

## AMONG THE MINES.

### A Visit to the Mining Camps of Southwest Pinal.

A couple of weeks ago two representatives of THE OASIS made a round of the mining camps in Pinal county lying to the south and west of Arizona. In three days' time they travelled more than 100 miles, visited several busy camps, were everywhere cordially received and right royally entertained, saw much that was interesting and a great deal that is new, and returned home with a high idea of the mineral resources of that part of the county. The first camp visited was that of the

#### REWARD MINE

where Mr. D. Saunders, the local manager, who had but recently returned from Boston, showed the visitors over the property imparting a great deal of valuable information.

This camp lies about thirty miles southwest of Arizona, has been the scene of a great deal of effective work. In the claims held and operated by the Reward company are several large ledges extending through a hill, cropplings showing on both sides. The ledges lie between lime and porphyry, and the development done to date has all been upon one ledge, in which some 1200 feet of workings have developed a large block of ore, ready for stoping, that conservatively estimates place at 8,000 tons. The ore is copper, much of it running forty to fifty per cent and carrying twenty ounces in silver to the ton. On the dump was a large pile of ore from which \$3,000 worth of high grade ore had been assorted and shipped. The second-class ore remaining averages thirteen per cent copper and twenty ounces in silver. The ores are carbonates and oxides of copper carrying silver and sufficient iron for fluxing. The carbonates are particularly fine, very large and beautiful crystals of malachite being present in great masses. A large block of dressed malachite, weighing about 800 pounds, has been sent to the World's Fair and will doubtless prove an interesting feature in the Arizona mineral exhibit.

A thirty-ton water-jacket smelter has been erected on the property, and is all in readiness for operation as soon as the necessary water supply has been assured. Water development is being pushed with vigor. Mr. Quigg is boring a well that at the time of this visit was at a depth of 750 feet. When last tested, at a depth of 550 feet, it gave a daily discharge of 10,000 gallons. The quantity needed, which it is believed will be shown at the next test, now soon to be made, is 25,000 gallons daily, and as soon as that is assured the furnace will be blown in and shipments of bullion will begin.

The Reward Mining Co., owning this property, is a Boston corporation of which Mr. Halbert Poor is president, and Mr. Henry M. Rogers is the treasurer. Mr. D. E. Saunders, the manager, is also a director. Mr. Robert Hughes is the foreman. The next place visited was the

#### VEKOL MINE

which is located about ten miles from the Reward, and is but a couple of miles south of Table Mountain. This place was reached at evening, and the visitors were made welcome and at home by the superintendent, Mr. D. D. DeNure, and his accomplished lady. The next morning Mr. DeNure and his foreman, Mr. P. R. Brady, Jr., very kindly showed the scribe through the mine, at the same time imparting a great deal of interesting information.

The history of the Vekol is widely known in Southern Arizona, and its reputation as a bullion producer is of a high rank. It was located about

nine years ago by J. D. Walker, then of Florence but now deceased, and is owned by his estate and his surviving brother, Lucien E. Walker of Pasadena, California. At present the property is in litigation, and no more work is being done than is necessary to keep everything in good order and pay the cost of doing so. The ore is assorted and the high grade shipped, about one car load per month going out. The last shipment yielded \$173 per ton in silver. The second class ore is piled on the dump and in the mine. Of this there is now accumulated about \$200,000 worth that will run from thirty to sixty ounces in silver per ton. When the litigation involving the property is terminated a smelter will be erected to reduce this ore, and work in the mine will doubtless be resumed on a former scale, when more than 100 men were employed under ground. Now there are only fifteen men employed—all told.

There is a fine twenty stamp mill on the property that has extracted more than \$1,500,000 worth of silver from Vekol ores. Since then the character of the ore has changed and it now carries zinc and lead, making it rebellious and requiring smelting.

