

PHILIPSBURG AND ITS IMMENSE MINERAL RESOURCES.

A Brief Review of the Mines and Mills of the Great Section.

BY SLIDE-VALVE.

The Flint Creek mining district is comprised within a parallelogram five miles square. The town of Philipsburg, its local supply depot, is situated upon the western boundary and in close proximity to the principal mines. It is one of the oldest, best known and least productive mining districts of the territory. Its mineral resources are varied and extensive. Gold, silver and copper may be considered the dominant metals. The ores are both base and free milling; thus the ores of one section of the district carrying largely in their composition antimony, zinc, arsenic and lead require treatment by fire-chlorinization. The proportion of base metals being not so great in ore of other portions of the district such as crushed wet and chemical treated in amalgamation. The percentage of saving is in favor of the first method of working, although it is certainly the most costly. For reduction by the chlorinization process both the Howell & White and Bruckner cylinders are now and have been in use here; the former, from its uniform average of saving, perfect and economical working, with simplicity of mechanical detail, being considered by experienced mill men the most suitable and satisfactory of the two. The base ores of the district are found only in the Trout and Franklin hills. To reduce them, the North West Company in 1874 erected a 10-stamp dry crushing mill, fitted with Bruckner cylinders and Varney pans. This company operated about two years crushing rock out of the Speckled Trout, Kitty Clyde, Poorman's Joy, Pocatonts and Providenta mines. By gross mismanagement the enterprise was a failure and a cessation of operations was the result. The entire working plant in 1876 fell into the hands of a New York syndicate who in that year incorporated the Northwestern Company and renewed active work. Here again extravagance and incompetence asserted itself. With a labor and supply debt of nearly \$100,000 this company passed out of existence and its assets into the hands of a private individual.

In 1880 the Algonquin company, a Philadelphia organization, constructed a 20-stamp mill of new and improved design. Every arrangement that mechanical ingenuity could suggest in the saving of labor, fuel and manipulation of ores was introduced in it, the pulp chloridized in a 60-inch Howell & White furnace being amalgamated in California combination pans. In a working point of view this enterprise was a grand success, and to-day, excepting probably the new Moulton mill at Butte it is the most perfect and complete milling plant in the western Territories. The Algonquin company operated the Franklin, Salmon, Bellflower and Algonquin mines, all situated in the Franklin and Trout hills. These mines are yet in an almost undeveloped condition. Their ores are found principally in chimneys, are generally low grade and vast in extent and quantity. The Algonquin mine alone has more 12 and 15 ounce ore in sight than will run a 20 stamp mill 20 years. For the last two years this mill has worked custom rock, principally out of the Speckled Trout mine. James K. Pardee is the resident superintendent. He is considered an expert miner and a good mill man. The company employs about 75 men in the mines and mill, has an abundance of supplies on hand and is every way prepared for active and continuous work. No exhibit of working or production can be given in this paper owing to Mr. Pardee's absence from home.

Mr. John Caplice the present lessee and superintendent of the Northwestern mining plant, has since the failure of the corporation successfully worked and operated the Speckled Trout mine. He is very generally known as an honorable and upright business man, and his management has been signalized by painstaking carefulness in meeting every financial obligation—an example well worthy of imitation. Personally, he is greatly esteemed, and no higher eulogy could pen bequeath him than to say he is a square man. In this respect

a due regard for truth compels me to admit that he differs from all his predecessors.

The Sharktown Tunnel Company, composed of Hugh T. Murray, E. A. Durfee and others, own three mines on Trout Hill, namely, the Blackmail, Scratch Awl and Sharktown. Only the Scratch Awl has received much development. Its ores are of uniform grade and always pay to work. A large portion of this mine was lost through recent litigation with the Algonquin company. The case however is now on appeal before the Supreme Court of the Territory, and if justice comes not too late Murray & Durfee may yet get their own again. The ores from this company's mines have been worked in the North West and Algonquin mills only.

The ores of Hope Hill are of the free milling class, carry but a small proportion of base metals, and are easily worked to 85 per cent. of saving by wet crushing. The Hope Mining Company in 1866 or '67 constructed a 10-stamp mill to work ores from this hill with varying success. It has worked continuously from that date to this. Its management has not been characterized with more honesty or efficiency than has fallen to the lot of the early incorporated companies of the Territory. Under the supervision of its present executive officer, F. L. Perkins, Esq., the property is kept in excellent order and pays dividends. Mr. P. is accredited not only with being a first class miner but thoroughly posted in mill work. Personally he is greatly respected and esteemed. This company owns the Hope, Emma and other mines on Hope Hill and the Cliff on Trout Hill. It has successfully treated ores from all mines located in Hope Hill.

