

LEWIS AND CLARKE COUNTY AND ITS GREAT MINES

Regions About the Capital City Have Always Been Rich Producers—Something of the History of the Leading Claims—Drum Lummon and Bald Butte are the Two Great Gold-Producing Mines of the County and are Still Running—People of Helena Still Dream That Wonderful Quartz Veins May Still Be Found in Some of the Famous Placer Gulches About the City.

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN.
HELENA, Dec. 31.—In the production of the yellow stuff that has ever lured mankind to ruin and deeds of violence and at the same time advanced civilization, Lewis and Clarke county stands second in the list of Montana counties. Last Chance gulch alone has yielded in excess of \$30,000,000 in gold dust and about as many more millions in bullion from quartz.

The two great gold mines of Lewis and Clarke county are the Drum Lummon and the Bald Butte. The Drum Lummon has proven to be one of the greatest gold mines in the United States, and has paid to the English stockholders about \$10,000,000 in dividends. The district

quartz mines and claims. A vein of ore has been found on Rodney street inside the city limits, but it has not yet been properly or intelligently prospected, and it is not improbable that in the years to come Helena's dream will be realized and the pay streak in the quartz will at last be discovered.

Just above town are several claims that have had some work done on them and have yielded considerable quantities of gold. In some of them the quartz is fabulously rich.

EARLY-DAY MINING AND THE DIFFICULTIES

Many years ago the Whitlatch-Union mill was erected at Unionville and for a time this suburb put on metropolitan airs, but for one reason and another the three

to those whom they made their confidants they went away without saying good-bye.

CAPITALIZED COLORADO COMPANY AT \$1,000,000

These men were next heard of in Colorado, where they formed a company capitalized at \$1,000,000, erected a mill and proceeded to show the Colorado metallurgists that they were not up to date.

Instead of ores from the mines, they carted sand into the mill. From this sand, that contained no gold worth mentioning, they produced returns ranging from \$15 to \$100 per ton. They claimed that they would show that most of the gold contained in ores was lost in fire assays and in the smelters. They proposed to produce gold in quantities to as-

dividend rate will be doubled and the mine will pay profits of not less than \$30,000 per month. The net returns now fully equal this amount, but the company is paying off its indebtedness.

The mill is treating about 7,500 tons of ore monthly that runs about \$7 per ton in gold, with barely a trace of silver, and by the cyanide process in use 90 per cent of the value is being saved. This is a splendid showing and means that many other companies will be formed upon adjoining properties, as the Kendall company has not a monopoly on the good ore in this wonderful district.

FLATHEAD COUNTY IS FULL OF GOOD CLAIMS

Kaispell, Dec. 31. — What the mining districts of Flathead county need more than any other one thing is a railroad. The West Fisher and other districts are rich in gold, but unfortunately they are situated in a country of heavy timber where even wagon roads are an expensive luxury. For these and other reasons it has so far been impossible to secure capital to develop properties on a large scale.

However, there are any number of paying properties and should the time come when the roar and puff of the iron horse is heard, then will the miners and mine-owners of Flathead county indeed be in clover.

From a gentleman who has just returned from a visit to the mines of that county it is learned that some extensive development work is now being done on the Poorman group. These claims extend from the north side of Poorman creek across that stream and up the mountain between Poorman and Ramsey creeks and down the north side about half way to the latter stream. They are known as the Orphan Boy, Ajax and the Poorman.

SOMETHING ABOUT WORK DONE ON THE POORMAN

Most of the work has been done on the Poorman and it consists of two tunnels. The vein in one of the tunnels is about six feet in width and is good enough so that by concentrating it can, it is believed, be shipped to a smelter at a profit.

In places the vein is fully nine feet wide with streaks of good ore that will assay \$24 per ton in gold. Ore from the vein on the top of the hill assays as high as \$200 per ton. The ore also contains some values in silver and lead.

As in nearly all of the other districts in this county there is an abundance of good water.

Around Libby and in the West Fisher district the whole country is seamed with quartz veins and many companies have been formed, and some day Flathead county will be more noted for its great producing mines than it is now for its fruits, agricultural possibilities and timber.

FIRST GOLD FOUND IN POWELL COUNTY

Deer Lodge, Dec. 31. — The first gold discoveries made in the state of Montana were made in what is known as Powell county. Pioneer, Black-

bonanzas. The Jefferson, American, Chimney, Buffalo, California, McClellan and Deer Creek gulches are rich in quartz claims and mines.

