

THE FLOURISHING "RAND" GOLD MINING DISTRICT

Several Weeks' Investigation by a Special Correspondent of The Herald

A YEAR'S SPLENDID DEVELOPMENT

Great Progress in Mining and Milling

ALSO IN WATER SUPPLY

Good Openings for Investment of Money

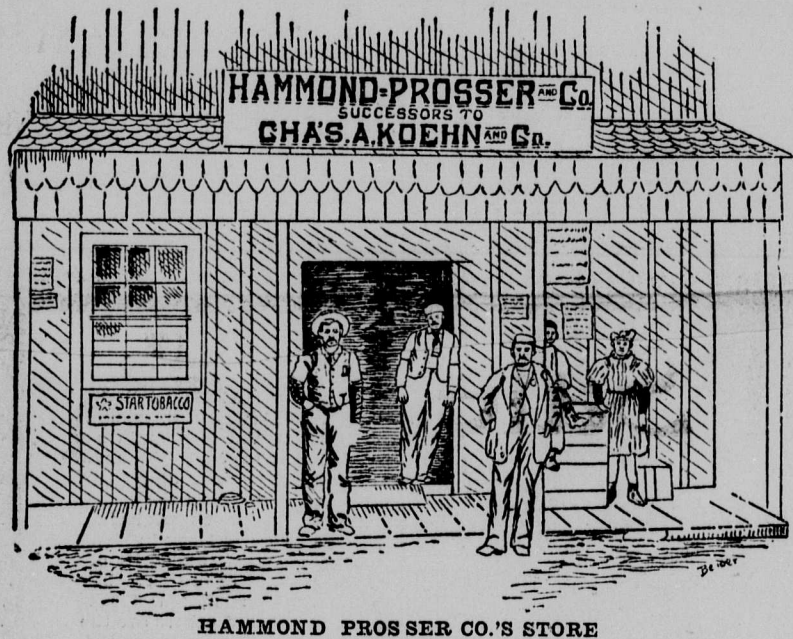
RAPID GROWTH OF RANDSBURG

ITS BUSINESS AND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

Approaching Completion of the Randburg and Kramer Railroad—How It Will Effect the Twin Cities

Just one year ago the writer was detailed to investigate the mining resources of Randburg, now better known as the "Rand district," comprising Randburg and Johannesburg. After a week's careful observation and examination of the few large mining properties then being actively developed, the result was given to readers of The Herald in as concise and practical a form as possible, which has been commended ever since for its accuracy at least.

A similar duty now devolves upon the writer, and in view of the fact that ma-



HAMMOND PROSSER CO.'S STORE

terial development has taken place in business as well as mining, milling and water interests, during the past year, all "glittering generalities" and superfluous remarks must necessarily be eliminated in order to give, in the limited space allotted for that purpose, as comprehensive and intelligent a presentation of facts and figures as possible.

Randsburg is now in a similar condition to that of a popular race horse, which has just got its second wind in an exciting race and is heading for the goal, with excellent prospects of reaching it successfully. The Klondike fever may have contributed to the temporary cessation in active development of mining properties in this section during the past six months, but it is a fact worthy of special note that only one mine owner left Randsburg for the Eldorado of the



