

# Bismarck Tribune.

VOL. 3.

BISMARCK, D. T., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1875.

NO. 6

## The Bismarck Tribune.

An Independent Newspaper published by

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE CO.

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## TELEGRAMS

Reported specially for the Bismarck Tribune.

The Black Hills Geologist

Finds Gold

AND CONCEDES THAT IT EXISTS IN PAYING QUANTITIES.

With Water Suitable for Mining Purposes.

Quartz Beds of Enormous Dimensions.

Jenny puts his name to 4 and 8 cents per pan.

While He Has Found One Dollar Nuggets.

MINERS LOWEST ESTIMATE ABOVE JENNY'S, AND THEIR HIGHEST WITHOUT LIMIT.

But the Wealth of the Hills is in their Grass and Timber.

MINERS POURING INTO THE HILLS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

Gen. Crooks After the Miners, and they Decide to Submit.

The Bismarck Party Heard From --Something Reliable From Our Own Citizens.

The following from Prof Jenny was received at the Interior Department on the 27th ult.

CAMP ON SPRING CREEK, BLACK HILLS, DAKOTA, JULY 17.

The Hon. E. P. Smith, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I have discovered gold in paying quantities in gravel bars, both on Spring and Rapid Creeks, from twenty to thirty miles northwest of Harney's Peak. The deposits are the richest yet found in the hills, and are favorably situated. There is a good head of water in the streams, amply for working purposes. The gold is derived from quartz ledges of enormous dimensions in a belt of clay, slate, and quartz. It is twenty miles in width, crossing the hills in a northwesterly direction. At this point the clay from the bed of the stream near camp yields from 4 to 8 cents to the pan, and several nuggets about the value of \$1 have been found by the soldiers. I am engaged in prospecting the value and extent of the region. About 300 miners have deserted French Creek, and followed me here. They are pouring into the hills from all directions, and offer me every assistance in prospecting the country. But no matter how good the mines may be, the future great wealth of the Black Hills will be its grass lands, farms and timber. The soil is deep and fertile, and the rainfall greater and more regular than that of any region west of the Alleghany Mountains.

The Inter-Ocean Black Hills special says the gold discoveries reported by Prof Jenny and miners are daily confirmed by recent prospecting. Prof Jenny will average three to four cents per pan. This is considered a cautious figure, and the minimum is without limit. An immense ferruginous ledge has also been discovered, seven to eight miles in extent, lying to the north. It seems to be of great value.

The special correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, with Jenny's expedition who has heretofore generally reported unfavorably on the Black Hills mines, writes, under date of July 16th, two days later than the above, as follows:

The mining in Custer Gulch, on French Creek, continues uninterrupted. A large number of claims are temporarily deserted by miners who have gone on prospective tours, as near as it can be ascertained, the party numbers ninety or 100, and all well armed and equipped, have plenty of provisions and will doubtless accomplish some thing. The claim put in by the soldiers near the corral has not paid well. In fact, has "pestered out." A ditch 1,300 feet long opening into a sluice 55 feet long, carrying 24 inches of water, and worked by three men, cleared up on July 14, \$59 of fine nuggets and good coarse gold.

This mine is run by J. W. Humphries, of "Kings" San. Ia., and W. Harrison, formerly of Troy, N. Y. In addition to these there are new mines on Spring and Rapid Creeks, which even Mr. Jenny admits to be paying mines. A sluice is now in operation, but the exact results cannot yet be ascertained. From 10 to 25 cents to the pan is usual amount washed out of one pan of dirt taken from the mines. Mr. A. G. Garrison, formerly of Montana, informs me that he and a party of eight prospectors and found gold 4 miles above the forks of Rapid Creek. The first panful of dirt yielded 10 cents, the second yielded 40 cents. At this point they only had to go down 8 feet to the bed rock, and they were able to get out a good deal more.

This rich find was immediately made known to the friends of the party, and thirty claims were at once taken; but, strange to say, the place where the two first panfuls were taken out was not taken as a claim, because upon further prospecting it was discovered that the bars on either side of the creek yielded better than where it was first discovered. Another party, in coming into the hills on the east side, stopped in a dry gulch in the red sandstone formation for dinner. Noting that the gulch had once been the bed of a very large stream bearing from the mountains, and seeing that the rim rock dropped out on the edge of the gulch, they determined to prospect a little, so, filling a pan with dirt taken from the projecting rock to a pool of water, and carefully washing it, they were rewarded by finding 30 cents worth of gold. This gold is not far from a running stream, and the happy prospectors are now surveying the prospect of an artificial water course. William Trainer, formerly of Chester County, Pa., has a claim that pays on the average 10 cents to the pan. These instances are cited because they are facts that have been observed by all the officers of the geological escort. There is but little doubt that most of the claims on French Creek will pay quite as well if the same skillful engineering is expended on them.

