

The New Northwest.

GOLD CREEK MINES

"ROLAND" VISITS THE CAMP AND INTELLIGENTLY REVIEWS IT.

The Source of the Gold Supply of Pioneer and Gold Creek—Sullivan & Burrier's Phenomenal Showing—Co-Operative Mining at the Tiger.

"Gaily bestridge, a gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Journey'd along singing a song
In search of Eldorado."

Edgar Allan Poe.

The pilgrimage of your correspondent to the headwaters of Gold and Rock creeks was a revelation to him. There, indeed, is a gold mining country that perchance has not its equal in the United States, so far as lode mining for gold is concerned. How strange that the gold product of the gravel claims about Pioneer and lower Gold creek, which has been a continuous one for nearly a generation and is still going on, did not attract the attention of mining men of means to the rough, rugged country at the head of the streams named, and how plain it must appear to any one who will roam through that region for a few days that the millions of dollars in gold produced by the placers below have been for countless ages slowly but surely finding their way into Deer Lodge valley, the natural outlet for this vast mining patch—for compared with the mining area of the United States, it is a mere "patch," but such a one as in a decade or two is likely to attain national renown on account of its gold product.

The hardy and fearless prospector, that ever alert "advance guard" of the mining industry, has done his duty well here; he has "located" the enemy and cleared the field for action to the more compact and better organized bodies of our progressive civilization. Sullivan and Burrier's El Dorado claim was the first one encountered after crossing the water-shed. These gentlemanly prospecting miners have opened up a powerful gold-bearing lode on their central (the El Dorado) claim, by means of a sixty-foot shaft and a 270-foot well timbered, large tunnel of very creditable workmanship in every particular, besides a crosscut of thirty feet which is co-extensive with the width of the lode at that point. The lay of the El Dorado and its five contingent claims would almost convince the intelligent Montanist that the surface of this compact body of mining ground is more than likely the covering of vast bodies of quartz, of whose mineral bearing quality there is now no doubt, for there are hundreds of tons of it upon the dump from which samples can be selected that will assay all the way from \$10 to \$500 in gold and one or two ounces in silver. The quartz of the El Dorado, while to all intents and purposes free-milling, yet carries a small percentage of sulphurets that are eminently adapted for concentration; and in the light of recent experience had by the Royal Gold mine, whose 300 tons of concentrates assay \$90 gold and \$10 silver, may prove of even much greater value than the free-milling portion of the lode; for concentration and smelting, wherever the character of the ore permits of it, will "take the cake" in the future reduction of ores—at least that seems to be the logic of the experience of the last fifteen years. The El Dorado is nine miles from Pioneer, on the main fork of Gold creek, hence readily accessible from that point. A practicable mountain road now runs to within 1½ miles of it, terminating at the Smith-Forsell Co.'s Tiger mine and mill, but can readily be extended to Sullivan and Burrier's claims—is indeed cut out far for winter use. The economic conditions for wood and water, for power and all other purposes, surrounding these claims—and this observation will equally apply to the whole of upper Gold creek district—are as favorable as any "mining industry on a large scale" could desire.

Much that has been said above concerning the El Dorado will apply to the Smith and Forsell Co.'s Tiger lode and its consort, 7½ or 8 miles from Pioneer and just below Sullivan and Burrier's claims, with this distinction: that while the El Dorado admits of development by tunnelling to some extent, the Tiger and its mate forming a compact body of mining ground 1200 feet wide by 1500 feet long, reaching from the level of main Gold creek to the very apex of Mount Rose (owing to an event of local interest sometimes called Battle Mountain), a height of 1500 feet or so, these conditions almost compel its further exploitation by adits and crosscuts from these. The Tiger and mate ground carries two large lodes of from 4½ to 5 feet wide, besides a dozen or more of a width of from 6 to 13 inches near the surface, some of which are, however, just as likely to spread in the interior of the mountain as not. The two large lodes have been entered for a distance of 200 feet in the aggregate, and besides yielding fair average assays of \$25 or so per ton in

gold, furnish fine specimens for the cabinet, or to awaken the cupidity of the pilgrim investor. But that is not the program of the owners; having faith in the value of their property they have started out to mine it in an intelligent and legitimate way for a steady output—have with their small means, but any amount of pluck and perseverance (there are some six or eight of them, all workers) erected a stamp mill of four ton capacity per day, built a tramway of some 800 feet to the run-of's mouth in the perpendicular cliffs above, to ride up or down on which would make the hair stand on end on the heads of all but very nifty men, and will add a Frue concentrator to their little mill. All in all, the undertaking of Smith, Forsell and associates is a very handsome illustration of intelligent co-operative mining. May success attend their efforts; it is richly deserved. Among the first duties of the Tiger mill, when quite in running order, will be to crush a hundred or more tons of choice ore from the El Dorado claim.