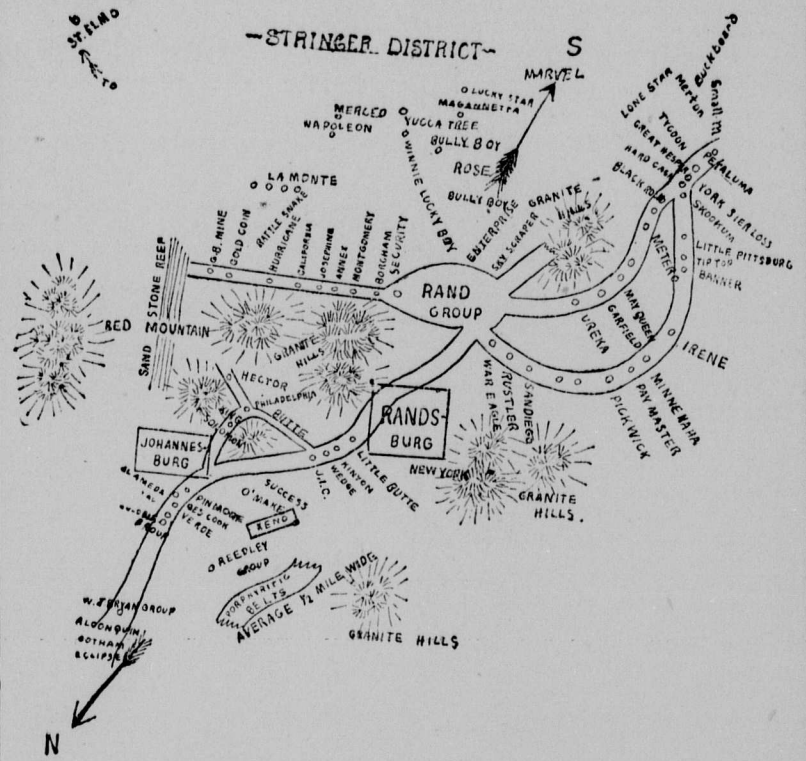
A RANDSBURG STREET SCENE

frozen north during that time, and he went because he was offered strong inducements to go.

REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

A brief review of the progress of the "Rand district" during the past year makes a very creditable showing. In mining operations there has been a marked development of the leading old claims, as will be shown elsewhere—and many others, in this and the new district of Johannesburg, have come prominently to the front, which were unknown a year ago. Up to the present time the Rand group, the pioneer mines of the district, have produced over \$100,000, and under very adverse circum-

In water development the situation is very encouraging. As will be seen in the Johannesburg article, water is now furnished by the Johannesburg Milling and Water company to the entire district, as may be required, for domestic and other purposes. The supply is abundant and the quality is good. E. M. Skilling hauls water six miles northeast of Randburg from his wells to the ridge near the Butte mine, where it is piped to a tank in town, and from there hauled again in wagons. It is confidently anticipated by the Johannesburg Milling and



PRINCIPAL ORE BELTS AND CLAIMS, RAND DISTRICT

Water company that ere long all the water needed to operate mills for this district will be obtained.

With water will come mills, or reduction works—one naturally follows the other. The Rand Mining company has leased the Visalia mill at Garlock, have increased its capacity from five to ten stamps and have doubled the well facilities to obtain sufficient water for the enlarged mill. Garlock mills as yet operate the bulk of Rand district ores. A reduction works that cost \$20,000 (Wood's automatic dry concentrator and crusher) is now in operation on the Alameda mine, Johannesburg. Slight imperfections in the crusher will soon be remedied, then it is contemplated to do custom work. Another substantial ten-stamp mill that will require 30,000 gallons of water every twenty-four hours is in process of construction at Johannesburg. (See article on that town on next page.) The milling done at Cuddeback lake, a five-stamp mill, is highly satisfactory, the only objection to that mill, like the Garlock mills, being the distance. Milling at Garlock costs from \$3 to \$8 per ton, at Cuddeback lake \$5 per ton. The hauling to both mills costs from \$1.75 to \$3, according to distance and the character of the roads.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS

The geological formations of the Rand district are principally schist, porphyry and granite or syenite (altered granite), the latter showing peculiar slate features, being in many places in thin horizontal layers. The ore on that town on next page.) The milling done at Cuddeback lake, a five-stamp mill, is highly satisfactory, the only objection to that mill, like the Garlock mills, being the distance. Milling at Garlock costs from \$3 to \$8 per ton, at Cuddeback lake \$5 per ton. The hauling to both mills costs from \$1.75 to \$3, according to distance and the character of the roads.

