

SOME MINING MATTERS

OF LOCAL AND GENERAL INTEREST.

The New Strike Near Gaylord is All Right—Something About the Operation of the Gold Dredging Company at Bannack. Some State Mining News.

There is no fiction in the report of the recent big strike near Gaylord. Charles Pruitt, one of the original owners of the Mayflower, was in the city Saturday and corroborates the report. The Pruitt family is basking in the golden gleams of a lucky star as one of the owners of the new property is a relative of Mr. Pruitt.

Commissioner Jake Crisman arrived from Whitehall Monday. He had a talk with one of the owners of the property who informed him that the first shipment of eight tons, taken across the vein, averaged \$105 to the ton.

J. C. Sloss, who will have the management of the working of the German Bar property under the new company, arrived from Boulder a few days ago. He is making contracts for wood and lumber and other supplies and will do some preliminary work after the holidays.

Alder gulch miners have taken a keen interest in the operations of the Gold Dredging company at Bannack ever since the company began work, realizing that the successful operation of the Bannack plant would mean, possibly, the erection of a similar plant in Alder gulch sometime in the future. The following account, taken from the Butte Miner, of the doings of the Bannack company, will be read with interest:

Herman J. Reiling, president and manager of the Gold Dredging company, of Bannack left the city yesterday for Chicago, where he will spend the winter. In the spring Mr. Reiling will again resume operations on Grasshopper creek, from which he is taking out large quantities of gold. The Gold Dredging Company has spent over \$200,000 on the plant at Bannack and for the first time the work has been successful during the past summer. A satisfactory clean-up from the creek bottom has been made for the summer's work, and next summer, Mr. Reiling says, the entire amount spent on the plant including all the money needed in its operation will be returned to its stockholders in profits.

Bannack in Beaverhead county was the original gold field of Montana and it was not until about \$30,000,000 had been taken from the placers in 1862 and for several years after, that the famous Alder gulch placers were discovered and worked. The placers were located on both banks of Grasshopper creek and after they were worked out several ineffectual attempts were made to work out the bed of the stream but by ordinary methods this was found impossible from the fact that the had not sufficient fall.

It was of course known that the creek bed was rich in gold but it was supposed that it could never be worked to advantage from the cause stated. In May, 1896, Mr. Reiling conceived the idea of a boat with an endless chain of buckets working on a cable that would bring up the gravel from bedrock. The boat was constructed and 27 buckets attached to the chain. The chain to which the buckets are attached is 70 feet in length and the buckets go down 35 feet deep from the end of the post. As each bucket reaches the bottom of the creek it fills and the revolving chain brings it around to the top where the load, by an automatic arrangement is dumped into a grizzly. A stream of water is constantly playing on the gravel as it is dumped and the smaller gravel and loose gold falls through the bars and is carried away through a flume 150 feet long, being forced by a centrifugal pump. The large boulders after being washed are turned aside and washed ashore.

Mr. Reiling has the apparatus covered by seven patents and it is said has several other large contracts which he will commence work on in Montana next year.

The Zephyr is not able to get at the facts from those interested in the property, but the talk among the mining class is that a splendid strike has been made in the Gold Hill, a property two miles from Gaylord, in which Messrs. Cutler, Wilkinson and others are interested. Five feet of gold ore that averages \$70 per ton is the reported size of the new strike. Two feet of the five furnishes ore that will run \$100 per ton, so the report goes. There are several evidences that the reports are well founded, one of which is the reticence of the owners. If the ore runs

one-half what it is reported the mine is a bonanza, situated as it is within two miles of a smelter.—Whitehall Zephyr.

The Gold Dredging Company at Bannack, cleaned up \$27,000, the result of last month's work. The company makes a monthly clean-up.

Dr. M. A. Miller will have his ore from the Midnight mine at Argenta, treated by the electric cyanide process.

Rumor says that J. R. DeLamar is concluding a sale of his Nevada and Utah mines in England for \$5,000,000. These properties are now producing about \$2,000,000 per year.

There is considerable activity in the Okanogan country, Washington, at present. The Palmer mountain tunnel is expected to demonstrate whether or not the ledges continue with depth.

The deepest vertical shaft in Colorado is on the Gysler, at Silver Cliff. It is a three compartment and is 2305 feet deep. It is now going for 2500. The largest hoisting plant in the state is on this mine.—Industry.

The last three payments on the Prize mine, Deer Lodge county, which was sold sometime ago by the Murray brothers to Irwin C. Stump and others, was made recently, and the property is in the hands of the new owners. The purchase price was \$4,000. This is a mine that was offered in London a few months since for \$150,000, or rather shares were offered at that rate in a company formed to purchase and operate it. Of this sum, \$120,000 was to go to the vendors and \$20,000 for working capital.

