

# Items of Interest to People in the Mining World

## HIGH-GRADE ORE ON WALKOVER

CAUSES GREAT EXCITEMENT—RUNS FROM \$800 TO \$1000 PER TON.

Preparation of all kind is now being made to get ore shipments out from the sensational Walkover mine. Every day sacks are being filled and stacked on the dump, while the miners keep right on uncovering more and more of the high grade. They are sacking ore over there that assays from \$800 to \$1000 a ton, and grab samples from the sacks are returning assays from \$200 to \$250 a ton, gold. Every bit of the rich vein is put into sacks, no attention being paid to sorting, and the ore body has widened from eighteen inches to nearly three feet.

The vein has not exhibited a sudden widening or bulged out as a kidney of ore, but a steady and gradual increase in width has been noticed ever since the shaft was commenced. A streak of tale on the wall shows the vein well defined and as depth is gained the ore is seen to be closer grained. The feature shows the streaks and specks of free gold in the ore to fine advantage. They are certainly getting specimens out of the mine that are handsome enough to mount and there is no dearth of them either.

The Walkover mine has now become one of the star exhibits of the district. Visitors are taken up there whenever they care to go and are surely treated to a sight of fold that cannot help enthuse. Since the gold is all free they produce pannings of the most sensational sort. Picked samples are not used for the purpose, but a chunk is broken from the vein or grabbed from any of the sacks, that is certain to produce a great string of yellow grains in the pan. The gold is much coarser than usually occurs in the district, and a number of specimens are being obtained containing good sized nuggets.

In a surprisingly short time the Walkover mine has come into the prominent position it now holds. Only a few weeks ago preliminary development and prospecting was commenced with the idea of obtaining the trend and dip of the veins that appeared in the dyke at the surface. A tunnel was started a short distance down the hill and had only been driven a few feet when the hanging wall was encountered. As soon as this was broken through the vein that is now being opened up was found. They continued to cross-cut to the opposite wall and found numerous veins of varying width all the way.

The hanging wall vein being the most promising drifting was done to ascertain its possible permanency and it was soon found that the vein was strong and well defined, and that the values obtained were uniform and dependable. At that time the ore was saved for shipment and great enthusiasm was caused by the strike. The company at once arranged for strong development and started men sinking a shaft on the rich ore body. As stated above they are obtaining better results every day and are not only finding remarkably rich ore, but the vein is widening in a manner that insures a large output of shipping ore.

Within the present month the Walkover company will send out shipments of high grade ore. Arrangement have been made for hauling the product to the shipping point and as soon as more sacks are obtained, which have been ordered, shipments will go right along from the new bonanza property. At the present time there is something more than a carload on the dump, with the pile being added to in a very substantial way every day.

The Walkover mine will carry off the palm as an early shipper. Work was but commenced when the owners came out with the announcement that they would ship their product, so rich was the ore. They are a conservative crowd, and the announcement certainly caused the camp to sit up and take notice. Since then it has been more and more apparent that another mine is opened up within the district, that is soon to give this well mineralized belt greater prominence, and a feeling of greater optimism exists on all sides.

Some very prominent mining men have come into camp during the past week or two, attracted by the announcement of the rich Walkover strike, and it can be stated that the district is certain to obtain merited compliment from all of them.

The shaft is down about twenty-five feet from the tunnel level and will be steadily lowered to great depth. The bottom of the workings is about fifty feet from the surface at present and no crosscutting will like-

ly be done until a depth of 100 feet or more below surface has been reached. They are lowering right on the vein and will be taking out ore right along. Since the ore body is present on the surface of the 15-foot dyke, it will be seen that stoping will be done right to its apex.

In a short while an upraise will be made to surface and a hoist installed on top of the dyke. The upraise will also provide good ventilation for workings. The mine is to undergo vigorous development from now on. They will greatly increase the force of men at an early date, which will add materially to the output from the mine.

That the Walkover dyke is rich in gold for a great distance is easily proven. Pieces of float that are very rich are found below the outcrop hundreds of feet away from the shaft and the surface soil carries well in gold. Pieces of quartz broken from the ledge give choice pannings and surface trenchings have exposed the rich veins in numerous places. With such a mine market conditions cut no figure. It is a certainty that the owners of a property of that character will continue development of it and continue to extract bullion producing ore no matter whether stocks are selling or not. The Walkover mine certainly has every appearance of being an early dividend payer.—Ramsey Record.