THE J. I. C. EXCELSIOR AND BIG WEDGE

These are a group situated north of the Butte, Wedge and Kinyon mines. An



"HARD CASH" MINE

ble depth, to change to base ore, an encouraging sign in the opinion of mineralogists, as it indicates that large bodies of ore exist below.

This district presents so many features peculiar to itself and differing greatly from those of any other mining section of California that it is a puzzle to old-time miners. But the more they investigate the mines the more convinced they become of the great wealth of ore stored in the bowels of the earth. Carping critics have ceased to "bellow like the bull of Bashan," as some of them did a year ago, regarding the poor outlook for gold strikes in this district.

MINING OPERATIONS

By the annexed map, which shows a number of porphyritic belts and the principal claims thereon, it will be seen that the Rand group, the point of first discovery of ore, is given prominent space. This is done on account of the prevalent opinion that Rand mountain is what might be termed the backbone (mineralogically speaking) of the district. It was on the Rand mine of this group that Mr. Moores and his associates, C. A. Burcham and John Singleton, struck the first ore found in the district. This was on October 22, 1895, and the chunk was worth \$75. Since then, the Rand group has paid handsome revenues to its owners and the writer regrets that he is debarred, by special request of the company, from giving any statistical data at the present time.

THE WEDGE MINE

Is popularly known as a triangular piece of ground but in reality is a four-sided claim with the end lines parallel and situated in the heart of the high-grade ore district of Randburg. The vein is of an average dip of 50 degrees to the northeast with the strike running about 20 degrees west of north. The development work consists of a shaft 415 feet deep and levels at 15 feet, 165 feet, 215 feet and 315 feet distant from the mouth of the shaft. Work now is being

done at the 215 foot level where a distance has been run on the west of 75 feet and on the east of 40 feet. The intention is to continue this level and others below it till the end lines are reached. Practically all the ore milled up to date has come from above the 165-foot level, no "stoping" of any kind having been done below that level. The 315-foot level has been driven only about 25 feet east and west of the shaft and some high-grade ore was encountered in this level, also, at a point 50 feet below this level and at a distance 305 feet down the shaft. At the bottom the vein is well defined, although narrow. While the production of the mine so far has been nearly \$100,000 not one-tenth of the vein has been "stoped." An interesting geological occurrence, i. e., the splitting of the main ledge on this hill has taken place on the Wedge claim, one section of the vein

ership, it was not being worked. A little over three months ago it was bonded by a Montana mining man named Wilson, who at once proceeded to work it in a proper way and put the mine on its feet. It is situated in what is known as Fiddler's Gulch. The vein is in diatritic rock, with a streak of white quartz near the hanging wall, showing free gold throughout. Most of the vein matter is a crushed quartz mixed with talc, also rich in gold.

THE KINYON

This is one of the greatest producers of ore in the Rand district. At least \$80,000 worth of gold has been taken out during the past two years, and, as Mr. Kinyon, sr., and the sons said to the writer, "The Kinyon is not for sale." Unfortunately, after several attempts between the blasts to get down the shaft, the writer was compelled to defer his visit into the mine until some more opportune time.

THE LITTLE BUTTE MINE

This adjoins the Kinyon on the north and is a valuable mining property. After making an appointment with Mr. E. Lee Allen, the manager, to go through the mine, several attempts were made by the writer to meet him at the mine for that purpose, but unsuccessfully. The main shaft is down 355 feet, and drifting is in progress thence, both ways, in a vein of good ore. At the 380-foot level of the above shaft a 2-foot vein of the richest ore taken out was struck a few days ago.