Your roaming or roving correspondent made interesting new acquaintances and renewed cherished old ones on his tour. Among the former were McSherry, Robbins, Hughes, Holman, Forsell, Tibbets, Sullivan, Burrier and others; among the latter, J. King, James Carten and Peter Fowler.

The above is the summary of less than one-half of my pleasant experiences in Gold Creek district; the other half may appear in your next issue, provided the supply of printer's ink holds out.

Princeton, Mont., Sept. 16. ROLAND.

A SPLENDID MARKET.

That is What Montana Cattlemen Are Fully Realizing Just Now.

That sterling exponent of ranch and range industries, the White Sulphur Springs Husbandman, thus comments on the improved condition of the cattle market:

The cattle growers of Montana are at last realizing good prices for their beef and consequently are feeling quite happy. The market has been advancing steadily since the Montana product began to go forward and shippers are today receiving good prices. We two months ago promised our readers \$4 and \$4.50 for their prime steers and we are glad to say that our figures have already been realized. And while temporary gluts in the market may have the effect to reduce prices a little, the general tendency of the market is upward and \$5 will no doubt be paid for choice Montana export steers before the first of November. The price of beef is better today than it has been for ten years, although not quite as good as it was ten years ago, if our memory serves us right. But when we take into consideration the condition of the country now as compared with ten years ago, prices of beef are much better in proportion now than then. We are more than pleased with the outcome of the beef market and feel that it will be the making of Montana, or rather the saving of the state in these days of depressed industries. A big revenue from beef cattle, as is now fully assured, will help our banking institutions materially and scatter large sums of money among the people, and we can safely calculate that the reaction which has set in for the better will continue right along until the country reaches its normal condition once more. It is very true that we cannot expect the old time activity with silver at present prices, but there is a hope for silver as well as other things, and we feel that the ripple of business which good prices for beef will create will gradually be augmented as time progresses and all will be well again with our state in the near future.

A Successful Cure for Diphtheria.

The diphtheria cure of Dr. Behring, of Berlin, a disciple of Professor Koch, has been exploited at the Bush Pesth medical congress and endorsed by many of the delegates present. The cure is called a blood serum. By successive and increased doses the diphtheria cure is injected into animals and they have gradually acquired immunity against the malady. Up to last year, sixty per cent. of the cases of diphtheria ended fatally. This year Prof. Roux had inoculated over 100 children with the serum and the mortality fell from 60 to 15 per cent.

Colorado Populist Ticket.

The Colorado Populist state ticket complete is as follows: D. H. Waite, governor; Cassimero Barella, state treasurer; Miss Alice Catlin, state superintendent of public instruction; Nelson O. McClees, secretary of state, (renominated); H. G. Sales, attorney general; J. Warner Mills, supreme judge.

Must Keep Out of Politics.

The Union Pacific has issued a notice to all employees in future to abstain from any participation in politics, the discussion of any subjects tending in that direction being prohibited.

A Big Shipping Month.

It is estimated that the cattle shipments from eastern Montana will aggregate 140,000 head during September.

AGAIN A PRODUCER

THE ROYAL MILL TURNING OUT ITS QUOTA OF THE YELLOW STUFF.

Regular Monthly Dividends to be Resumed the First of October—The Shipment of Accumulated Concentrates—Progress of Development, Etc.

Willard Bennett, manager of the Royal, came in from the mine this week. He reports progress and a continued showing of good results at the little bonanza, and promises a resumption of regular dividends beginning the first week of next month. The accumulated concentrates now being shipped to the Helena smelter net about \$90 per ton and the mill is running to its full capacity on about the grade of ore that yielded such gratifying results during the past year. For the year ended August 18, less two months' shut-down of the mill occasioned by a heavy flow of water in the stopes, the Royal has a record of production of \$115,000 at a total expenditure of \$75,000, leaving \$40,000 net. During this period the property has been pretty thoroughly exploited through four tunnels, and ore reserves have been opened up that guarantee for the Royal a long and prosperous career.

So far, the principal production of the mine has been through tunnel No. 3, on the main lode, which developed a pay chute 900 feet in length and from which ore was extracted from eighteen stopes. At a distance of 1300 feet from the mouth of this tunnel the ore terminated, and during the shut-down of the mill operations in part were directed to following a tale seam from this point in the hope of opening up another chute. After seventy-five feet of work through barren ground, and at a vertical depth of about 600 feet, the vein again opened into a strong body of ore that gives assay returns of \$63.30 free gold per ton. This, Mr. Bennett regards, the most important strike yet made in the mine.