### STRIKE REPORTED.

Gold Center Claim, Owned by Ramsey Brothers, Has Rich Ore.

Chalk up another strike in Ramsey district. This time on the south side of town, in the low hills about half a mile from the town limits.

The Gold Center claim, property of the Ramsey brothers, is the scene of the latest strike, where they have opened up a series of veins on the ridge of a small hill that are furnishing sensational pannings of coarse gold.

In selecting a spot to do some development work the sands adjacent to a wide porphyry belt were taken and panned. A few colors of gold were obtained. Then continued panning up the ravine and nearer the top of the hill gave better results. It was seen that the ledge producing the values was near at hand, so they started some prospect shafts. Within a few hours a time a six-inch vein of quartz that give unerring results when crushed was found. Work has been continued for a depth of eight or ten feet and there is exposed an ore body eighteen inches wide, carrying more gold all the while, and the grains of yellow metal are much coarser. The bottom ore is worth \$50 to \$60 per ton, gold. The vein pitches toward the northwest.

The prospectors were sure that there must be more than one vein which had caused the wide area of surface soil to carry gold, and other prospect holes were started. Three other places were opened, the last one being nearly 100 feet westerly from the original shaft. In all of them veins are exposed, having the same character quartz and in each instance will pan gold, although the most westerly prospect contains the wider and richer vein. This ore body pitches just opposite to the first one exposed, clearly indicating that they will come together at no great depth, with the likelihood of making an extensive ore body.

Here again depth is resulting most satisfactorily. Only six or eight feet has been sunk, and the vein is making greater width all the while. At the same time the gold values are getting better, all the bottom ore producing pannings of very coarse, heavy gold. This vein is now over a foot wide, which taken with the other ore bodies, makes at least three feet of ore exposed of shipping grade.

As is usual when a new strike is announced dozens of visitors are going over to the claim and a general panning bee is on over there during all hours of the day. Everybody is shown over the ground and shown some pannings, and brings away a pocketful of high grade to test with his own mortar, pestle and pan. There is no gainsaying that the new strike is a big one, and on all sides enthusiasm is running high. Some of those who follow leasing as a business are negotiating with the owners for a block of ground, and it would not be surprising were some deals of that sort arranged in next few days.

The strike greatly increases the rich mineral area of this district. It is on what is known as the middle belt, which is considerably more than a mile south of the belt on which the Ramsey, Comstock, Walkover, Ophir and other mines are operating. In this instance systematic prospecting has brought about fine results, something that this great mineral zone is certain to produce with more of the same thing. The camp gets better every minute and the hunch is here given that more strikes are near at hand.—Ramsey Record.

## SUNNYSIDE TO PAY DIVIDENDS

ROUND MOUNTAIN MINING COMPANY WILL DECLARE ITS FIRST IN DECEMBER.

When Vice President J. P. Loftus of the Round Mountain Mining company went in to Goldfield last Tuesday in his new Pope-Hartford touring car, he carried with him 1053 ounces of bullion, the same representing the August run of the Sunnyside mill. At the rate of \$13 an ounce the cleanup amounts to a total of \$13,689. About 575 tons were run during the month, making the average \$24 a ton for the month's run. This is a few dollars better average than for the previous months, but the average for the mill from the start is better than \$20 a ton. Careful sampling of the tailings has shown the ore to be absolutely free milling and better than 97 per cent of the values have been saved from the start.

Superintendent James McDonald is perhaps the most satisfied man in camp. And well might he be as the work of opening and developing the mine has been entirely under his direction. When Mr. Loftus was out again Sunday he made a tour of inspection of the mine, examining every drift, crosscut and stope. His enthusiasm after the examination was unbounded and he stated frankly that unless the unforeseen happened, the payment of dividends to holders of Round Mountain Mining stock would begin in December.

So far nearly all the development work has been in vein matter and enough ore has thus been taken out to keep the two Nissen stamps busy with their twenty ton daily capacity. Meantime the ore body has been gradually blocked out and now with the two Huntingtons trebling the former capacity of the mill there is no trouble in supplying ore.

