

Mines and Mining.

RICH ORE BODIES

OLD CAMP OF YOGO IS AGAIN COMING UP.

VERY SATISFACTORY ASSAYS

District Located in the Northern Part of the State — Large Values in Gold and Copper Obtained.

The old-time mining camp of Yogo is again attracting considerable attention in the mining world and an unusual activity is noticed in the vicinity of the old camp situated under the shadow of Yogo Baldy, says the Fergus county Argus.

At short intervals encouraging reports are received from the Yogo mining district, which, with the exception of the sapphire fields, has been in a state of comparative inactivity for several years, and the future looks bright for the pioneer camp of the Belt mountains.

It was in 1879 that a small party of miners first endeavored to wrest the yellow dust from the bed of Yogo creek and since that time many unsuccessful attempts have been made to compel Dame Nature to deliver up a portion of the vast mineral wealth contained in that section of the Belt mountains.

Among the first searchers after the yellow metal in Yogo were George Allis, Dud Richard, Jack Murphy, Joe Cutting, David Wareham, Bill and Buck Buchanan and Jacob Hoover, of the last of whom acted in the capacity of recorder for the camp at that time. In these days the miners made their own laws and had the records of their various claims kept by some one chosen by themselves for that special purpose.

Bedrock Was "Way Down." During this first boom William Campbell started a small store in the camp and the Buchanan brothers were appointed to take charge of the postoffice, the mail going in by way of Willow creek and Bear park from Fort Benton to Yogo. Bedrock was "way down" and with the primitive methods then in use, placer mining in Yogo did not prove successful and in 1880 and 1881 the miners became discouraged and gradually deserted the camp, leaving only a few optimistic characters who had an abiding faith in the richness of the district.

several of whom are to be found there at this present day.

Among those who cast their lot and hung their hopes on the future of the camp were James Bircham, otherwise known as "Bedrock Jim," "Dutch" George, Abe Carter, Eli Shelby and Henry Sabington; there was another, a well-known character to those who have visited Yogo, Millie Ringold, a colored woman who has stayed with the camp and its varying fortunes for the past 20 years and is there yet. These constituted, with the exception of a wandering prospector or two, the population of Yogo until 1886 when free milling gold ore was discovered in Skunk gulch and the camp took on renewed life.

Skunk Gulch Group. John Madden, crossing over from the Maiden district, located what then was known as the Strawberry group of mines in Skunk gulch and a short time afterwards the Blue Dick was discovered by Pat Hughes. Eli Shelby staked out two claims, the T. C. Power and the Commodore Power and Abe Carter commenced work on an extension of the same claims. Numberless prospects were located in the district surrounding Yogo and for a brief time in the vicinity of old Baldy mining operations were in full blast. An arrastra was erected in Skunk gulch by Ed Weatherwax, which, for a brief period was worked with profit to the operator, but owing to the free milling ore running into pyrites the property had to be abandoned. So with all the prospects in the district, the free milling ore lay in some properties in blanket form and in others, pockets which lead, on further development, into pyritical formations which were not amenable to simple process of mining then in vogue.

Assays taken at random from the various claims showed gold and copper, the latter in large and varying values while the gold returns averaged \$6 per ton. It was base ore and smelting was necessary to extract the mineral values it contained and again the old camp returned to its former state of inactivity by reason of the expensive methods necessary for the profitable treatment of the ores which, although difficult to handle, lay in immense bodies.

Gardiner Built a Mill. In 1889 James Gardiner erected a mill with a capacity of 10 stamps at the old Weatherwax mines and tried many ways of treatment with varying success. A shipment from these mines was sent to Swansea, Wales, and there treated with success, and it was thoroughly demonstrated that on the proper methods being employed the ores could be worked to advantage. The system was too expensive for those interested and it was hard to interest capitalists in a camp which had proved a failure twice in suc-

cession. Though knowing that immense bodies of ore lay within reach and loath to leave, those interested in the camp again left their stamping ground and turned their attention to properties which could be handled by less expensive methods, and interest shown in the quartz properties in that district has been very spasmodic until the present time.