Editor H. L. Hughes of the Basin Progress states that there is considerable activity around Basin. The Hope mine is now in the hands of a new company, and is being put in shape for the resumption of work there with a full force. The Eva May is also being worked by a complete crew. More than the usual amount of representation and development of prospects is being done around the camp. The future for Basin is much brighter now than in several months.

The Miner's Protective association of Tuolumne county, Cal., offers a standing reward of \$150 for evidence that shall lead to the conviction of any person for stealing gold dust, amalgam or quick silver from any mining claim, tunnel, sluice, under-current, riffle-box or sulphuret machine, the property of any member of said association, and a reward of \$50 for evidence that shall lead to the conviction of any person for stealing from any mining claim belonging to any member of the association tools of a value of under \$50.

Under the laws of Russia all gold and silver mined must be registered and taken to the imperial mint, which has agencies established for convenience in collecting. The mines are the property of the crown, and a certain percentage goes to the imperial treasury. The result of this is that more or less is concealed; yet the production last year was placed at \$34,000,000. In most of the rich districts the methods employed are very crude. To remedy this a number of experts have been called upon from California and other places to go there of late.

According to a late estimate in the Alaska Mining record, the output of gold in Alaska this year will be over 50 per cent. larger than last year, when it was about \$3,000,000. The total for this year is placed at \$4,670,000, of which \$2,355,000 comes from quartz mines and \$2,450,000 from placers. While these estimates are probably rather high, there can be no doubt that there has been a large increase over last year's output and that a further increase will be noted next year. Not only are a number of large, new quartz mines being made productive, but the placers will no doubt be worked more systematically and intelligently. Of the large number of people who went to Alaska last spring many will not go again. Their absence will not be a drawback. Of those who will go up in the spring, there is every indication that a larger proportion will be intelligent miners, prepared by experience and equipment for good work.

The old adage that "distance lends enchantment to the view," was never more strongly verified than during the past year in the mining districts of Montana. While hundreds of victims who have been deluded into joining in the rush for the south African or Alaskan gold fields are returning disgusted. The men who remained have pushed out over their own state and have been rewarded, according to the Inter-Mountain. There is the Mayflower mine near Whitehall for instance. For years it was passed by by prospectors who kicked the valuable ore from beneath their feet without giving it a thought. Yet it remained for a man

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SEVERAL thousand dollars are due the Madisonian from delinquent subscribers, in amounts varying from \$2.50 up. The sum in the aggregate is a handsome one and we would like to see a reasonable proportion of it paid by the first of the year. During the past two years we have endeavored to give our readers their money's worth. We have said very little about pay. It takes money to run a newspaper just as it does any other business. Printing-ink does not wax fat on air and mountain scenery, and strange to relate the man from whom we buy the paper on which this is printed insists on receiving his money with alarming and unceasing regularity. Now we are going to ask all who are in arrears to the Madisonian to pay up. If you owe \$10 and you feel that you cannot afford to pay all, a remittance of \$5 on your account will be evidence to us that your heart is in the right place. Money is the motive power of a paper and the great family newspaper of Madison county is in need of motive power.

who had little or no knowledge of the art of prospecting or mining to discover it. It passed into the hands of a rich man who will probably get millions out of it, yet the question remains: How many properties of a like nature are there in the state? Prospecting in Montana is comparatively easy; the towns for the purchase of supplies are not far apart and both transportation and supplies are cheap. Yet hundreds of men are allured to far away countries where the dangers are greater and the possibilities of finding a mine not one-half as great. Luck plays no more part in the business of prospecting than it does in anything else. It is labor that counts and it is the men who will push out into the remote districts of the state and exercise their brain and muscle who will be the millionaires of the future.

An English corporation known as the London Exploration company, has bought a controlling interest in the Helena and Frisco mine, which was the property of A. M. Holter, S. T. Houser and other Helena business men. The sale was consummated Sunday. W. J. Chalmers of Chicago, president of the Frisco and Chalmers company, who had been working on the deal for several months with Hamilton Smith, agent for the Exploration company, was present and closed the deal for the purchasers. George McDonald, of Gem, Idaho, was in Helena while the deal was being consummated, and it is understood that he will continue as manager of the property.

It is reported that the Exploration company has vast interests in south Africa, Mexico, and California. The leading financiers in the company are the Rothschilds, and Werner, Beit & Co., the latter being under contract to buy one-half of the yearly output of the Kimberly diamond mines of south Africa. The English company acquires 51-100 of the stock of the Helena and Frisco. The purchase price is not given, but it is considered to be in the neighborhood of half a million. It is claimed that the property paid nearly \$300,000 in dividends this year. One of the terms of the deal, it is understood, is that the head office remains in Helena, and that Helena men remain practically in control.