Tunnels No. 1 and 2 are on a lead running parallel with the main vein. They have developed strong bodies of ore, but of low grade. Work is now being vigorously prosecuted in them as well as in Nos. 3 and 4, and the ore from all is milled indiscriminately as it comes from the mine. The property now has a total tonnage of 2,385 tons and a showing of ore therein seldom equaled for the amount of development. The Royal certainly ranks foremost among the free-milling propositions so far developed in Montana. Mr. Bennett lays no claim to being a practical mining man, but the results surely warrant the pardonable pride he feels in his management of the property.

A commodious and comfortable bunk house of sufficient capacity to accommodate fifty men, an assay office and a supply depot are now being added to the surface equipment of the property and everything is being put in shape for its permanent and uninterrupted operation. Its further outside improvements consist of a complete ten-stamp mill with vanners, a boarding house, three bunk houses, three blacksmith shops and eleven dwellings. About fifty-five men are regularly employed.

THE OLD INDEPENDENCE.

E. H. Irvine & Co. to Begin an Extensive Test Shipment This Week.

E. H. Irvine & Co., of Butte, who have been opening up the Independence in Oro Fino district the past several months, have built a good wagon road from the mine to Race Track siding and will this week begin the shipment of 100 tons of ore to a Butte smelter. Unlike the majority of claims at Oro Fino, the Independence is a gold producer and the lead upon which it is located is believed to be the source of supply for the placer diggings in the gulch below. This shipment is made for a test run. If the result justifies, shipments will be continued indefinitely at the rate of about 100 tons a month. It is the opinion of those familiar with the property that Irvine & Co. have a good thing in the mine. The assay returns are altogether favorable, and if no expensive smelting process is required, the Independence, the first location in the district and the last one to be worked, will have developed a permanent, paying property.

Not a Poor Man's Country.

Mexico has passed a new mining law allowing the executive to grant mining privileges if he sees fit. When the gold in the ore peters out the privilege is withdrawn, but the grantee gets exclusive privilege to prospect in the district allotted to him. This lasts only six months, however, and cannot be renewed

for two years. Mining utensils pay no import duty and taxes are remitted for ten years. But half a million must be expended by the prospector in three years, with another such sum two years thereafter. A \$10,000 bond has to be deposited as security, subject to release on the expenditure of \$200,000 in mining development. A mill capable of handling 400 tons weekly must be built within two years. This is evidently not a poor man's country.

THE FREED GROUP SOLD.

A Madison County Transaction Involving Payment of Nearly Half a Million.

An English syndicate has effected the purchase from M. M. Freed of Dillon his well known group of gold properties situated on the Big Hole river in Madison county and about twelve miles from McJesse. The price agreed upon is \$425,000. The first payment of \$20,000 is due in thirty days. One of the points in the agreement is that a 10-stamp mill be immediately erected upon the property and that \$100,000 be expended in development work which shall include the erection of mills and their equipment with machinery, electric light plant and all other necessary buildings.

The deal has been developing for nearly a year and most of the negotiations were carried on by cable, one of the minor items in the matter being a bill of \$1,500 for engravings alone. Messrs. Birchin and Yound, who looked after the English end of the bargain, represent one of the richest mining syndicates in England. The title of the new company is the Madison County Gold Mining Company, Limited.

How They Bounce Lo.

Primitive methods of gold mining are reported from Simlon, Mexico, where the natives work only in dry weather, sinking rude shafts from eight to sixteen feet to bedrock, and panning the gold in the eroded method, though making from \$2 to \$5 per day. The merchants there who buy the gold, which is mostly coarse gold, are reported to place the precious metal in one side of a pair of scales, while the other side is filled with grains of corn until balanced. A calculation is then made which is very much against the poor Indian—one grain of corn equals one grain of gold. In this way the merchant gets the gold at less than \$7 per ounce, and payment is made therefor in Mexican silver, which is there quoted at thirty cents per ounce.

Have God for a Partner.

The mine on the summit of the Huachuca, Arizona, being worked for the glory of the Lord and the advancement of His cause, by a detachment of the Salvation army, is turning out large quantities of good ore. This is probably the most unique mining camp and outfit in the world. The profits of the mine, after the payment of expenses, go to the treasury of the Salvation army to aid in the great work of that organization. There are sixteen men at work at the mine, all members of the army, and religious discipline is maintained.

General Mining Notes.

The mints of this country coined nearly \$100,000,000 in gold the last fiscal year.

The Mount Bischoff gold mine, in Tasmania, has paid over \$6,000,000 in dividends.

Thirty mines in the United States are now using electric locomotives for hauling cars.

The Trades Union congress at London has voted in favor of a compulsory eight-hour day for miners.

The Book of Job, written about 1520 B. C., describes very accurately several processes of smelting metals.