In the Vekol are about fifteen miles of underground workings. A great deal of ore is yet in place and can be stoped out for reduction when it is wanted. There still remains a vast amount of virgin ground where the little work now being done continually uncovers new ore bodies. The formation is a contact between lime and tale, which the ore chambers occur in the tale.

The necessary water is supplied by a bored well about 500 feet deep, which yields all that is needed at the camp and mine, beside a surplus that is piped to a rancho down in a valley two miles away, and supplies all the needs of a thousand head of cattle. Leaving the Vekol the visitors returned to the Reward, thence across the valley in an easterly direction to the new

#### GOLD CAMP

Here was presented a scene of life and animation that was attractive and inspiring. Here two mining companies are vigorously prosecuting operations. They have a store that is doing a good business under the capable management of Mr. Frank Higgins, representing the Walter C. Hadley Company of New Mexico. Mr. Higgins is very recently from Lake Valley, N. M., where he was a number of years in the same employ. A new post office named Otis has recently been established, and is served with a tri-weekly mail. The new mill of the

#### MAMMON GOLD MINING CO.

was started on the fifteenth of April on a test run. The mill is of twenty stamps and has two Perfected concentrators and amalgamating pans. The ore is taken from a large ledge, a true fissure in slate, and is free milling gold rock. Development work has uncovered a large body of this ore, which, should the test run prove satisfactory, will keep the mill at work night and day for many months, and the ground yet to be explored is practically without limit.

Water for all purposes is pumped from a well some two miles away in the valley below. An ample supply is realized, and there is a surplus which the company working the adjoining property is arranging to buy.

An assay office had been established with Mr. W. R. Fulgham in charge, and at the time of the visit that gentleman was arranging his establishment and had lighted the fire in his furnace.

Of the Mammon Gold Mining Company Mr. T. G. Congdon of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is president, and Mr. Walter C. Hadley of Hadley, New Mexico, is manager. The local representative of the company at Otis is Mr. T. C. Carey, formerly at the Lake

Valley mines in New Mexico. The property adjoining is owned and operated by the

#### GOLD HILLS MINING COMPANY

which is represented by its general manager, Mr. H. J. Rodman. The president of the company is Mr. Landon D. H. Kinsell of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Rodman (who is an old newspaper man) was pushing work with a vim and energy productive of results. In its ground the company has several ledges of free milling gold ore, the vein matter lying between slate and granite, and well defined. One ledge is forty feet in width, another sixty-seven. Development work has uncovered a large body of ore that has given excellent results. A five stamp mill (dry crushing process) has just been completed, and contains four patent concentrators and a patent amalgamator. Arrangements have been made to buy water from the Mammon company, and as soon as the necessary connections have been made the mill will be started.

A well has been sunk to a depth of 368 feet, but it does not supply quite the entire amount of water necessary for continuous operation of the mill. As stated above water will be bought from the Mammon to supply the deficiency. In boring the well a small water vein was cut at a depth of 300 feet. At 404 feet the drill cut a gold ledge twenty feet through. Some of the slugs brought up by the sand pump were horned and yielded largely of free gold. Several sacks of the dried slugs were preserved to be treated at some convenient time.

At the Gold Camp are several Casa Grande and Arizona people. Mr. J. L. Stowe of Arizona and John Reiss of Casa Grande, are employed by the Gold Hill company, and at the well in the valley Mr. G. E. Angano is butchering for the camp. In the immediate vicinity Mr. Mayhew is developing a gold property on which he is reported to have a very fine prospect. The second night's stop was made at

#### THE JACK RABBIT MINE

where Mr. David Gibson did the honors in right royal style, in which he was ably seconded by Mr. Fred Rother. Messrs. Gibson and Heller (everyone in Arizona knows them) and one of the visitors were old soldiers, and the evening was pleasantly passed in swapping yarns of army life.

Here the principal mine, which gives the camp its name—the Jack Rabbit—is the property of the estate of General Tuttle of Iowa, recently deceased, and pending the settlement of the estate the mine is closed down. It has yielded very richly, and when matters are satisfactorily arranged and operation resumed it will again take high rank as a bullion producer. There is a good mill on the property, but to be operated to advantage it would need a steam hoist and a Cornish pump.