The following is from the same correspondent, dated Black Hills, July 21:

There now seems to be no question about the existence of gold in paying quantities in the Black Hills, for Mr. Jenny uncompromisingly says that the country is gold-bearing, and that the gulches on Rapid, Spring, Castle, and Box Elder Creeks will pay to mine. The country is not yet proven to be as rich as California, but compares favorably with Colorado and Montana. Mr. Jenny also says that there are at least 1,000 square miles of rich gold deposits in these hills, and that they extend into the red sandstone formation on the east, having been washed there by a receding ocean.

The gold panned out of the different gulches is in variable quantities, and, even if taken out of the same hole, is never constant, for the first panful may produce several ounces, varying in size from the smallest possible particle to pieces the size of a large pin-head. This panful may be worth 10 cents; the next may have only two or three colors, of good size, that may be worth from 25 cents to \$1, or more; the next may not be worth more than 3 cents; and so on, making it difficult to place an estimate upon the amount taken out of a panful of dirt, unless approximated by guesswork. The largest nugget taken out on the bank of Spring Creek is worth \$1.30.

Mr. Jenny's party, aided by the soldiers of Companies C and H, of the Ninth Infantry, have dug a ditch 300 feet in length, carrying 300 miners' loads of water, that is put through a sluice 65 feet long and which is capable of catching all the dirt that twenty or thirty men can shovel into it. Every foot of ground is

STAKED OUT FOR CLAIMS by the miners, and considerable quantities of gold are being taken out.

It was found necessary to place a guard around the spot selected for the sluice, so great was the pressure of miners; and it was feared that blood would be shed in the strife for claims. The miners do little or no work upon their claims, the mere possession of them producing a calm sense of enjoyment that is pleasing to witness. Each man considers himself next to rich, and bides his time to take out the precious metal, contenting himself for the present with perching himself like a prairie dog on the highest point of the claim, and surveying somewhat offensively his rich possessions.

A rich lead of quartz, that Mr. Jenny says is gold-bearing, is near this gulch. It is 300 or 400 feet in thickness, with several strata of quartz and slate running through it longitudinally, and has been traced by himself for a distance of 5 miles. The gold in this quartz is free, and perceptible with the naked eye.

And the following from the same, dated July 25th:

Spring Creek has now upon its banks at least 400 miners, while Rapid and Box Elder, which is the north fork of Rapid, may have claims as many more. The Burnt Wood District, comprising the south fork of the Rapid, and its small tributaries, contains about 100 people; and at least 400 have gone north to Bear Lodge and the small streams emptying into the Belle Fourche. Then there are small parties straggling into the hills from every direction; in illustration of which fact I will mention that Capt. Samuel Munson, of the Ninth Infantry, in coming from Spring Creek to Camp Kearney, to-day, met 48 miners' wagons on the road to the new gold fields; all of this number within a distance of 25 miles, and only one of the avenues to the so-called rich diggings.

Capt. Munson also states that, while on the road to this camp, he stopped at a miner's prospect hole, and, after exchanging the compliments of the day, proceeded to fill a pan with dirt taken out of the bottom of the pit, and carefully washed it out, and was not only surprised, but delighted, to find what he estimated to be \$1.50 of coarse gold. Your correspondent will here state that his personal knowledge of this gentleman warrants him in commending this statement with the utmost confidence in its truthfulness.

A ledge of gold-and-silver-bearing quartz has been found on the Box Elder Creek, specimens of which have been brought to this camp. Many reports of gold leads having been found, bearing large quantities of rich metals, continue to come in, but not from reliable sources, and are, therefore, unworthy of mention. The miners are doing little or nothing on their claims but to squat down and watch them; and, as such conduct has excited both the curiosity and comment of outside observers, your correspondent has spared no pains to learn the reason of so much inactivity. This has not been an easy nor an entirely satisfactory task, but so much has been learned; that the miners are organizing into bands or societies, the members of which are required to make oath that they will not reveal any discoveries to others than those of the brotherhood, and as they are liable to be driven away from the gold fields any day, they bind themselves not to develop their claims any more than enough for personal knowledge of their wealth, and for the purchase of the necessary of life, until the country is opened by the Government. They reason that the publicity of their mining discoveries would endanger their possession of rich claims, if they should prove unable to remain near them; and that it has become necessary to organize societies with a Masonic outline, for mutual protection. These are facts that need no further explanation, and they are only mentioned because they are facts. There are no substantial reasons for believing that all the miners will thus organize; and while many are coming in, some are going back disappointed.