The San Francisco mint coined \$300,000 standard silver dollars in August, and will increase that aggregate in work this month.

The "Mollagel" gold nugget, found at Mount Mollagel, Australia, in 1869, weighed 190 pounds and assayed \$45,000 in pure gold.

Within four years the gold product of South Africa has been quadrupled, having increased from 331,738 ounces in 1890 to 1,478,479 ounces in 1893.

At Dunganem, in the west of Ireland, a seam of bituminous coal nearly six feet thick was struck last week at a depth of 188 yards from the surface. This promises to be the biggest coal mine in Ireland.

Another immense nugget of gold has been found at Coolgardie, Australia. It eclipses the famous Londonderry find. The nugget, which has been called the Dunn nugget, after its finder, weighs 1800 ounces and is worth over \$30,000.

Cripple Creek miners are complaining of the high rates charged by the railroads for hauling ore to Denver and Pueblo. The railroad companies are earnestly advised that they are hindering the progress of the camp and consequently their prosperity. The sensible remedy would be for the miners to co-operate in building a local smelter.

IT IS ALL SETTLED

CONTRACT FOR THE ROYAL ROAD SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED.

Surveyors Are Now in the Field and Dirt Will be Flying Within Ten Days—A Force of One Hundred Men to be Employed—Great Thing for Deer Lodge.

A contract calling for the construction of a wagon road from this city to the county line, within one mile of the Royal mine, was formally awarded Dr. A. H. Mitchell by the county commissioners last Friday afternoon, a verbal contract having been entered into prior to the last issue of The New Northwest. The contract calls for the construction of a road on the most feasible route between Deer Lodge and the Royal mill, the road to be ten feet in width and not to exceed in grade ten per cent, except where such grade is wholly impracticable. For the completed road the county agrees to pay \$5,000.

Surveyors have been in the field during the past week looking out the route in detail. Not to exceed a ten per cent grade will be encountered between town and the foot of Rock Creek lake, from which point the really difficult portion of the work begins. The survey will be completed within a few days, points for excavation and filling will be determined, the route will be flagged from end to end, and by this time next week, if no unforeseen difficulty stands in the way, men will be engaged in the actual work of construction. Dr. Mitchell will employ a force of not less than 100 men and a complement of teams, and will push the work to completion within sixty days.

The guaranteed construction of this road is the best stroke of business ever achieved for Deer Lodge, and those of our citizens who have any appreciation of the situation, who are interested in securing to the town elements that will contribute to its commercial importance, are greatly elated. The Royal and Gold Creek districts to a degree have passed the stage of experiment; numerous properties have been developed to the point of demonstrated value, quartz mills are running and others are going in, prospects are changing hands at figures altogether remunerative to the discoverers, and all the elements are present for the upbuilding of at least two rich, permanent and prosperous mining camps. They are in the very heart of the gold belt, and to their north and south and west lies a country of vast extent and equally vast possibilities. From this trunk line will radiate roads in all directions, to meet the requirements and constructed at the expense of private enterprises. A great mineral territory is about to be opened up, for which Deer Lodge will be the distributing point and the source of supply. The science of no astrologer is required to foretell the result.

TO TOUCH THIS COUNTY.

The Summit Mineral Railway From Rimini to the Ontario Mine.

The Summit Mineral Railroad company was incorporated last week by Arthur G. Lombard, Cornelius Hedges, Wm. Dyer, John D. Wilson and Ogden A. Southmayd, who have associated themselves together to build and operate a railroad from Rimini to the Ontario mine in Deer Lodge county. The proposed general route of the new line as designated in the articles of incorporation is as follows: Beginning at the town of Rimini, running thence southerly to a point at or near the Frohner concentrator; thence southerly to a point at or near the Lady Hicker mine; thence westerly to the Josephine mine; thence northwesterly to a point at or near the Ontario mine concentrator in Deer Lodge county. The capital stock is placed at \$300,000, and the chief office of the company will be at Helena.

Charles Watson's Big Nugget.

Charles Watson, the Argentine placer mining man, brought down with him last week the largest gold nugget ever found in the county. It weighs forty ounces and is valued at between \$900 and \$700, about 90 per cent. of its weight being pure gold. The piece was found two weeks ago in the race on his placer ground, while sluicing. Mr. Watson has taken the nugget to Butte to sell it to a curio hunter who for a long time has importuned him to sell him a fine specimen of gold.—Dillon Examiner.

A \$20,000 Clean-Up in Sight.

A nice clean-up it is surely that which the Royal Gold & Silver Mining company are now engaged in shipping to the East Helena smelter, says the Phillipsburg Mail. It consists of two hundred tons of concentrates assaying \$90 gold and \$10 silver per ton. This is the saving the Frue vanners at the Royal mill made in nine months' run.