

FORTUNES IN GOLD LUMPS

Some Lucky Discoveries of Large and Valuable Nuggets.

RICH CHUNKS OF PRECIOUS METAL

Remarkable Finds in the Treasure Fields of America—How Some of the Golden Masses Were Unearthed—Early Days in Western Mines.

California has yielded many large and beautiful "nuggets" of gold, but for the size of her nuggets Australia leads the world, at least in modern times, and there is no record of the big finds of the miners of ancient times in the nugget line.

Though California has not produced very many nuggets of the great size of the largest found in Australia, says the San Francisco Chronicle, she has yielded an immense number of very large "chunks" of gold and pieces of curious and beautiful shapes, treasured by miners and others as "specimens," and often as prizes in the pieces called "chrispans."

Indeed California ranks as a coarse gold region; coarse gold is found in almost every camp in the state, whereas in many countries, even in most other places in the United States, nearly all the gold found is in the shape of fine dust or very small grains.

The first big lump of gold found in California created a great excitement among the miners. They at once began plying in imagination masses of gold larger than could be lifted by a dozen men. It was a common camp expression.

There were plenty of stories of men sitting down to starve by huge golden boulders rather than risk leaving their finds to go in search of transportation facilities.

The first nugget of sufficient size to create more than a mere local sensation was found by a young man who was a soldier in Stevenson's regiment. It is related that he found it in the Mokelumne river while in the act of taking a drink of the stream. The nugget weighed nearly twenty-five pounds.

The finder at once hastened to San Francisco with his prize, where he placed it in the hands of Colonel Mason for safe keeping. The big lump was sent to New York and placed on exhibition. It produced great excitement, and was probably the cause of many a man striking out for California.

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In 1850 at Corona, Tuolumne county, was found a gold quartz nugget which weighed ten pounds six ounces. Half a mile east of Columbia, Tuolumne county, near the Knapp ranch, a Mr. Strain found a nugget which weighed fifty pounds avoirdupois. It yielded \$8,500 when melted. In 1847 was found in Sullivan's creek, Tuolumne county, a nugget that weighed twenty-eight pounds avoirdupois.

In 1871 a nugget was found in Kanata creek, Sierra county, that weighed nearly six pounds. At Fattensack creek the same year a nugget weighing 106 pounds two ounces was found. A quartz boulder found in French gulch, Sierra county, in 1851, yielded \$8,000 in gold.

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Some years ago a Frenchman found a nugget of almost pure gold, worth over \$8,000, in Spring Gulch, Tuolumne county. The next day the man became insane. He was sent to the Stockton asylum, and the nugget was forwarded to the French consul at San Francisco, who sent its value to the family of the finder in France.

In 1854 a mass of gold was found at Columbia, Tuolumne county, weighing thirty pounds and yielding \$6,925. A Mr. Virginia found at Gold Hill, in the same county, a boulder of quartz weighing thirty-one pounds eight ounces, and when melted yielded \$6,500.

A gold quartz boulder found at Minnetonka, Sierra county, weighed twenty-two pounds and two ounces and yielded \$5,000.

In 1850 a nugget was found at French Gulch, in the same county, that weighed twenty-one pounds and eleven ounces and contained gold to the value of \$4,863.

In 1870 a nugget was found at Placer county, found in a quartz vein quartz boulder in the Polar Star hydraulic claim from which he obtained gold to the value of \$3,750.

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In 1855 a nugget weighing sixty pounds was found at Alleghany town, Sierra county. It was a mass of gold taken from a quartz vein. Several other large chunks were taken from the same mine, lumps of nearly pure gold weighing from one pound to ten and twelve pounds. These masses of gold were dug by Frank Cook (afterwards city marshal of Marysville) and others, his partners.

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In French Ravine, Sierra county, in 1853, there was found in the claim of a Missian named Smith a double nugget of almost pure gold. The largest of the two nuggets weighed fifty pounds, and connected with it by a sort of neck was a lump of gold that weighed fifteen pounds. In taking out the large nugget the two were broken apart. The large nugget yielded \$10,000 and the small one \$3,000.