The Algonquin Company is a Joint Stock Corporation and as before stated of Philadelphia origin. It is officered as follows:

- Jas. K. Pardee, Superintendent.
 - Harvey Showers, Assistant Superintendent.
 - W. T. Bailey, Cashier and Auditor.
 - A. Wills, Metallurgist.
 - H. R. Fangreres, Clerk.
 - A. B. Hopkins, Foreman of Mill.
 - John Ainsly, First Engineer.
- The North West Company's plant is now under lease and is at present operated by John Caplice. M. S. Caplice has supervisory control. Chris. Hart is foreman. This gentleman is a miner of much experience and enjoys fully the confidence of his employer. Mr. — Mellen has charge of the machinery and is a practical engineer of experience and reliability. The Hope Mining Company has a home office in St. Louis. Its resident officers are:

- F. L. Perkins, Superintendent.
- S. E. Atchinson, Metallurgist and Foreman of Mill.
- R. T. Rombaur, Clerk and Cashier.
- John Leggat, First Engineer.
- Byron Ballard, Foreman of Mine.

These companies all operate in the lime. Their mines are cross-country veins (with one exception, the Salmon) and lie near the contact. The country rock is limestone, principally of dolomite character. The veins have a N. E. by S. W. strike, are generally vertical; the depression, if any, to the south. The ores, as before stated, vary with locality. In some mines all of the ledge carries pay rock. In such instances the fissures are narrow and well defined with clay casings on either wall. In others the deposits are principally in chimneys and rooms, intervening spaces carrying only a poor quality of vein matter. The veinstone of all mines in the district is a feldspathic quartzite. Associated with the gangue is silver, both ruby and native, carbonates of lead and copper, oxide of manganese, antimony, zinc and arsenic. All of the leads in the district present a remarkable uniformity of character, having nearly all the same general direction, and possessing to a very considerable extent the same combination of minerals. Manganese dykes of great width occur on the line of contact. Immense bodies of low grade ores are found in them near the lime. The dip of the foot wall is about 75° to the east, the granite overhang correspondingly. Up to the date of this article no ores of the district other than those found in the lime and above noted have been worked. Much valuable lode property in this formation remains yet in an undeveloped state. As much of it is owned by men unable to properly explore it, some years must elapse before its positive value can be determined.

In explanation of my assertion that Philipsburg is the least productive of any of the old, important, silver mining camps of this Territory, I may say that the companies operating here have tended largely to that undesirable end. Divested of all unnecessary verbiage, their officers, without an exception, until recently, were totally unfit by education and experience to handle the important trusts confided to them. Dignified, aristocratic experts, familiar with card-playing in all of its branches, judges of good whisky, ambitious to excel in lying and deceit, were the material selected by eastern and southern capital to place their money advantageously and profitably. I do not infer from the above that a good miner and mill man should not occasionally drink, play faro bank, and lie a little. The best of them do, but the man who makes such vicious pursuits a business should not have the confidence, much less the capital, of careful business men to bolster him up. I do not care to take personal issue with anyone connected officially with the past of this camp. Should they seek it, however, I am ready for the controversy, with proof to sustain me, "stronger than Holy Writ."

THE GRANITE.

For 15 years the existence of large fissure veins in the Granite near the contact (undoubted extensions of lodes in lime) were known to all miners and prospectors in the district. No locations were made, assays of top rock not justifying reduction by the costly processes in use here. Rock assaying from 25 ounces to 60 ounces could not be milled to a profit, and so the prospectors worked in lime where if a discovery was made it would in all probability pay. A few years ago Holland & Estill, two fortunate miners, located and partially developed the Granite Mountain mine. So flattering were the indications that in the spring of 1881 the attention of Chas. Clark, then superintendent of Hope Mining Company, was attracted to the mine. He bonded the property for \$40,000, paying for the same upon its expiration. This magnificent mine is opened from three tunnel levels, the header of each standing in from 4 to 10 feet of ore. The rock pays throughout and immense reserves of ore lie in sight, sufficient in the estimation of competent miners to keep 40 stamps at work for 2 years or more. A company is incorporated to work this mine and in the spring a large mill will be constructed to crush its ores. This purchase and sale gave an impetus to prospecting in the granite which resulted in many new and important discoveries. Winter coming on rapidly, but little except surface work was done by locators. Altogether about 75 locations were made and recorded. All of the ores carry a percentage of gold. Among the principal mines may be mentioned the Young America, Jas. Garfield, Lady Elgin, Virginia, Stonewall and Animy. Others as deserving escape my memory, but I make the assertion without a fear of contradiction, that no section of the Territory presents a more enticing field for the capitalist than is to be found here. The day is near at hand when this old camp will awake from its lethargy and take its place in the front rank of silver producing districts in the great North West. The mineral portion of the district is very hilly and rugged. Immense forests of pine and fir are to be found everywhere affording an abundance if not an inexhaustible supply of fuel for the mills and smelters of the future. Limestone, red hematite; iron ores and manganese are ready at hand. Water, pure and plenty, flows down every canyon and cooley, and thus every constituent necessary in the reduction of base ores is available. Let those who are yet in doubt come and see for themselves and take the word of none. This district has the advantage of a pleasant climate and lies convenient to good agricultural land much of which is yet open to settlement. The table lands of Flint Creek Valley produce a most excellent and nutritious species of bunch grass and constitute a very superior grazing country.

