

Mohave County Miner.

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A Field of Treasure.

The Cape Nome gold fields are proving themselves worth notice, despite the many disappointing reports that have come from there. Next season will probably witness one of the greatest of stampedes to the district that has occurred yet in the history of the Alaskan gold excitement. Better reports are coming on every steamer and according to many who came down on the Roanoke it is not only a rich country, but it is one of the most remarkable gold regions ever discovered. Whether the drawbacks to the country will prove more than an offset to the auriferous richness cannot be demonstrated before another season. Of the remarkable things of which the Nome district is made up none exceed, perhaps, in wonder and interest the rich strip of beach which pans out gold in abundance for a distance of thirty miles or more. To add to the interest in this rich strip of ground the federal authorities in charge there have so far refused to allow any recording of claims on it. It is a merry go-as-you-please, with as much freedom of action as a lot of Siwasches in a huckleberry patch. Every miner is entitled to go to work wherever there is room for his rocker to rest, as long as the ground is not actually occupied by another.

Good for miners. A miner sets his rocker down and goes to digging. Another miner comes along and sets his rocker down and goes to work in a new hole. Thus the beach is occupied for a long distance, and as soon as a miner has worked out his first hole with a small piece of ground around him, he picks up his rocker and moves up to another unoccupied piece of ground. It is proving a god-send to the poor devil of a miner who reaches there broke and dispirited, and if for nothing else, the miners are calling down blessings upon the heads of the authorities.

Conservative miners who were talked with today and who do not own any interest in the Cape Nome country say it is rich. Some of the stories of rich cleanups and a big day's washings may be a little colored, but it is not intentional. It is a rich country, but from what the conservative miners say, the Lord never made a more desperate or more trying country for a civilized man to get into. The gold bearing sand is found in a huge drift above the line of the present high tide and between that point and the tundra embankment. The drift is ten, twenty, thirty and as high as sixty feet in width. It is in the form of a drift and runs along the length of the shore for a really unknown distance. The tundra bank is probably, on the average, ten feet high. Then comes the rich strip of drift and then a gradually sloping sand beach covering the distance between high and low tides and practically free gold.

Gold bearing drift. How the gold-bearing drift got there is conjecture. The most plausible theory seems to be that it is only the washed portion of the gold-bearing tundra, washed by the natural action of the waves lashing against the tundra embankment and gradually, in the course of ages, washing them away. The surface of the drift is a bed of unproductive sand for a foot or eighteen inches and then comes pay dirt that is in the aggregate about the same in depth. This rests on a bedrock of blue clay or rock. Miners with rockers make 10¢ to 15¢ a day and in many cases as high as 25¢ and 50¢ a day. Of the several hundred men working the beach very few but make good money. There is already a move on the part of some men to upset the regulations of the government. They are attempting to have the minerals laws applied so that a single miner can locate on so much of the beach strip. Several miners came down on the Roanoke with the expressed intention of accomplishing this object. The strip reserved is sixty feet wide from the high water meander line as defined by the officials. This width makes the reservation extend back as a general thing to the tundra. The rich gravel is not always of this width and in the aggregate is not probably over twenty feet wide.—Alaska Mining Record.

Electric Power in Mining.

Edward Bellamy in his "Looking Backward" saw many exhibitions of electric power, which are now so common that they fail to excite even more than a passing glance, or command more than a moment's thought. It is now in the power of those who have the means at command to gratify their desires, and add to their comfort, to touch a "batton" at their bedside in the morning, light their kitchen fire, heat their dressing room, dispell the darkness from their apartments, awaken servants and attendants and, within a few minutes, enjoy an artistically cooked breakfast, and ride to his place of business upon an automobile, without the scent of coal smoke upon his raiment or the suspicion of dust upon his electrically brushed shoes, hat and coat.

What electricity has done and is doing in man's domestic economy, it is doing, or may, do in simplifying and facilitating operations in mine, mill, sampling and reduction works. What is being done in that direction is thus spoken of by Thomas Tonge in his contribution to the Mining and Engineering Journal. He said: "Cripple Creek is, perhaps, the only gold mining district in the world where a miner can go to his work in an electric street car, descend the mine in an electric hoist, keep his mine dry by an electric pump, do his work by an electric light, run drills operated by electric air compressors (possibly, in time to be superceded by direct electric drills) and fire his shots by electricity from a switchboard remote from the point of explosion."

