

pany very expensive. Should the Cinnabar fire-clay prove successful its importance will be readily recognized.

Before leaving the subject of our coal interests it might be well to mention the Rocky Fork mines, to which a railroad is now being built from Laurel station on the Northern Pacific Railroad and which the builders hope to have completed by January 1898. The distance is 40 miles from the place of beginning. Some idea of the immensity of the coal deposit may be gathered from the statements of experts sent there to examine it. This deposit, unlike most others discovered in Montana, lies flat and unbroken. According to the report of one expert sent there to make examinations, 10,000,000 tons of coal could be mined there without drainage. This statement so startled the party interested in the report that another expert was dispatched to these coal lands, and astonishing as it may seem, his estimate was that 27,000,000 tons of fuel could be taken out without drainage. This coal is lignite in character and is said to be an excellent fuel, though we believe none has yet been found of a coking quality.

There are many other valuable coal deposits in Park County deserving of mention but on which little or no development work is at present being done, and for this reason further allusion to them is not made. But something must be said of our placer and quartz mines. It is doubtful if there is another locality of equal area anywhere in the West to-day that is attracting so little attention from capitalists, and that contains so many valuable mineral discoveries, as Park County. Among the discoveries so far made, we have gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, nickel, iron, limestone and marble, besides a few other mineral substances of intrinsic value. All of these discoveries of the prospector have been found and large veins or deposits of them are known to exist within our limits. As early as 1863 pay dirt was struck by a party of prospectors at Emigrant Gulch, and though a greater part of the time since that date Emigrant Gulch has been a part of the Crow Reservation, placer mining has been prosecuted therein, and the ground has always yielded good pay, notwithstanding the fact that only the most primitive methods and appliances for this class of mining have been employed. The same may be said of Mill Creek, adjacent to Emigrant and Bear Gulches, further up the Yellowstone River, though in the latter a hydraulic apparatus has been operated for two or three years past. There are other valuable placer mines throughout the county, but to work them successfully more capital is required than the present owners possess, and for that reason they lie unoperated. All will some day be made to yield up their wealth, however, as capital is turned from other channels of investment to the industry of mining, which is always a safe venture.

For several years past more attention seems to have been given by prospectors to the discovery and development of quartz lodes. Lying immediately south of the Yellowstone River the Snowy Range of the Rocky Mountains parallels that stream for many miles. This range of mountains is richly stored with mineral wealth. Beginning at Livingston and following the source of the Yellowstone River southward to the line of the National Park, four creeks, Mill, Emigrant, Six Mile and Bear are tributary to that river on the east side, and on all of these streams have been found many valuable gold and silver-bearing quartz lodes, besides some copper. In some of these districts several arastras of the old Mexican type have been profitably operated for a number of years, with free-milling, gold-bearing quartz from the different leads. In some instances these leads are so rich that the owners thereof have actually made fair wages by pulverizing quartz from them, in ordinary hand mortars, and separating the gold from the gravel thus obtained in the old-time gold pan.

Following up the Yellowstone River from the flourishing town of Glendale whose main street fronts on the northern boundary of the National Park, to the east fork of that stream, and thence up Soda Butte Creek, a distance altogether of about 60 miles, and the Clark's Fork or New World Mining District is reached. Here, in the very heart of the range of mountains before alluded to and at an average altitude of 8000 feet, is a mineral district that is yet to interest the world and build up a mining camp that will rival or excel any that America has ever seen. As this camp is too broad in extent and contains so many rich leads it would be vain to here attempt a general description in the brief space allowed. This wonderful mineral region, however, was first discovered about 17 years ago, and in that time a large amount of development work has been accomplished. The district embraces about 60 square miles and at the present writing thousands of tons of ore lies on the dumps at the various mines, piled there in the course of prosecuting developments. It is no exaggeration to say that the camp contains mountains of ore, the assay value