That the Sunnyside is indeed a great mine there can be no mistaking, even by the most inexperienced layman. An opportunity of seeing at close range the wonders of the famous mine was afforded a Nugget representative Sunday. In company with Superintendent McDonald the writer was shown through all the different levels in the entire workings. After going through the mine the one fact which stood out strongest as mute but conclusive proof of the absolute greatness of the Sunnyside mine was that no discrimination is being made in the ore as it is taken from the shaft. Every car that comes up goes into the hopper at the mill, no matter from what level or what particular stope or drift it may have come. And ore is being taken from every part of the workings.

First a car from the 90-foot level in the main shaft, where there is from three to four and one-half feet of ore, and in the west drift of which Superintendent McDonald took out a \$500 pocket of specimen ore Sunday. Then a car from the 170-foot level in the same shaft, where the vein has widened to about five feet and where high grade is the rule rather than the exception. Then from over in No. 2 incline, which is now connected through its west drift with the old Spencer lease, will come a couple of cars of ore, all going direct to the mill as it comes to the surface. If this method of mining and milling doesn't give a fair, honest estimate of the values in a mine, what does? But it was at the lowest level, the 250-foot level of the main shaft, where the happiest surprise of all was obtained. Here the vein is strong five feet wide and no hanging wall yet in sight. The foot wall is well defined and the ore is of the same character as on the upper levels, the values being found chiefly in the soft tale and oxidized iron. The west drift is about fifty feet and the entire surface pans coarse gold. As with the other levels the best evidence of the value of this ore is that it all goes direct to the mill to make up the grand general average of the mine. High grade and specimen ore has also been found on this lower level and the ore body gives every indication of permanency. All this work of sampling has been to prove beyond a semblance of a doubt that the ore was really present in quantity and this has been done to the supreme satisfaction of even the most skeptical. Now it is planned to put up another hoist at the new shaft just above the Spencer lease, furnishing a track from there to the bins at the mill. This will do away with the windlass at No. 2 shaft and all ore from the eastern part of the mine will be handled by the new hoist.

The story of Superintendent James McDonald's connection with the Round Mountain Mining company is the story of the Sunnyside mine right from its babyhood up till the present day. When James R. Davis, now president of the Round Mountain Mining company, met Jim McDonald in Manhattan a year ago last March, the former had just secured an option on what he was pleased to term a "good prospect at Round Mountain." Mr. Davis explained the situation and asked Mr. McDonald to go out and prospect the ground, known as three Sunnyside claims, and report his findings. A few days later Mr. McDonald had a few sacks of high grade cached on Sunnyside hill and Messrs. Loftus, Davis and Sweeney were notified from this end of the line that they had a bonanza and strongly urged to clinch the deal at once. Mining men in Goldfield at the time will remember the farore caused there by the first exhibition of specimen ore from the Sunnyside mine at Round Mountain. Even in that camp of wonders nothing like it had ever before been seen, nor since. With his fund of mining knowledge gained in years of careful training on the mother lode in California and the rich mines of Mexico, Mr. McDonald began finding gold, at the very start. And he has been keeping it up ever since. All through the workings the noticeable fact is that no unnecessary work has been done; in all cases the ore lead has been followed with an accuracy and precision born almost of an instinctive knowledge of its trend and peculiarities. From a prospect hole to a great mine the Sunnyside has ever been under the watchful care of a man to whom mining was second nature and whose unbounded faith in the mine has been most remarkable. No more ardent booster for Round Mountain was ever known than James McDonald and no man has ever understood the needs and peculiarities of the district better than he. To have shaped the destinies and developed the resources of one of the greatest mines in Nevada and the west is an honor gained by but few men and the name of Jim McDonald will live forever entwined with the greatness of the Sunnyside mine of Round Mountain.

With the two Huntingtons working in conjunction with the two Nissen stamps the output of the mill will be between sixty and seventy tons of ore a day, meaning a monthly cleanup of about \$50,000. Added to this will be the royalty on placer operations soon to be commenced by the Hydraulic company. All of which will go to swell the dividends. A complete up-to-date electric plant is being installed at the Sunnyside and the mill and mine will be entirely lighted by electricity within a few days.