The directions in which electric power may be effectively employed in mining cannot yet be hardly approximately measured or pointed out. If an electric hoist can take a man to his underground level, and an electric air compressor operate his drills, why can not an electric shot break the rock, an electric appliance dump it into the electric hoist, an electric engine raise it to the surface to be carried by electric power to reduction works run by electricity? Legitimate speculations upon what electric power may do in mining operations is a waste of ink or words, for we are living in a day and generation when "truth is stranger than fiction."

An exchange intimates that in the Cripple Creek district the use of electric power effects a saving of 15 to 50 per cent, according to the location and conditions of the mine. Electric power is revolutionizing the Cripple Creek mining industry in reducing expenses, increasing profits, and making low grade ores available which, hitherto, were discarded as incapable of being treated at a profit. What electric power has done for Cripple Creek, it may do for every other mining center or camp in the great northwest. And it will be done in the not distant future.—Western Mining World.

Had Ability to Spare.

A person recently inserted in a trade journal an advertisement for a first-class bookkeeper with irreproachable references and superior ability as an all around office manager. The salary offered, \$3 a week, attracted but one applicant, who wrote as follows:

"I am a young man, thirty-seven years of age, having had a business experience of twenty-three years, being connected with the United States Embassy at Madagascar, and feel confident, if you will give me a trial, I can prove my worth to you. I am not only an expert bookkeeper and proficient stenographer and typewriter, excellent operator and erudite college graduate, but have several other accomplishments which might make me desirable. I am an experienced snow shoveler, a first class peanut roaster, have some knowledge of removing superfluous hair and clipping puppy dog's ears, have a medal for reciting "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," am a skilled chiropodist and practical farmer; can also cook, take care of horses, crease trousers, open oysters and repair umbrellas; being

possessed of great physical beauty, I would not only be useful but would be ornamental as well, lending to the sacred precincts of your office that delightful artistic charm that a Sattsuma vase or a stuffed billy goat would. As to salary, I would feel I was robbing the widow and swiping the sponge cake from the orphan if I were to take advantage of your munificence by accepting the too fabulous sum of \$3 per week, and I would be entirely willing to give you my services for less, and by accepting 1.37¢ per week would give you an opportunity of not only increasing your donation to the church, pay your butcher and keep up your life insurance, but also found a home for indigent fly-paper salesman and endow a free bed in the cat house."

It is not generally known that Arizona has the most liberal incorporation laws in the United States. Even in New Jersey, which is apparently the mecca of incorporators, the laws in point of scope and liberality are not a circumstance compared to the Arizona creation. Were this fact widely advertised to the commercial world we would be flooded with incorporation concerns seeking to operate under the Arizona laws. In New Jersey and some eastern states the contemplation of the incorporation laws cover only the business or object specifically stated in the incorporation. In other words the limits are prescribed and the business of the incorporation restricted to the one particular line of mercantile or other business pursuits it seeks to engage in. There is also a yearly charter tax to be paid to the state and many legal requirements to be observed during the life of the incorporation, and one of which, if violated, renders the charter null.—Prospector.

General Mining News

The greatest flood ever known in Mineral Creek occurred last Saturday morning doing serious damage at the Ray camp, says the Silver Belt. The Ray Company lost about 2,000¢ worth of lumber and supplies, and a frame building owned and occupied by a Chinese restaurant keeper was washed away. The Chinaman also lost 250¢ in cash, which he had left in the house.

Probably the oldest mining camp in the United States, that is still under progressive operation, is that of the Dahlonega mines in Georgia, where gold has been mined for the past 75 years. As far as the records show these mines have produced about 16,000,000¢, and there is no telling how much more. Under the operation of modern machinery there may be unearthed many fortunes from these Georgia hills for the miner of the future.

W. H. Sexton was in from the Old Boot in the Silver Belt district yesterday. He says there are 300 people in the camp. The Neilson company are putting up a store building. There are three smelters on the claim which takes up 130 tons of copper ore daily. The haul is twenty-five miles to Red Rock and at certain seasons a cut off can be taken which will reduce the distance to twenty-two miles. The camp is prosperous and only one saloon is in sight. Mr. Sexton will return this morning. Some years ago he manipulated the type in the Star office. He has been doing quite well for a year past, holding a responsible position most of the time.—Tucson Star.

