes. Some three weeks were occupied in making the journey home. During nearly two months following he was engaged in making the necessary preparations for mining on a more extensive scale, and in explaining to Pittsburgers points concerning the new industry. A company was then formed and a great part of the stock was owned in Pittsburg.

### One Chunk Weighed 81 Tons.

Mr. Hays returned to the Eagle river and put to work a larger force of men. After removing many smaller pieces they finally came upon a piece of copper ore which, when cut up and weighed aggregated 81 tons, the vein having been in some places five feet wide. In ten years this mine produced \$8,000,000 worth of copper and the company operating it declared dividends in the same time of over \$2,000,000, while it had been assessed less than \$100,000. This mine proved to be the most remunerative one in a short space of time ever opened in this country. The company was known as the Pittsburg & Boston Mining company, one-half of the shares being owned by Boston parties and one-half in Pittsburg.

In 1846 there was beginning to be considerable interest shown everywhere in the mining of copper ore on the upper lakes. Mr. Hays engaged more than 100 men to work steadily in the new industry. About this time he began to think of a helpmate in life and married an esteemed lady of Pittsburg, and they at once left on their wedding trip to the mines at Eagle river. Mrs. Hays was probably the first white woman to go to the wilderness of Lake Superior copper regions. The Indians asked permission to touch her soft white hands and displayed great admiration for the lady.

### Industrious, Kind and Good.

Mrs. Hays was, like her husband, industrious, kind and good. With the assistance of the large forces of men they raised an immense boarding house, not forgetting to set apart a place for divine worship on the Sabbath and for prayer meetings during the week. Mr. Hays had the confidence of every employe with whom he came in contact and his confidence for good was greater than that of some of our seekers after wealth in a new country in these days.

Just as in the Klondike, or in any newly developed land, there came to the new territory a saloon. A saloonkeeper, thinking he could there make a small fortune put up a new building and placed a keg near the entrance as a sign. Mr. Hays accordingly called his men together. He explained to them the effect of strong drink and asked as a personal request that they would refrain from the use of intoxicants in the future the same as they had done

before the saloon had been located in their midst. The saloonkeeper waited in vain for customers and at last in disgust left the camp.

### Necessity Mother of Invention.

In the year 1847 Mr. Hays made an important trip to Europe. Copper must go through the smelting process before it could be of use to the American customer. A smelting furnace must be invented. He arrived in England with letters of introduction and proceeded straightway to the furnaces.

The furnace owners, however, were not over anxious to show him their process, and when later he returned to America he decided that, anyway, he could make a better one than those in use across the water and he set to work. In the following year, near Pittsburg, he placed his new invention in operation. Seven tons of copper would be placed in it before 6 o'clock in the evening and by 8:30 the next morning it would be taken out refined. Almost an entire week was required in England to refine copper, but of course there they have the soft ore.

There is at present no lack of interest in the copper mining, and Mr. Hays, old as he is, still has a great interest in the developments. He told me the last time I talked with him that he is expecting a mountain on Lake Superior, some 150 miles from Duluth, in which he is interested to yield richer veins and more abundantly than any mines yet opened in the new world.

### PHILIPPINE GROUP BONDED.

#### F. A. Case Takes the Property in the Interest of New York Men.

The Philippine group of cyanide prospects, in the Armells district, has been bonded to F. A. Case, representing a New York syndicate, for \$50,000, says the Fergus County Argus. The deal was consummated last week, and Mr. Case is now on the property with a force of men, exploiting the various ore bodies. The prospects are owned by Charles Rhoades, Otto Anderson and Joseph Meredith, and are on the forks of Armells creek, the main ore body being on the hogback directly between the forks.

The terms of the bond are that Mr. Case shall commence development work at once and continue with not less than two men at any time. The first payment will be made March 1, 1902, and a payment of \$15,000 will be made on July 1 of the same year unless a mill of not less than 50 tons capacity is operating on the property in a way which will show that work will be carried on in an energetic and business like manner. In the case of everything being satisfactory to all parties concerned, the bond will be extended until 1903.

The small amount of development work accomplished thus far has uncovered large bodies of ore, and on the Philippine claim, where the creek cuts through, a 600-foot face of ore is in full view. The property comprises seven claims.

The ores procured from this property so far have been low grade, and have run from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per ton, though it is thought that on a further development, ore of much higher values will be encountered.

## IN GOOD OLD DAYS

HELENA WAS THEN A LARGE HOLE IN THE GROUND.

### HER RESTING PLACE RICH

Thirty Million Dollars in Gold Taken From the Gulch in Which the Capital of the State is Located.