PHILIPSBURG

has a large local trade, is pleasantly situated on the right bank of Flint Creek a large affluent of the Deer Lodge River, lies about 60 miles S. E. of Deer Lodge City, and about the same distance S. W. of Butte, has a daily mail and stage line, many fine business houses and private residences, a handsome school house, public hall and several

good hotels. The people are sociable, generous and hospitable. Newspapers are read by all and paid for by some. In this respect they differ in no wise from other more fortunately situated sections of the Territory. If space permitted I would have included within the limits of this letter a description of the Boulder and Cable districts. As it is I wait another day, and with many apologies to your readers for contributing to your handsome New Year's edition this incomplete paper, I will close.

H. BARNETT, DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES, ETC.—This is one of the leading establishments of our city, having built up a reputation for keeping a fine assortment of the best goods that can possibly be brought to this market. Mr. Barnett's store, on Main street between Broadway and Granite, a cut of which appears in this issue, is filled from floor to ceiling with as nice a stock as may be found in the West. The dry goods department is complete, and on the shelves and counters are found a beautiful array of fine dress goods, silks, satins and velvets of the latest and most fashionable colors and designs. A specialty is made of fine clothing and furnishing goods. His fine stock of custom made goods has attracted the attention of a large line of first-class custom. The best manufactured ladies' misses, gents and children's shoes may also be found in this establishment; also a full line of hats, caps, rubber goods, blankets, buck gloves, mitts, etc. His carpets are of choice patterns, consisting of English body and tapestry, Brussels, three-ply Ingrain or any other grade that is usually kept in a first-class establishment of this kind. The enviable reputation that Mr. Barnett has gained as a business man is a sufficient guarantee that customers of his house will be honorably dealt with.

C. B. HOUSER & Co., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL LIQUORS, CIGARS AND TOBACCOS.—Messrs. C. B. Houser & Co.'s is one of the oldest firms in our city and among one of our principal establishments. Their store, in which may be found a good stock of goods consisting in part of whiskies, brandies, wines, gins, rums, cigars and tobacco, is situated on West Park street. Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis bottled beer is dealt in extensively by this house. All goods sold by this house are first-class, and thus it has gained a reputation for selling only the very best of everything. It would be useless for us to make special mention or to enumerate the large variety of brands of all the goods kept by them. Suffice it to say that by careful and strict attention to the wants of the public they have gained the confidence of the entire community. Families would do well to call on Messrs. Houser & Co., as their trade is most respectfully solicited.

O. STENBERG, SIGN AND ORNAMENTAL PAINTING.—Every one of the neatest and most artistically finished signs in the city is the workmanship of Mr. Stenberg. He has a reputation for being the finest workman in the West, and equally as good a one as may be found in any of the Eastern States. It has been remarked by many that it seemed wonderful to them that Mr. Stenberg should turn out the fine work he does on the short notice he usually receives. Mr. Stenberg does all the sign, scenic and ornamental painting himself, and is not continually importing second-class men to this country to do first-class work. Carriage painting is made a specialty, and charges for this kind of work are very reasonable. Go and see the beautiful sign on the front of his building, on West Park street, if you want to see an excellent piece of work. The sign that he has in the postoffice was exhibited in a fair at Salt Lake city, and a medal was awarded Mr. Stenberg for having the finest piece of work on exhibition.

A. EUSTIS & Co., FLOUR, GRAIN AND PRODUCE.—This firm opened a store in our city on Lower Main street about two months ago. Their stock of goods consists of the very best. The very finest brands of flour and a fine lot of hay, vegetables, butter, eggs, poultry, etc., are kept by this house. Messrs. Eustis & Co.'s idea, that small margins is the only true system to make business a success, is a good one. Give them a call.

retail at E. L. BONNER & Co.

The largest stock of men's gloves,

mitts, hats, California underwear and

dry goods in the city, wholesale and