In the vicinity of the Jack Rabbit are several very promising properties. The Kron mine, owned by Mr. Jacob Kron of Casa Grande, was bonded to General Tuttle, and is tied up by the unsettled condition of his estate. Its ores are rich in silver and with present developments the property is very promising. Mr. George Aitchison has a very promising silver ledge bonded to Mr. F. Bodfish, who is on the ground and doing development work under the terms of the bond. Mr. Charles Peterson is working a promising silver ledge from which some very rich ore has been taken. Jim Seng, a Casa Grande Chinaman, has a very promising gold ledge on which considerable development work has been done, and that has yielded some very good ore. The district contains numerous other promising prospects that will receive attention at another time.

The foregoing by no means includes everything in the country visited, but it is sufficient to enable the reader to reach a just estimate of the mineral

resources of this part of Pinal county. The trip described was one of pleasure and profit to those making it, and they returned to Arizona highly gratified with their journey and the generous hospitality shown them.

#### Huge Brands and Hides Sold

The Tucson Star of a recent date quotes the Lehigh Review as asserting that Arizona hides are likely to be thrown out of the market altogether, owing to their deterioration with large brands, larger than those of any other cattle region in the United States.

Hides sold in Arizona contain the star, being an irregularly shaped piece. This is caused by the Mexicans as a rule, and it is plenty for the market, and in former times they are frequently seen with great brands, a foot or more square, and are thrown aside as worthless.

It may be that as cattle are sold alive in Arizona usually, principally the hide is no consideration, yet it is an important factor that the brands be not large, as hides will then sell readily when large brands might result in no sale whatever. The hide is worth consideration, a fact the cattle buyer does not overlook.

J. W. Canning, the harness maker, says that hides with large brands are practically worthless for harness leather. The large brands are on the side, in the best part of the hide, and spoil all cutting of long pieces. A roll of leather half the sides of which have brands, and not necessarily large ones, is worth \$14 less than our unblemished.

In sole leather the brands are practically worthless, nothing being given for them.

#### A Rich Return

Elsewhere is an allusion to an alfalfa field on the rancho of Colonel D. S. Thomas, and its remarkable yield. Since that item was put into type the full details of the production are at hand, and are sufficient to justify a more extended notice.

The field noted includes ten acres, and was seeded in alfalfa last year, yielding three cuttings for the season. About three weeks ago the first cutting for the present season was taken off. Of this there were thirty-one loads of cured hay, an average load of which weighed 1930 pounds on the scale, a total for the field of 59,830 lbs., or almost thirty tons—three tons per acre. At \$8 per ton the value of the crop is \$24 per acre; cost of cutting, \$3; net \$21. Then the field was put to pasture, carrying four head per acre for six months at \$1 per head, bringing the revenue to \$45 for the season. To the beginning of the next season will be four months more of pasturage, worth \$10 per acre, raising the total to \$55. Deduct \$1.25 per acre for water service, and \$1.80 for care, and the result is a net return of \$51.95 per acre. Land that will duplicate this, may be bought here for \$25 to \$50 per acre.

#### Land and Water Rights

At the recent term of court in Graham county Judge Kibbey rendered a decision which is important to all settlers on Arizona lands: A sold to B a piece of land and a ditch which was taken out of a stream up a canyon. The land sold had been fenced and cultivated several years and transferred from one person to another without being filed on in the land office. After A sold out to B he went up the canyon, filed on other ground, took out a ditch above the old one and converted the water to his own use, to the damage of B. The latter sued to restrain him. The court held that the right to appropriate water is incident only to the right to the land itself, and that those who have initiated or consummated a right to the land through the United States land laws have a right to the water superior to that of those who, though in possession of the land, have not initiated such right. The finding of the court was for the defendant.