RICH MINES NEAR THE NEVADA CREEK PLACERS

On the mountains east of the Nevada creek placers many claims have been located on small but rich veins of free gold-bearing rock. These veins undoubtedly furnished the rich deposits of placer gold found along the creek bottoms.

discoverers, and they yet own the major part of the ground.

The little town of Danielsville is situated at the foot of Sugar Loaf mountain, and, while yet but a village, it is in hopes of becoming a second Butte, and already there is talk of building a spur from the Northern Pacific railroad.

WHO BUILT THE FIRST SMELTER IN MONTANA?

Just who built the first smelter for the



EAST PACIFIC MINE, WINSTON, MONTANA.

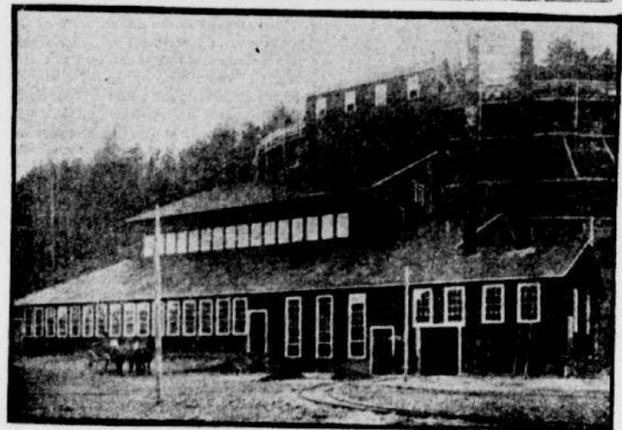
The mines on Gospel mountain are rich in silver, but owing to the price of that metal but little is now being done in that district. Some years ago there was much excitement over the discovery of the Champion, American Ruly, New State, Mountain Lion and others, and they were all developed to a depth of several hundred feet. A 20-stamp mill was erected at Deer Lodge for the purpose of working these ores, but the rumble of the stamps has not been heard for some years, and in all probability will never be again.

There are several producing mines six miles east of Deer Lodge in what is known as the Zosel district and considerable

treatment of refractory ores in Montana is not known. At best the first furnaces were crude affairs and none of them were successful. The first smelter that was a real success to be erected in the state was the Colorado smelter of this city.

The Colorado smelter was built in 1878 and from that date marks the great prosperity that has made Montana the center of mining activity that in many respects is unequalled in any other part of the world.

Following the success of the Colorado smelter in the treatment of refractory ores came many others. The New York Copper company's smelter was built in Meaderville in 1879. This is now known as the



BALD BUTTE MINING COMPANY'S MILL.

able prospecting is at present being carried on there.

At the present time the mining district that is receiving the most attention in Powell county is the Danielsville district, situated on Sugar Loaf mountain near the head of Race Track creek. The discovery was only made last year, since which time there has been considerable excitement, and already there is a 10-stamp mill in successful operation.

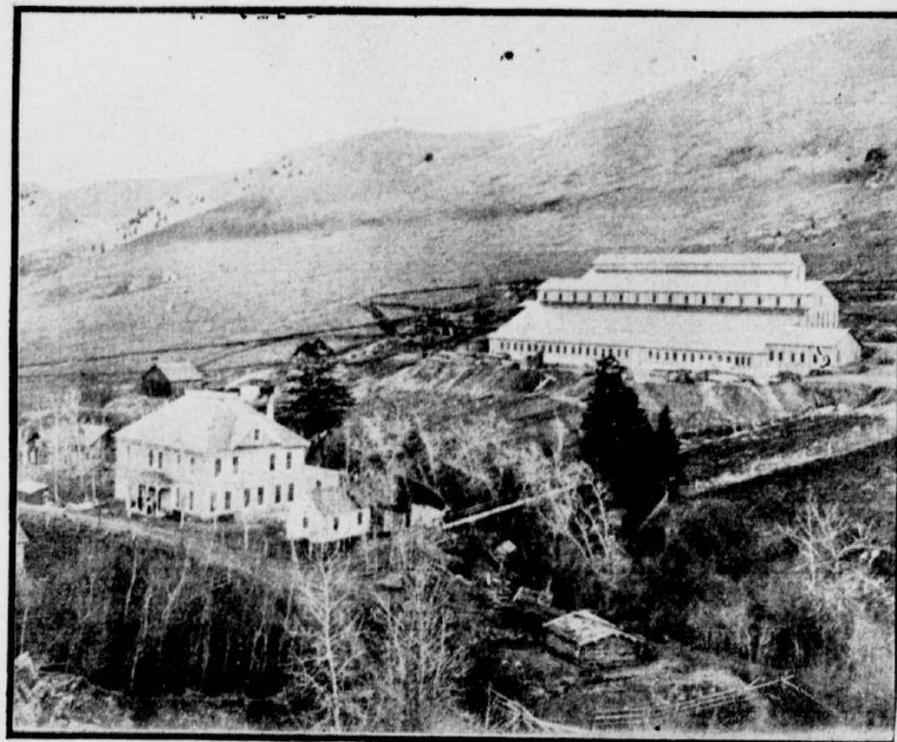
PRINCIPAL CLAIMS IN DANIELSVILLE DISTRICT