of which, in gold, silver, copper and lead, ranges about \$50 to the ton, and in some instances runs into thousands. The reader may wonder how a mineral region so vast and immensely rich as this one is reputed to be, has not, in the long years since its discovery, come to the front as a bullion producer and its output there builded a camp like unto Butte City. Until 1882 there was no railway nearer than the Union Pacific, many miles away, and until that time it was also a part of the Crow Indian Reservation. Since 1883 the nearest railway point has been Cinnabar, the terminus of the Park Branch of the Northern Pacific Railway, a distance of 60 miles. Since the latter date several attempts have been made to operate smelters in the camp, but they have been futile, so far as profitable operation goes, notwithstanding that many car loads of bullion were produced. The failure to operate smelting works profitably has been due to the fact that the distance of 60 miles between the railroad and the mines is over a road so rugged as to be almost impassable for freight traffic. Coke with which to reduce the ore, after being shipped from the East to Cinnabar, at an enormous expense, cost \$24 per ton freight additional from the latter point to Cooke City, where are located the smelters. The freight on the bullion thus produced, from Cooke City to the railway cost \$24 per ton more, thus it will be seen why the camp has not made better progress. But there is a better lot in store in the future for the mine owners of the New World District. There is now every assurance that the disadvantage of expensive transportation will be done away with in the next twelve months. The Rocky Fork Railway, now building, will doubtless be completed to Red Lodge, where are located the Rocky Fork coal mines, yet this year. Red Lodge is about 60 miles from Cooke City, and though a considerable range of mountains intervenes between the two points, yet this branch of railway is projected to the latter point, and the company claim will be constructed during 1898.

Another mining district in which at present more active operations are being prosecuted than any other, is that on the Stillwater, known as Nye City.

Here considerable of a camp has sprung up during the past few months, by reason of the fact that a corporation, under the name of the Minneapolis Mining and Smelting Company, have been putting in a reduction works plant with which to treat copper, silver and nickel bearing ore from several large leads that exist there. This plant will be in working order about the first of the year.

Mineral springs are quite common, the Hunters Hot Springs being the most important, the health-giving properties of which have already made them a popular resort for the infirm of mankind. Here good and substantial buildings have been provided of a character especially adapted for the accommodation of the afflicted. The foregoing does not represent our entire worth, but enough has been given of our resources to convey to any intelligent reader that Park County has been richly endowed by nature. Livingston is the proud county seat and enjoys a steady and increasing prosperity.

GEO. H. WRIGHT.



ST. JAMES HOME, BUTTE, M. T.

#### JAMES H. LYNCH.

Mr. James H. Lynch is one of the best, and best known citizens of Butte. He was born in Galena, Illinois, in the year 1853, and at an early age went to Dakota where he lived for ten years. From there he went to the Black Hills in 1876, where he remained for some time prospecting, mining and engaging in other pursuits incident to frontier life. Entering politics he served as under-sheriff and in other offices, but being defeated for sheriff of the county, he gave it the shake. During his residence in the Hills he was married, and his estimable wife is now with him. After leaving the Hills he came to Butte, and remained here until the Cœur d'Alene fever broke out when he packed his blankets and went into that country. A short experience there satisfied him and he returned to Butte, a sadder if not a wiser man. For two years he was bookkeeper for Lavell Bro's and Perrin, Wall & Co., and then went to Anaconda, where for a year he was in charge of the branch house of the Montana Produce Company. In 1884, he again returned to Butte and went into the wholesale and retail liquor business at the old Trowbridge stand, corner of Main and Quartz streets. He established one of the best trades in the Territory, and his boast is, that he owes no man a dollar, and that his stock of goods equals, if it does not excel that of any house in Butte. He owns a fine ranch, well stocked, in southern Dakota, and his prospects are as fair as those of any young man in this Territory. In private life, Mr. Lynch is one of the most companionable of gentlemen, and takes delight in entertaining his many friends at his house on West Park street, which is one of the most elegantly appointed residences in the city.