In 1894 E. R. Carroll, representing a Boston syndicate at the head of which was Dr. Farr, commenced preparations to conduct a series of experiments in placer mining by the hydraulic system. A ditch was taken out and a powerful head of water obtained, but the experiments proved a failure owing to the expensive operations necessary to carry on the work.

Seven Years in Darkness.

For a period of several months Yogo was again consigned to oblivion as far as the outside world was concerned, and the next stir was occasioned by the discovery of placer ground on the hill and in the vicinity of Emile Dornblaat's old saw mill site. The find was made by Louis Pepin and Jacob Hoover, who hauled wagon loads of dirt to the creek which paid from \$2.50 to \$20 per load on washing.

Large tracts of placer ground were located by them from the head of the Tollgate hill to the ground above Louis W. Peck's ranch. S. S. Hobson and Dr. J. S. Boyet of Chicago became interested in the venture and purchased Mr. Pepin's interest. A company was formed which consisted of S. S. Hobson, Dr. J. S. Boyet and Jacob Hoover, and steps were taken to bring a supply of water to the vicinity of the locations for the purpose of operating them. A ditch was constructed which extended from above Bear gulch a distance of eight miles, at an expense amounting to \$25,000.

Sapphires Discovered in 1896.

Placer mining operations were conducted with success during the summer of 1896, and toward the end of the season sapphires were discovered during the progress of sluicing in the vicinity of where the sapphire mines are now located. There are many stories circulated as to how the famous Yogo sapphires were first found; some say that Jacob Hoover, while walking across the country, spied several stones in a few buckets of dirt thrown out by a badger; others contend that James Etlien discovered the first sapphire in the vicinity of his sheep camp at the Dornblaat saw mill.

It matters little who first discovered the stones, as long as the fact remains that large quantities of them are taken out of the ground every year, which, by their superior lustre and exceptional coloring, have gained renown in the world over. Shortly after finding the gems London capitalists purchased an interest in the property and the New Sapphire syndicate was formed. Shortly after this John Burk located a lead of the famous blue clay, in which the sapphires are contained, on Yogo gulch, which was operated with success and in which an interest was purchased by Patrick Sweeney of Nelhart during the next spring.

Outlook Is Good.

During the "past" few months considerable work has been done on the various claims in the vicinity of Yogo and the outlook for the coming season is good. A hundred foot shaft has been sunk on the Blue Dick and crosscuts have been made in the main tunnel with very satisfactory results by Jack Lessier, who is in charge of the work, which is being done by Senator Paris Gibson and State Auditor Calderhead. The ore in the Blue Dick is rich in copper; sample assays taken from the recent workings run as high as 30 per cent. copper and contain gold values to the amount of \$10 per ton.

Langdon Has Copper.

Hay Bros., of Belt, are developing the Weatherwax mine in Skunk gulch with very gratifying results and a large body of rich ore has been uncovered. George Settler is still working on the Tough, a promising gold prospect back of Yogo and on the Calif Shirt, a copper prospect on Sixteen Color gulch, and at the latter mine has a considerable amount of rich smelting ore on the dump. Patrick Langdon is working some valuable prospects which are situated on the ridge between Boulder and Lead gulches. Ore carrying over 20 per cent. copper, which is accompanied by small values in gold has been found in large bodies and Mr. Langdon has refused several offers for the property which has attracted the attention of prominent mining men. The Lehman property on the ridge between Yogo and Wolf creek is at present in a state of idleness, but development work will be pushed extensively in the spring.

Richard Potter and Gus Hall are the owners of a promising group of gold and copper prospects which are situated on the ridge running east from Old Baldy and as the result of a few months work have a very satisfactory showing, having obtained assays giving both values in gold and copper.

Neils Jensen is developing a rich property situated on the divide between Elk and Lion gulch where a large body of smelting ore has been encountered. Samples of the ore taken from the various parts of the property assay \$5 to the ton in gold and contain 19 per cent. copper.

Yielded \$35 Per Ton Net.