THE RAND MOUNTAIN MINES

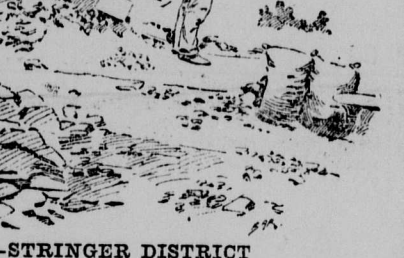
This property comprises five claims belonging to the Rand Mountain Mining company of Los Angeles. They are: The Colorado Wedge No. 1, Colorado Wedge No. 2, the Twin Brothers, Lillian B., and Bald Eagle. They lie to the east of the Big Rand mountain and a short distance south from Randburg. The five claims cover an area of about 60 acres, and their location is conceded to be one of the best in this camp. The company is incorporated, with a capital of \$1,000,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of \$1 each.

Work was begun on these mines about the first of last July, and at the present time they have a shaft down in the Colorado Wedge No. 1 nearly 200 feet, and are deepening at the rate of from three to four feet a day. They intend to keep on sinking down to a depth of 250 feet.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS

The Tip Top, owners, Ed Hammond, Max Skinner and Claude Bohannon; two miles southwest from Randburg; shaft 50 feet deep, six-foot ledge, runs \$10 up to several hundred dollars per ton.

Pioneer—Garfield & St. Michael; bonded October 9 to Messrs. Wilshire and Blaisdell of Los Angeles for \$15,000; contract let for 50-foot shaft; four men



WINNIE MINES—STRANGER DISTRICT

and being developed in the King Solomon mine, one-half of a mile to the east.

The Tarantula, Bradbury, Louise Prevost, Providence and Lonely Turtle are promising claims adjoining the Hard Cash, Skookum, etc., in a section that is heavily mineralized. L. W. Beach, Ed. Obleigh and George Toedt, all of Randburg, are the owners. Mr. Beach was on the staff of the Evening Express, Los Angeles, for years as reporter and afterwards conducted the Mount Lowe Echo, South Spring street. He says he has "struck a good thing."

The New York, on part of townsite north, is owned by J. Montgomery, H. C. Winchell and several other gentlemen. It has a 50 and 35-foot shaft.

The Paymaster, north and parallel with Minnehaha, is owned by S. J. Montgomery and E. B. McGinnis. It has a two-foot ledge, a 40-foot and 50-foot tunnel, a 20-foot shaft and an open cut. Eleven hundred dollars worth of ore has been taken out and milled so far, at Kane Springs.

The Dyke, adjoining the Meteor, owners J. C. Brown and M. Page Minor, Williams, Ariz., and C. H. Belcher, Garlock, on same ledge as Meteor; 16 feet wide in tunnel.

Philadelphia Wedge, owners C. E. Ferris & Co., adjoins the King Solomon group and Butte; ledge four feet; shaft 100 feet deep; slope at 40 and 50-ft. levels; ore runs \$25 per ton across ledge. F. L. Ransdall, superintendent.

Keystone Gold Mining company, recently incorporated, capital stock \$1,000,000, has the following claims one and a quarter miles southeast of Butte mine: Little Gem, Hazel Dell, Mabel K. and Motor.

THE BUTTE MINE

This is one of the old mines of Randburg, if such designation can be used in connection with a camp that is not yet 2 years old. The Butte also ranks among the first mines in this camp to turn out big pay, and it has been a good payer ever since, except during some short intervals when, owing to change of own-

The Zeida, a half mile west of Hard Cash mine, is owned by Messrs. Hammond, Lively and Upton. The ledge is opened for 1500 feet at intervals of a few feet and averages 12 feet; average assay \$42.64 to the ton; several small stringers connect with main ledge.

The Wasp, between Randburg and Johannesburg, recently bonded to Messrs. Ragdale and Hubbell; working bond of \$10,000; two men working; at 30-foot depth have two and a half foot vein; ore assays from \$6 to \$31.