## GOLD MINING IN THE SOUTH

For the first three-quarters of a century of our national life the gold supply of the United States came from the mines in North and South Carolina and Georgia. Since the discovery of gold in California, in 1847, these southern mines have not attracted much notice, although they still produce as much gold every year as the whole country did in the days of the first American money panic, in the thirties. As an instance of the way things move in these stirring times, it may be stated that the gold production of the world since 1897, the year McKinley became president, has been more than the total gold production of the entire world from 1492, when Columbus discovered America, down to 1850, when California gold first began to reach the mints in large quantities.

There are two gold mines within the city limits of the municipality of Charlotte, N. C., one of which is now being operated profitably. A few miles south of Charlotte, in South Carolina, the Hailo mine is producing gold every day, and has been profitably operated for over twenty years. It was at this mine that the chlorination process of reducing refractory gold ore was first employed on a large scale by A. Tries, a hale old man of 80 years, now living in Charlotte.

An excellent prospect was found a few years ago just north of Charlotte. The land was bought by a northern syndicate, and a local miner was put in charge. Much gold went into the hill; very little came out of it. Then the capitalists thought to employ an expert miner. They imported one from Colorado, a man who knew how to operate a gold mine. He had an unlimited expense account. He hired a large gang of workmen and began digging. Two kegs of whisky were sent out every Saturday. The boss miner rode around the country behind a spanking span. Still, there were no

results—all going in, and nothing coming out. Finally he reported that the mine was a failure, and it was abandoned. About a year after that a little girl was playing around the dump where the supposedly worthless rock and dirt had been piled. She picked up a little nugget, and ran home to tell her father, a veteran miner. The old man came back with her, and that afternoon they picked up a tin bucket full which assayed \$1700.

Although the presence of gold in the southern Appalachians was known to the Spaniards before the settlement at Jamestown, the English colonists paid but little attention to searching for the glorious metal. The discovery of the Carolina field was made in 1799, when a little son of Conrad Reed of Carrus county found a very heavy rock. He took it to the house and it was used as a weight to prop the door open. One day a visitor noticed what it was—a chunk of almost pure gold, weighing twenty-five pounds. One other nugget of about the same size has been found in that county. Road makers dug up a nugget weighing over five pounds while grading a road near Concord a few years ago. Negroes digging for the foundation of a cotton mill in Charlotte two years ago found three nuggets worth from \$8 to \$24 each.

Gold mining was begun on a considerable scale in this section about 1815, and within five or six years it had become the leading industry, and there was a large class of professional gold hunters and miners. The production became so large that congress, in 1825, established two mints in the south, one here at Charlotte and the other at Dahlonega, Georgia. Both were operated until the civil war; neither was reopened after the end of the war. The Charlotte mint was burned in 1844, but was immediately rebuilt. The building is still standing; is still known as "the Mint," and is occupied by the United States assay office. Through this office comes each year the production of precious metals from the southern Appalachian mines, except that portion which is shipped to the northern refineries as crude ore. The mines in the city of Charlotte, for instance, ship the ore to New Jersey to be refined, and hence the production does not go through the local assay office.

The annual production of gold in the southern states is now \$500,000, and shows a slight increase from year to year. This is a small amount when compared to the production of the western states, of course, but as the mines have already been worked properly or systematically, the importance of the southern field cannot be estimated by its production. The application of improved methods of mining has made the gold mines of western states yield much metal that was entirely lost under the old systems, and there are geologists and miners who believe that the introduction of modern scientific methods in the southern states would greatly increase the yield of gold, and would return a good profit on the investment.

Placer mining has not been carried on here to any extent, although the geological survey experts think it could be done at a profit. The sands from the bottom of the Catawba river are now being raised by dredges and washed for gold. While some metal is being recovered, it is doubtful if the experiment will pay, on account of the heavy expense. The bottom of the river is very rough and rocky, and it is exceedingly difficult to get at the sands.