A party of Finlanders from Nelhart have discovered a large body of ore in the vicinity of Yogo Baldy, which, it is reported, is brought down from that district, is rich both in gold and copper. Several loads of ore from this property have been shipped to Great Falls for treatment, resulting in a profit of \$30 per ton after paying all expenses. The ore is of the copper oxide variety, shows traces of manganese and carries high values in gold. As there is an immense body of the ore in sight the property no doubt will prove to be a valuable one.

Throughout the entire Yogo district there are strong traces of silver and lead and George Fraser, in company with George Fraser, owns and operates a silver and lead mine on Mill coulee, a short distance above the Tollgate, which is an extremely valuable property. A number of shipments of ore have been made from the mine by freight team to the Great Falls smelters and in spite of the enormous expense attached to the transportation and treatment of the ore a net profit of \$35 per ton has been obtained on the average.

Bodies of Ore Inexhaustible.

The bodies of smelting ore found in the Yogo district are simply inexhaustible, and though attempts to work

many of the properties have been decidedly unsuccessful it is owing to the fact that the expense of transportation to the nearest point for treatment by wagon is too expensive and so far no effort has been made to treat the ore by the proper method at the point of discovery owing to a lack of capital, by those interested. There is no doubt but that with the advent of a railroad and the consequent development of the mineral resources of the district that capitalists will become interested and the old camp of Yogo will spring into prominence and contribute largely to the mineral output of this section of the state.

Several promising copper prospects have been discovered in the foothills at the head of Sage and Willow creek in which district strong traces of the presence of cyanide deposits have also been encountered and there is every possibility that this year will witness a wonderful development of the vast mineral wealth of this section of Belt mountains.

MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN.

Testifies in Examinations of London Globe Affairs.

(By Associated Press.) London, Jan. 28.—In the resumption yesterday in the bankruptcy court of inquiry into the affairs of the London and Globe Finance corporation, limited, the receivers read a letter from the Marquis of Dufferin denying that he had been a party to Whitaker Wright's speculation, which had resulted in losses amounting to £1,700,000.

His lordship said he would have considered himself highly criminal had he allowed the shareholders' money thus to be gambled away.

The examination of Lieutenant-General the Honorable Somerset J. Gough Althorpe, one of Whitaker Wright's co-directors, furnished endless amusement in court.

After saying he had properly purchased his holdings in the companies, the witness admitted that he knew practically nothing of the city finances and he had such perfect faith in Whitaker Wright that he followed him blindly.

When the London and Globe lost £700,000 in Lakeview speculation, the general knew nothing of it. When £250,000 was given to the British-American corporation, he thought the London and Globe was so wealthy that it could afford such a gift. He did not consider it his duty to exercise control over Whitaker Wright. The witness was principally occupied in signing thousands of share certificates.

Lord Pelham-Clinton, another of the directors, who had just come off duty as groom in waiting to the king, also said he purchased his shares in the London and Globe corporation with his own money. He knew practically nothing of Whitaker Wright's speculation, and only heard of the loss of £750,000 in Lakeviews after the liquidation. Like other members of the board, he believed the shareholders were safe in Whitaker Wright's hands, and he was afraid the members of the board had done very little for their inconsiderable fees.

PROTECT PACIFIC STATES.

Livermash, of California, Heard by Committee on Immigration.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 28.—The senate committee on immigration yesterday continued its hearing on the subject of Chinese exclusion. The time was taken up by representatives of the federal commission of labor and the state of California, who submitted arguments in the nature of a reply to John W. Foster, who spoke several weeks ago before the committee in opposition to the pending measures.

E. J. Livermash of California declared that the Chinese population of the Philippines is in excess of the population of the state, and protection is necessary for the preservation of the welfare of our laboring classes.

The Pacific states were no more responsible than other states for the conditions which brought about the cessation of the Philippines and were entitled to demand protection of congress from any damages of Chinese immigration which would follow that cessation.

Mr. Livermash said he heartily favored the amendment of Senator Quay, which would not exclude Chinese Christians.

OPPOSITION TO MEASURE.

Minority Report on the Philippines Tariff Bill Submitted.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 28.—Senator Carmack yesterday submitted a minority report from the committee on Philippines tariff bill.