Henry B. Clifford telephoned to the Journal-Miner last evening that the fires in the furnace of the Big Bog smelter, under lease to the Arizona, Eastern and Montana Company, were lighted on Wednesday afternoon. The bins contain a large amount of ore, and ore is arriving there rapidly every day from different mining districts. Since the above company took charge of the smelter, the machinery has all been overhauled, under orders from Mr. Clifford, the furnaces relined and put in good condition and everything gives promise of a successful run. Daniel G. Jewett is metallurgist for

the company, and the machinery department is in charge of Frank Raymond, an experienced engineer and machinist. The success of this enterprise means the circulation in this section of a large amount of money which has heretofore been sent abroad for the reduction of ore.—Journal-Miner.

Information received from Clifton conveys the welcome news that collector of internal revenue Chas. M. Shannon, of Clifton, and Gen. Hughes, the latter of Denver, have sold their group of copper claims on Chase creek, seven miles above Clifton. The expert who is now on the ground with Thompson and Sholter, and who spent two weeks making an extended examination of the properties, says they are the finest in the Rocky Mountain region, better even than the Arizona's holdings. The purchasers are the Thompson Development Company of New York and Butte, Montana, and the price paid is nearly a million and a half dollars. The purchasers include Holter, the mining man of Butte, Montana. The company will erect very extensive works on the river near Morenci.—Tucson Star.

The Constellation.—The meeting of the board of directors of the above company was held in Salt Lake this week and an assessment of one and one-half cents per share was levied. It was decided at this meeting to push development and allow no further cessation of work. The same gold ledge that is in the Silver King and Thunderer runs through this property, and the first work done by Manager Sutton will be to push the drift, which is already in from the shaft nearly 1,000 feet, to cut the ledge which will undoubtedly show up big, for values obtained from the same ledge on the surface showed well in gold. Besides this there is a rich silver-lead vein running through the property, and development is all that is required to make this one of the biggest and richest properties in the camp. There has been a vast amount of work on the Constellation, and a great portion of it has been done single handed by Mr. Sutton, who has always had absolute faith in the property. During the first past years 27,000¢ has been expended, 2,000 feet of first-class tunnel has been driven, and a 300-foot double compartment shaft sunk. The company has a latest improved 35-horse power engine, and all necessary buildings. The group consists of seven patented claims, and six adjoining claims are controlled by the company. All in all the Constellation is a valuable property, and with the determination of the directors to push developments it will only be a

matter of a short time before the stockholders will have just cause to rejoice.—The Park (Utah) Record.

Owing to the large use of paint this year, the price of lead, to the great satisfaction of miners of carbonate and sulphide of lead ores in this district is holding up at 4.40¢ per 100 pounds, broker's price, while the correct price that the miner should receive is 4.00¢ per hundred, the indications are now that the price will go to 4.50¢ per hundred, the highest quotation reached since 1895. It seems an outrage that miners should be compelled to accept the arbitrary price fixed by the New York ring. Should the price of lead and zinc spelter keep up, the outlook for the Leadville district is quite rosy, as extensive bodies of these ores are opened up, and facilities for mining, transportation and smelting, large amounts can be mined and shipped. A golden harvest should be reaped by the miners of these metals, which will add to the general prosperity of the district.—Leadville Miner.

The new cyanide plant at the Fortuna mine is working perfectly and is handling 150 tons of tailings per day. Eighty-five per cent of the assay values is saved with a net profit of at least eighty per cent. It will require over two years' time for the cyanide plant to catch up with the mill which is working eighty tons of ore per day. The working shaft of the mine is now 800 feet deep and the ore at that depth is the same value and quality as that found in the upper levels. La Fortuna is one of the deepest free milling gold mines in the world and has made a wonderful record, which it promises to maintain. The only drawback to this wonderful wealth producer is the fact that wood is getting scarce in that vicinity and the fuel question is a serious problem that will soon have to be solved. The management is now investigating the proposition of using crude oil. The question of transportation is the only obstacle and that may be partly overcome by pumping the oil from Blaisdell station, a distance of eighteen miles across the desert.—Yuma Sun.

An exchange says that after October 1 all travelers across the White Mountain Apache reservation, under a penalty of 1,000¢ fine, must be provided with a passport, signed by an official of the department of the interior, superintendent, agent or sub-agent of Indian affairs, or by an officer of the United States army commanding the first military post on the frontier. The penalty is to work as well against all who shall overstay the time limit of the passport secured. Every passport shall indicate the object of travel, the route to be pursued, and the time the person is to remain.

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