In September, 1850, L. P. Wardell, now in Virginia City, found in Mad canon, on the middle fork of the American river, a nugget of solid gold weighing six ounces and one-half ounce, and round hole, and the finder made use of it in his cabin as a candlestick. It was, doubtless, the most valuable candlestick on the Pacific coast. After the nugget had been thus used so long that it was almost worn away, the owner, who sold it, grease and all, for \$300.

In the early days of placer mining in California colored miners were proverbially lucky. Companies of white men were always ready to take in a colored miner, as the colored man would bring them good luck. In 1858 a colored miner who was out on a prospecting trip found on the slope of Table mountain, Tuolumne county, a nugget that weighed thirty-five pounds avoirdupois and yielded \$7,000.

In a drift mine at Remington Hill, Nevada county, in 1856, the half of a smoothly washed boulder of gold quartz was found, which yielded \$4,672.50. The nugget was smooth on all the rounded sides, but rough on one side, that rough face. At the time the chunk was found it was remarked that the other half of the boulder might possibly be somewhere in the same claim.

In 1858 the owners of the mine had a hired man who was engaged for \$15 a month to dig for it. He found the other half, which weighed \$4,430.75, making a total for the whole boulder of \$9,103.25.

Near Sonora, Tuolumne county, in 1852, a nugget weighing fifty-five ounces and containing gold to the value of about \$3,000 was found. The finder had a friend who was far gone with consumption, yet was trying to work in the mines. The owner of the nugget saw that the man was in the water and lifting heavy boulders this man was fast killing himself.

He told his friend to take the big nugget and go back to the states and exhibit it, as at that time such a mass of native gold was so curiosity, to see which many would willingly pay a reasonable sum.

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THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS

Heavy Stocks of Wheat Pounded Prices Down Yesterday.

THAT CEREAL OPENED EXCEEDINGLY LOW

One of the heaviest sales by the Post-Office at St. Louis for wheat, and other Eastern Cereals—Stocks and Bonds.

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 12.—A big club to pound prices was what the heavy stocks of wheat proved yesterday. The market opened exceedingly low for the wheat and other Eastern cereals, and notwithstanding a rally on decreasing receipts and on bullish news from abroad the cereal closed with a loss of 1/8c. Corn and other cereals were mostly unchanged, but buying for pork was active and caused a rise of 1/4c. in the close to show a gain of 1/8c. and 1/4c. respectively.

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The pressure of the heaviest offerings on the market with trade dull and narrow was most demoralizing. Later there was a substantial rally on the advance in the closing cables and the market closed with a gain of 1/4c. for wheat and 1/8c. for other cereals.

The leading futures are as follows:

Table with columns: WHEAT, CORN, OATS, RYE, BARLEY, SUGAR, COFFEE, INDIGO, SERRAVALLO, PEPPER, CLOVE, CINNAMON, GINSENG, GUM ARABIC, CAFFEINE, VANILLA, RICE, WAX, COTTON, SUEZ CANAL, RAILROADS, STEAMSHIPS.

The stock market was dull and weak, with a general decline in prices. The leading stocks were down 1/4c. to 1/2c. The bond market was steady, with a slight advance in prices.

The market for gold and silver was quiet. The price of gold was unchanged at 150.00 per ounce. The price of silver was up 1/4c. to 56.00 per ounce.

The market for foreign exchange was active. The rate for London was 4.85 per \$100. The rate for Paris was 163.00 per 100 francs.

The market for oil and other commodities was quiet. The price of oil was unchanged at 12.00 per barrel. The price of sugar was up 1/4c. to 10.00 per cwt.

The market for wool and other commodities was quiet. The price of wool was unchanged at 20.00 per lb. The price of cotton was up 1/4c. to 15.00 per lb.

The market for grain and other commodities was quiet. The price of grain was unchanged at 1.00 per bushel. The price of other commodities was up 1/4c. to 5.00 per cwt.

The market for stock and other commodities was quiet. The price of stock was unchanged at 100.00 per share. The price of other commodities was up 1/4c. to 5.00 per cwt.

The market for bond and other commodities was quiet. The price of bond was unchanged at 100.00 per \$100. The price of other commodities was up 1/4c. to 5.00 per cwt.

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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1892.

MAKING UP THE OMAHA

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