He declares the opposition to the measure is not based upon a mere question of revenue or any theory concerning forms and principles of taxation, but because it violates constitutional statutes and overrides the limit of executive power.

The opposition of the minority is to the whole idea of imperial control. The report says that the bill reported by the majority of the committee is a characteristic manifestation of such policy and spirit.

WILLIAM'S GIFT TO ITALY.

German Emperor Intends to Send a Bronze Statue of Goethe to Rome.

(By Associated Press.) Rome, Jan. 28.—Emperor William, notifying the mayor of this city of his intention (as a memorial of cordial re-union in Rome) to send a bronze statue of Goethe, to be erected in a public place here, telegraphed the following message:

"May the image of Goethe, under the blue sky where blooms the orange tree of which he sang, be a lasting pledge of the sincere sympathy uniting Germany and myself to Italy."

BELONGED TO THE CONDOR.

Such Is Believed of Boat Found by the Indians.

(By Associated Press.) Victoria, B. C., Jan. 28.—The steamer Queen City, which arrived at Albeni last night, reports that Indians at Ahousett have found a boat which is believed to be one of the missing Condors.

It is clinker-built and painted white. News of other wreckage is reported by the Queen City, the finding of which will cause grave anxiety for the salmon ship Red Rock, which sailed from Royal Roads on November 29, four days before the gale which sank the Mattewan.

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PANAMA THE BEST

SO SAYS ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT.

PROSPECT OF LIVELY FIGHT

Contest Over Rival Routes May Continue Throughout the Present Session, Resulting in No Action Being Taken.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 28.—Congress has received from President Roosevelt the supplemental report of the isthmian canal commission, changing its recommendation as to the route of the inter-oceanic canal from Nicaragua to Panama. All of the members of the commission signed the report and it was referred to the senate committee on interoceanic canals.

The report will cause a bitter fight between the friends of the two routes in the committee, as well as in the house. The chances are that it will have no weight with the majority of the committee and that there will be a majority report in favor of Nicaragua and a minority report in favor of Panama.

Then there will be a contest at intervals, which is likely to extend through the entire session of congress and may terminate without any action being taken.

There is, however, a strong sentiment in favor of a canal and the administration may be able to force a compromise.

To remove all excuse for delay the administration has negotiations already under way between Minister Sylva and Secretary Herrah of the Colombian legation, and Admiral Walker of the isthmian canal commission for the drafting of a protocol prescribing the terms of American construction of a canal at Panama.

Colombia Wants Big Rental. In these negotiations the Colombian government has already shown a disposition to require the United States to pay an annual rental of \$1,500,000 from the time the concession begins, and this may have an unfavorable effect upon the Panama side of the argument when the question comes up in congress.

One of the main objections to the Nicaragua route is that the cost of maintenance of the Nicaragua canal would be \$3,300,000 a year, against \$2,000,000 for Panama, but the rental proposed by Colombia would more than wipe out the difference and make it \$200,000 in favor of Nicaragua.

It is learned that Colombia is willing to grant to the United States a lease of a strip of territory 10 miles wide, practically in perpetuity, and to give the United States police and judicial jurisdiction within that territory, excepting in the city of Panama. Colombia desires from the United States a guarantee of her sovereignty over the territory of the department of Panama, with the exception of the strip which is to be leased to the United States.

The questions of jurisdiction in the city of Panama and the sum that shall be annually paid to Colombia are the only ones which have given rise to discussion. As Panama is the western terminus of

The Fun He Missed.

(By Associated Press.) Indianapolis, Jan. 28.—A woman forwarded a paper of toy pistol caps through the mail, designed as a present to her son, and as the package went through the cancelling machinery at the postoffice there was an explosion, and a puff of smoke shot upward, while all the clerks imagined an infernal machine had let go and made ready to decamp. The letter accompanying the caps expressed the wish that the boy would have a good time.

Frog Lived in Oil.

Findlay, O., Jan. 25.—When a tank that had contained 250 barrels of crude oil was pumped out yesterday a very lively frog was found lying happily in it. This is the only instance in this locality where any living thing existed for any length of time in crude oil.

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