The gulches on Spring, Rapid, and Box Elder Creeks promise well, and Mr. Jenny is confident that they will pay to work; for there is no reason why it will not pay to mine when you can wash from 5 to 10 cents out of one pan of dirt. It is said by many that the average to the pan is greater than this, but experience will not warrant the statement of this occasion. Let the quantity be what it may, however, discoveries are needed to lead the hills with miners and actual settlers. The salubrity of the climate, the abundance of timber and grass, all offer advantages superior to the treeless plains, and it only requires the magic support of the Government to transform these silent parks into beautiful farms and breezy villages. The weather is deliciously cool, and berries are ripening fast.

THE BISMARCK PARTY. Special Correspondence Bismarck Tribune. RAPID CREEK, Black Hills, July 29.—Bismarck party arrived all right, and all are well. Were 16 days enroute.

ATTACKED BY INDIANS. No incidents of note occurred until we reached Bear Butte Creek, when we were attacked in the night by Indians, and the saddle horses belonging to John Ross, Duffey and Mackey broke their sticket ropes and fell into the hands of the Indians. No one was hurt. We saw no signs of Indians on our trip aside from this.

MINERS. There are seven or eight hundred miners here, and while a few are leaving, many more are coming every day.

SOLDIERS. There are six companies of cavalry and two of infantry here. Gen. Crook has issued orders for

MINERS TO COLLECT. Miners are to assemble at some point and hold a meeting in regard to their claims, and then leave the country until the hills are open, which he says will be before long.

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. Ross and I killed a grizzly bear on our way here. We had plenty of fresh meat all the way.

THIS IS INDEED A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. This is indeed a beautiful country; no one can imagine its beauties or advantages. We had the best of roads all the way from Bismarck.

WE WILL SOON BE OBLIGED TO HIDE FROM THE TROOPS, as they will remove all who are here after the 15th; but miners are not obliged to hang around the camps. There is plenty of country outside of the camps and they won't get us.

A. J. FISHER.

CARAHOO'S LETTER. Special Correspondence Bismarck Tribune. RAPID CREEK, Black Hills, July 30th.

Arrived here yesterday, sixteen days from Bismarck. Had a good trip, but the stock being packed heavy, was pretty well played. On the 26th, while camped on the Bear Butte, we were attacked by Indians, and lost three head of stock; no one hurt.

Find miners on all the streams that we have crossed so far. French Gulch is said to be the richest prospect.

Fifteen miles have already been claimed. A large party is working twelve miles up the creek. The ground where we are now encamped is all claimed, as is all of

CUSTER'S GULCH. Nuggets have been taken out of Custer's Gulch weighing \$18. From

THIRTY TO FIFTY DOLLARS PER DAY have also been taken out of that Gulch. Prof. Jenny found

ONE NUGGET WEIGHING \$36. Jenny's camp is one-half mile from here; four companies of troops are with him.

GEN. CROOK arrived two days ago, and has issued orders for all miners to be ready to leave the Hills by the 15th of August. All miners who have claims are to meet at the stockade in Custer's Gulch on the 10th to make laws for the regulation of claim taking. Gen. Crook will make arrangements so they can hold their claims until the hills are open without being here.

THE INDIANS will not treat until all whites are removed from the Hills.

We have twelve days in which to prospect and secure claims. After the 15th we

WILL RETURN to Bismarck via Cheyenne Agency, arriving home about the 1st of September. A large number of miners from the east will return with us to Bismarck.

From five to seven hundred miners are in the Hills. This is a low estimate, some claiming from two to three thousand; but many are leaving, nothing big enough for them having been discovered.

PROSPECTING. Ross, Mike Smith and myself leave to-morrow for Custer's Gulch and other parts of the Hills, on a ten days' prospecting tour. The remainder of the party will remain here and let the stock recruit for the return trip.

S. H. CARAHOO.

Last week the TRIBUNE indicated that the military opposed the visit of Rev. J. W. Matchett to Sitting Bull's camp. We should have said the authorities at Fort Peck. The military have shown a disposition so far to aid him by every possible means. The authorities did not particularly object, but did not have the means at their command necessary to make the trip; besides the agent was absent.

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