The principal claims are the Amazon, Independence and Yellow Jacket, the property of Thomas Daniels, Richard La Course, Frank Jones and F. A. Heinze. The development work on these claims is by tunnel with the exception of a shaft on the Amazon. Recently it is reported that an eight-foot vein of good ore has

Boston & Montana. Next came the Parrot smelter in 1880; the Bell in 1882 and in 1883 the foundation of the largest smelting plant in the world was laid at Anaconda.

Senator Clark's smelter at Meaderville was the next great plant to be erected. It was built for the purpose of treating the valuable ores of the mine known as Clark's Colusa. Both mine and smelter were later on purchased by the Boston & Montana Mining company. This company operated both of these smelters at Meaderville until the completion of the Montana Central railroad and the building of the immense plant on the banks of the Missouri at Black Eagle Falls, below the city of Great Falls. The Meaderville plants were then abandoned.

Butte owes much of its past and present prosperity to the erection and successful operation of the smelters, and more than one good mining



120-STAMP MILL AT PONY, MONT.

in which this mine is situated is one of the very best anywhere and includes such great mines as the Cruse, Bald Butte, Empire, Belmont, Penobscot, Gloster and others of less note.

All of these properties are situated in the Marysville district, which has recently taken a boom.

INTEREST WILL BE REVIVED IN SECTION

The recent organization of the Piegan Milling and Mining company will, it is thought, revive interest in quartz mining in that section. This new company only began operations a few weeks ago, and it is said to have sufficient capital back of it to carry on the work that has been decided to be necessary. The capitalization of the company is based upon what is claimed to be a correct calculation of the net ore in sight in the several mines owned by the company with a reasonable allowance for the reserve ore bodies.

The company owns the Piegan, Ophir, Rabbit, Piegan Fraction and the Larson Fraction lodes and a millsite. The ground is situated about two and one-half miles from Marysville and is developed to a depth of about 800 feet by the workings of the Gloster mine, which has produced about \$5,000,000.

The pay streak in the Piegan is, as far as known, 375 feet in length and in many places is 10 feet in width.

The ore is base, but will cyanide, and it is proposed to erect a cyanide mill in the near future.

BALD BUTTE MINE IS PAYING DIVIDENDS

But little can be said about the Bald Butte mine in the same district, except

mills that had been erected there were compelled to close down, since which time but little if any development work has been done. The main trouble with all early-day mining was the fact that it seemed impossible, with the methods and machinery then in use, to save the values in the ores. Gradually these difficulties are being overcome, but there is yet much to be accomplished. With a slight reduction in the cost of working ores there is almost within a stone's throw of the city of Helena enough gold to supply the demand of the world.

It is not generally known, but it is a fact nevertheless, that a couple of smart rascals came to Helena a few years ago for the purpose of inaugurating one of the greatest mining fakes that was ever attempted in this country.

PROF. S. K. EMMONS AND THEORIES HE ADVANCED

It was about the time that Prof. Stephen K. Emmons, the chief chemist of the war department, excited universal discussion in scientific and commercial circles by the positive declaration that he could transmute silver into gold. Professor Emmons was a man of recognized ability and unquestioned integrity and his announcement caused consternation and scientists all over the world gave heed to his demonstration. The discussion excited alarm in the commercial world and everybody was interested.

He proved that he could and actually did produce gold from Mexican silver dollars and sold it to the United States mint, but the cost of doing it was an effectual bar to commercial success.

Following Emmons' demonstration and about the time it was still fresh in the

tonish the world and literally upset the universe when they got fairly started. They spread it abroad that they did not want a dollar of anybody's money; that they could make more money than they could use, more than the world could use. It was their boast that when they came



EASTON MILL, AT VIRGINIA CITY.

to treat the ores from the mines everybody would be struck dumb with surprise at the volume, ease and cheapness of their process. Ore, worth by the other methods in use \$3 per ton, would turn out by their plan not less than \$10 per ton.