Irene and May Queen, both very promising mines, bonded by Charles M. Rose, Johannesburg; situated two miles west of Randburg; ten men working stead-

to say the least, than the Banner, owned by Messrs. Price and Hopper, of Randburg. It is in a splendidly mineralized section, near the Meteor and adjoining the Tip Top, in the west end of the district. On Thursday, October 21st, a boulder of ore was taken out weighing 368 pounds, assays from which showed \$100 to the ton. On the following Saturday, a chunk weighing 1000 pounds (with loose earth attached) was taken out, which showed free gold all over it. By the 24th, twenty-five sacks of good ore had been taken out. Messrs. Price and Hopper have a valuable property.

THE HARD CASH GROUP

This is another promising group of



SCENE ON RAND MINE

ly, May Queen has 200-foot tunnel and good ledge; the Irene has two shafts, fine body of ore; that from shaft No. 2, running \$100 to the ton.

The Josephine adjoins Burcham No. 2; has open cuts and 20-foot and 75-foot shafts; ledge one and a half feet wide; average milling of ore \$23.80. Just milled first lot of three tons.

The Gold Bug, two miles southeast of Randburg, was recently bonded by Frank Cole and Thomas B. Huff from Messrs. Powers, McCormick and Col. McCulloch. It has a shaft down 120 feet and still sinking, a drift from 50-foot and 150-foot levels; also another shaft. The ledge in shaft No. 1 is three feet wide. The 120 tons of ore milled at Garlock ran \$20 to \$55 per ton.

THE STRINGER DISTRICT

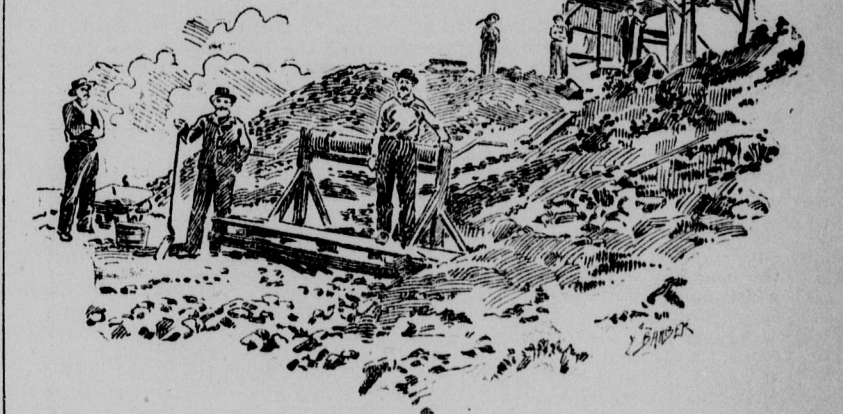
Since the writer was here last—a year ago—a great change has taken place. Many new and valuable mines have been opened up and the placer district has been extended. In conversation with the dry washer men, the writer learned that there are 30 men working on 15 machines. The range in net earnings is from \$1.50 to \$5 per day per man, somewhat less than a year ago, owing to the larger number at work.

A brief description of the leading mines of this district must suffice as space is limited.

The Maganetta mine is incorporated under the name of the Maganetta Gold Mining company, with a capital of \$500,000. Shaft No. 1 is down about 150 feet; No. 2 between 30 and 40 feet. From the latter a drift has been run 90 feet, tapping some very rich ore. The ledge has been traced by trenches for 250 feet, showing good ore. Development work is all that is done at present. A third shaft, now being sunk from the summit will, it is expected, open up a large body of ore.

THE MINNEHAHA

This promising mine is situated 2 1/2



MINNEHAHA MINE

miles east by south of Randburg, and was formerly owned by Messrs. McGinnis, O'Leary and Hansen. It was bonded last August by Messrs. C. E. Ferris and G. M. Rigden of Los Angeles for \$15,000, of which \$3500 was paid cash down. The ore is free-milling gold and mill tests show it to run over \$100 to the ton. An incline shaft goes down 100 feet, thence drifting is being done, following the ledge on both sides 15 feet and 10 feet, northeast and southwest. The ledge at this point is uniformly three feet wide, but five ledges have been opened up in different parts of the claim, all showing free gold. There is an immense body of ore in sight. There are two tunnels also on the claim, each 25x40 feet in length, and ore chutes are being worked on the surface, these having been discovered at 85 feet depth in the incline shaft and been traced thence to the surface. One thousand dollars were taken from these ore chutes alone.