When the great gold discoveries were made in California in 1847 there was a large gold mining population in this section. The new El Dorado tempted them, and the exodus was well nigh complete. For a time the local mines were paralyzed, but the news of the discoveries in the west eventually aided the mines here and work was begun with renewed vigor, not to be stopped until the war came on and interfered with everything in the south. Among the "forty-niners" who left this country was a miner named Smith. He persuaded his sweetheart, a Miss Bell, to go with him to the golden west. She left a younger brother here. The families ceased to correspond when the older members died, and the North Carolina branch hardly knew that the cousins in the west existed. But in California, where there were no other kin or kin, the family conversation more often turned to the "folks back east." One day not long ago, Mr. Charles A. Bell, a well known Charlotte lawyer, received a letter from a Miss Smith of California, in which she said she intended to stop off in Charlotte to see him on her way to New York. Mr. Bell did not know who Miss Smith was, and could not understand the letter. But when a beautiful young lady stepped into his office a few weeks later and

made herself known as his first cousin, he remembered the story of his aunt who had joined the Argonauts many years ago. Miss Smith visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bell a few days and while here met Mr. L. W. Humphrey, a young lawyer. She returned to California. Mr. Humphrey followed her and brought her back to North Carolina as his bride. True to her ancestral instincts she takes great interest in the gold mining gossip, inheriting, as she did, a fortune begun in these southern mines and enlarged in the western gold fields; and owning, as she does, a romance which connects North Carolina and California in a peculiar way.

Many are the stories of lives wasted in searching for the gold in these hillsides, many are the stories of lucky strikes, many the tales of immense nuggets, but the really successful gold miners are few. Charlotte itself pays little attention to the gold business. It knows there are mines all about, but it is far more interested in the mills which spin and weave the cotton fibre into cloth, and those that crush the cotton seed into oil. "The Mine" is pointed out to the stranger as the place where most of the gold came from in the days "befo' de war," and many citizens know that the total coinage there in the twenty-two years it was operated was over \$5,000,000. Few know that the gold deposited in that building for coinage and for assaying has in all amounted to over \$15,000,000, all of which was taken from the mines in this vicinity. One mine, only five miles from town, has produced \$2,000,000 worth of gold and is now deserted.

Not far from Charlotte is the little village of Rutherfordton, where in the old days the Bechtlers coined money at a private mint, operating under the permission of Congress. The Bechtler coins were of great beauty and each bore the stamp of its own natural degree of fineness. The coins were \$5, \$2.50 and \$1 pieces. There are a few of them to be seen here now, but most of them known to be in existence are in the hands of coin collectors, by whom they are greatly prized. A \$2.50 Bechtler coin in good condition is worth from \$20 to \$25.

The present prosperity of this section of the country, which is in no way dependent on its rich deposits of precious metals, is a forcible illustration of the difference between Spanish and English methods of exploiting the colonies which they established in the new world. When the Spaniards came to Florida they were in search of two things—the magic fountain of youth, and the no less magic and mythical mountain of gold. The Indians whom they met wore ornaments fashioned from gold nuggets. The nuggets were appropriated and the Indians killed or run into the forests, as seemed most convenient at the time. These nuggets undoubtedly came from the Carolina gold fields, just as the copper utensils used by the Indians had come all the way from Lake Superior. The Spaniards attempted to find a great supply of the nuggets and, failing, practically abandoned the country.

The English, Scotch and Irish came into the same country. They began to farm and raise cattle, and as nearly as possible to live in this new country as they did in the old. Gold hunting did not occur to them, the failure of John Smith to find gold in Virginia having been taken as conclusive. And so it was after the settlement was fifty years old a visitor found a twenty-five pound chunk of gold doing duty as a door stop in the cabin of a pioneer.—Frederic J. Haskin, in Salt Lake Tribune.

### NEEDS 10,000 MINERS.

West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania Operators Face Crisis.

PITTSBURG, Sept. 21.—A shortage of coal miners in the fields of West Virginia and of western Pennsylvania has become so alarming that a meeting of the West Virginia operators has been called for Charleston next Thursday to devise ways and means of getting more miners. This afternoon words were sent from western Pennsylvania that the operators would join in the meeting.

At least 10,000 men could be used in the coal fields at this time. Operators of both western Pennsylvania and West Virginia have great contracts for coal for the western roads which they must fill next month or have the contracts cancelled.

It is not unlikely that an advance in mining prices will be authorized at the meeting, Thursday.

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