In referring to mining matters in the Lump Gulch district the Clancy Miner says: Aside from the Muskego deal which was made this week, there have been no transactions in this mineral field during the past week worthy of special note. Perhaps the leading reason for this is in the fact that the weather has been exceedingly severe, even for this latitude, at this time of year. A deal of considerable importance failed of completion at the New Stake mine; though it may be consummated later. The Badger made a shipment of one carload of selected ore, loading at Alhambra, and the King Solomon one carload, loaded at Clancy. There are rumors of several important mining deals in this immediate vicinity, though not as yet far enough ad-

vanced to warrant publication. Work on the Norma, the B. & G., Mammoth Bohemia, Overman and other properties continue without material change. Word was sent down from the Kennedy that several miners could obtain employment there and the demand was rapidly filled. It is reported that several of the mines in Lump gulch will resume operations again very soon, and looking to that desirable end the Little Nell has already ordered a carload of coal which is now being delivered at the mine. It is also rumored that the Union is about to declare the strike off, but we have not been able to trace this rumor down so that we can make the statement positively. We hope that such is the case, however, and that the sun of prosperity may shine a little on this community as well as on the balance of the world.

C. H. G. W. WRIGLEY.

The Young Man Who Intended to Buy Madison County Again Heard From.

Charles Herbert Gathorne Wimhurst Wrigley, who stirred up Madison county from center to circumference about a year ago, and who intended to buy up the whole county and turn it into a game reserve, has been again heard from, this time in Lewis and Clarke county. Wrigley, it will be remembered, while cutting his wide swath in this section left himself wide open by running away with a team and was sent up to the pen for one year. Shortly after his discharge he went to Helena where he shortened his name to Charles Gathorne Hardy. He forged a Helena merchant's to a check for \$14, pleaded guilty last Saturday and was sentenced to two years in the pen.

Some Dillon Matters.

Company E, N. G. M., held an election of officers last Monday evening in Armory hall. Capt. W. J. Crowell was re-elected captain; Paul P. Walsh was elected first lieutenant and Fred J. Bird was re-elected second lieutenant. The company is now thoroughly re-organized and numbers these commissioned officers and thirty-six enlisted men.

The winter term of the district court opens on the 14th. The docket is not very large, and few important civil and criminal cases will come to trial. On this account the term will probably be a short one.

The Masonic lodge will give its regular annual St. John's day ball this year. On account of St. John's day falling on Sunday this year, the ball will be given next day, Monday, Dec. 28. Invitations will be sent out this week.

C. R. Townsend, superintendent of the Polaris Mining Co., came down from the mine last week. He has seven 8-horse teams engaged hauling ore from the dump to the railroad, and shipments average from 15 to 18 car loads per month.—Dillon Examiner.

The Grand Republic 5 cent cigar at the post office.

For the news of Madison county take this paper.

Wanted.

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STATE BRIEFS.

S. P. Tunnell and H. G. Lee, ranchers residing on Mission creek, became involved in a quarrel while en route from Livingston to their homes last Sunday. During the row Tunnell pulled a gun and shot Lee in the right hip. Though badly wounded Lee crossed in on his assistant and finally took the gun away from him. Both men are over 60 years of age.

The Butte labor troubles involving Maguire's opera house have been amicably settled. Nat Goodwin opened the house Thursday evening.

No word has been received from Dave Bricker, the missing mining man of Butte.

W. F. Elger, a prominent Billings man, is dead.

County Attorney Parsell of Lewis and Clarke county, filed an information against Mrs. John W. Allen with murder in the first degree. Judge Blake ordered her to stand next Monday. Mrs. Allen, a few weeks ago, shot and killed her 14-year-old son in her home in Marysville and seriously wounded her husband.

The state board of pardons has confirmed the pardon of John B. Armand, announced by Governor Richards about a month ago. Armand was sent up from Yellowstone county in May, 1892, for horse stealing. He was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary.

Augustus W. Wilkins, a terrible and sudden death, died at Anaconda Monday under the wheels of a car while switching on the B. & P. railroad. In one Anaconda, B's legs were cut off, one at the ankle, the other above the knee. He died a few hours later.

Markets quotations.

Since the last quotations there has been no change in the market except as to grain and eggs. Oats are very scarce in the market and the wheat supply is not as large as usual. Prices have advanced slightly all around in grain and eggs. The following are the quotations:

Hay—The supply is well up to the demand. The following are the quotations: Timothy \$12.50; wild hay \$9 to \$10 alfalfa \$8 to \$9.

Grain—Wheat and corn are steady on the farm prices as follows: oats, 40¢; corn, 30¢; wheat, 80¢; barley, 50¢; rye, 40¢.

Vegetables—Onions are quoted at 40¢; cabbage, 10¢; parsnips, 15¢; potatoes, 10¢.

Eggs—The market is firm at 15¢ per dozen.

Butter—Creamery 25¢; choice country 24¢; cooking 15¢.

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