In the book "Then and Now or Thirty-six Years in the Rockies," Robert Vaughn, the author, one of the old-timers in Montana, says of Last Chance Gulch: "Having remained in Alder Gulch all summer working in the mines for Bon and Vivian at \$10 per day in gold dust, in December, 1854, four of us made a bargain with a man who had two small Mexican mules and an old spring wagon, to take us and our baggage to the new gold mines called Last Chance (now Helena.) It was understood that we were to walk and help the mules (or "Jerusalem ponies," as one of the boys called them) up the hills. The little animals were not over 13 hands high, and weighed about 400 pounds each. We came down the Prickly Pear creek, where now the Montana Central railway is. Then there was no town of Clancy nor a quartz mill nor a smelter on the creek. Not a sound could be heard there except that of the pick of the prospector on the mountains hunting for gold. We kept on the trail until we got to the new Eldorado, where several hundred miners were at work; many were taking out gold in great quantities; others were prospecting their claims.

### Locomotives and Mules.

"Before going any further we will stop a minute and tell a short story in connection with the creek referred to. A few days ago I was invited to go to the roundhouse at this place to see two locomotives which had just arrived from the East. They were the largest in weight and dimensions ever built in any country up to that time, each weighing 154 tons. Mr. Bruce, the master mechanic at the railway shops, informed me that they were to run on the Montana Central railway from Clancy, on Prickly Pear creek, and over the Rocky mountain divide. Although this is one of the heaviest pulls in the country, the big engines each are to draw 670 tons. Several hundred passengers are drawn over this divide every 24 hours, besides about 70,000 tons of freight, principally coal from Cascade county to Butte and Anaconda, and copper ore from the Butte mines to the copper smelters and refiners at the falls of the Missouri river, near Great Falls, and lead and silver ores to the East Helena smelter.

"When looking at these two great locomotives I could not avoid thinking of the contrast between them and the two Mexican mules, the motive power on the old trail and the motive power on the new. The little mules were 13 hands high and drew 1000 pounds; each of the big locomotives is 15 feet or 16 hands high draws 670 tons. It is to me like a dream to think of the great changes that have taken place since that time.

Last Chance Yielded \$30,000,000. "Then Helena was but a mining camp, consisting of but a few log cabins. There is where I helped to run a drain ditch, commencing at Discovery Claim, near where now stands the Montana club building. We reached bed rock in the upper end of the city. Among the gravel in this drain ditch, about 45 feet from the surface and near where the Helena fire department building is, a mastodon tooth was found; it was a grinder, three inches on top, six inches deep and eight inches lengthwise. It was as perfect as it was when it came from the monster's mouth, when this northern country was a tropical region. In another claim a tusk was found like that of an elephant. Many other remains of animals have been found in mines and rock formations in the Rockies, showing that the Rocky mountain region has at one time been the home of animals that are not now in existence, at least not in the western hemisphere. It is estimated that \$30,000,000 have been taken out of Last Chance gulch and its tributaries, and most of it from where the streets of Helena now are.

Flour Sold at \$125 Per 100 Pounds. "Miners' wages were then \$10 per day; common laborers, \$7. During the winter of 1865 eatables of all kinds were very dear, except meat, for game was plentiful. Flour sold for \$125 per 100 pounds. Then my friend Charley Cannon was an humble baker, and was selling dried apple pies that were not sweetened, with crusts as thin as a wafer, for \$1.60 apiece. Now he is an honored and respected citizen and one of the wealthiest men in the state. Now Helena is a city of 12,000 inhabitants and the capital of the state. The capitol building is in course of construction, and, when completed, will be one of the finest in the West. Where the log cabins stood, handsome business blocks and homes are everywhere visible.

### SINKING ON THE SURPRISE.

Butte Men Have Been Making Some Money Out of It. Jack Hoy, Frank Hinds, William Fisher and Dr. F. A. Ironsides are working the Surprise property at Parrot and are making good headway. Up to a few days ago they had been shipping four or five carloads of ore per month, but concluded to sink the shaft to the 300-foot mark in order that the ore would be easier of access by the stopping process. To do this it was necessary to secure larger machinery. Accordingly, the necessary machinery was secured and put in place, and last evening sinking was commenced. The shaft is now 185 feet deep.

### MONTANA TOILET COMPANY.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, George H. Casey, is the sole and exclusive owner and proprietor of the business heretofore and now carried on in the city of Butte, Silver Bow county, Montana, under the name and style of the Montana Toilet company. All accounts are payable directly to the undersigned.

GEORGE H. CASEY. Dated this 27th day of November, 1901.

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