CAREERS OF THE FAKIRS WERE SHORT AND SWEET

Many men who should have known better believed the statements of these men and lost some good money gathered by the old process, but the careers of these fakirs was short. It was in some way found out that the metallurgist who did the work used flour gold in his chemicals. It was not to be seen by the naked eye, but discovered by analysis.

The idea of the promoters of the scheme was to get everybody excited and then unload, but the expose came too soon to suit their plans.

FERGUS COUNTY MINES ARE WORTH DEVELOPING

Lewistown, Dec. 31.—While Fergus county has been known as a pastoral section it has within its borders vast quantities of gold ores. For many years it has been known that the peaks and ridges and foothills of the Judith and Moccasin mountains were literally covered with float and seamed with veins of gold ore, but it is only of recent date that capital has been induced to come forward and do that which it was impossible for the individual prospector to do.

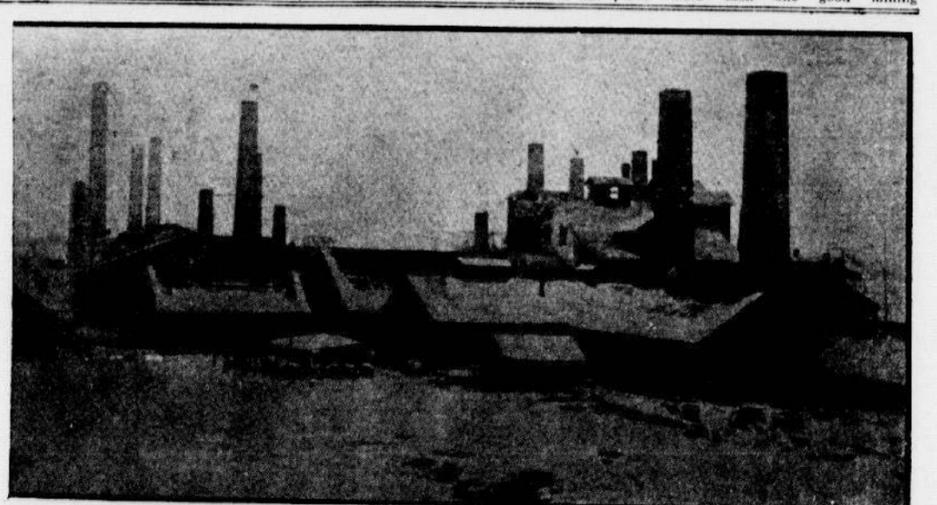
In years past the Spotted Horse and the Maginnis mines of Maiden were the only properties in that whole country that attracted any attention. In recent months it has been discovered that the whole range of mountains, which includes many miles of territory, is covered with immense bodies of quartz that only lack intelligent modern treatment to produce almost untold wealth.

Within the past two years the town of Kendall has sprung up and the mines situated at that place are estimated to have in sight more than a million dollars' worth of gold ore.

Within the present month the first dividend of these mines has been declared and it is expected that after three months the

foot City, Washington gulch, Elk creek and Lincoln gulch still produce placer gold in comparatively small quantities, but it is safe to say that the sluice box will not be unknown or forgotten 100 years from today.

Of late years quartz mining has been given considerable attention, but it is yet in its infancy and new districts are being discovered every year. There is much to encourage the belief that in many of the



SMELTERS AT GLENDALE, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY.

mines and prospects that are now idle there will be found ore in sufficient quantity and value to pay handsomely. Many thousands of acres of land are still held as placer ground and on almost every mountainside there are quartz locations. In Washington gulch there are a number of good gold quartz claims that only lack cheaper transportation to make them

been encountered in the shaft on the Amazon and that the permanence of this property is now assured.

There are more than 30 locations on this mountain and the surrounding hills are being prospected and locations made wherever possible.

The Daniels brothers were the original

district has been given a bad reputation because the owners of the best properties have decided to build stamp-mills instead of a smelter. To the construction of the Butte smelters can the people of Montana be thankful for the prosperity now enjoyed and the wonderful progress of the mining industry.



SLUICE BOX IN FRENCH GULCH.

that it is still paying dividends and from present indications will continue to do so for many years to come.

It has always been the dream of the people of Helena that some day great and wonderfully rich quartz veins would be found above the gulches in which the placers were found. Dry gulch and its tributaries are fringed with hundreds of

minds of the people two men came to Helena for the avowed purpose of showing the miners and mill men of Montana that they could extract more gold from the low-grade ores of Last Chance than they contained according to the assay value.

They remained in Helena for some weeks, but for some reason unknown even