THE METEOR

Adjoins Minnehaha on the west, is owned by Messrs. Kelly & Carpenter—bonded to Messrs. Ellis and McGrew for \$25,000. Working bond expires May 1st. They are now running a tunnel to crosscut the ledge 60 feet from hanging to foot wall—ledge 60 feet wide, ore about 20 tons of ore on the dump; ore assays \$12 to \$200; just started a shaft from summit of claim (October 21st), at 2 1/2 feet depth milling test shows \$100 to the ton.

THE BANNER CLAIM

No mining claim in the Rand district has come to the front rank any quicker,

claims in the west part of the district which bids fair to become heavy gold producers. They are situated 4 1/2 miles southwest from Randburg. The company was recently incorporated with capital stock of 1,000,000 shares of par value of \$1. A block of 200,000 shares was appropriated as treasury stock for the purpose of purchasing machinery and making necessary improvements in the various claims.

The officers of the company are as follows: A. T. Stewart, president and general manager; Dr. B. O. Webb, vice president; Prof. Inskip, secretary and treasurer, who with the following are directors, Jay E. Hunter and Nat. Wilshire. All of the above are well-known Los Angeles gentlemen, and they may be congratulated on having a splendid piece of property. The five claims are the Hard Cash, Robert E. Lee, Hesper, Tycoon and Shasta. The Hard Cash is the only one developed. It has an incline shaft down 65 feet, a drift 55 feet, and the work in progress is evidently being done in a solid body of ore, and yet no walls have been exposed so far. The ore in sight is estimated at 15,000 tons, assays run from \$3 to \$83, averaging \$15 at Garlock mills; tailings average \$5. There has been shipped so far about 150 tons and there is now on the dump 600 tons.

THE YORKSHIRE LASS GROUP

This group comprises Skookum, Yorkshire Lass and Spokane, incorporated as the Yorkshire Lass Mining company. The only one now being actively worked is the Skookum, which has an incline shaft 45 feet down and drift 60 feet, also shaft at end of drift 20 feet, all in ore from the surface. At 100 feet depth the vein is fully 19 feet wide with good hanging and foot walls. The ore mills at Garlock from \$6 to \$15 per ton. Five hundred tons have been milled to date. The Yorkshire Lass has a double compartment shaft 6x12, forty feet down,

on ore from the surface. Assays show ore runs from \$6 to \$12. There are 300 tons on dump. No work has been done on Spokane as yet, except a 15-foot tunnel on vein. A. C. Harper of Los Angeles is one of the company, and he accompanied the writer through the Spokane.

THE WINNIE

This is said to have been named after Mr. Hammond's (the Randsburg merchant) best girl before he sold it to Chas. A. Koehn. Kane Springs. However, whether true or not, it is a good one. The ledges average eight inches of pay streak, which runs from \$75 to \$80 per ton. There is a shaft 80 feet in depth, 250 feet of stoping, and about 25 men are employed mining and hauling ore to Kane Springs, two and a half miles to Randburg, and thence about twenty miles to Mr. Koehn's mill. Two four-horse teams are constantly employed, and occasionally a 12-horse team.

Chas. A. Koehn has a young pig at this camp that for learning is par excellence—indeed, it is a "real smart pig." It is consequently a pet of Mr. Koehn, for Charlie (as he is familiarly called) has a strong liking for learned men or animals. He charged the writer to mention the pig when at the mine, and the promise is fulfilled.

THE MERCED

This is the property of J. W. Scott, formerly lessee of the Hotel Arcadia, Santa Monica; also his brother, C. E. Scott, and Col. Chase of the Nadeau hotel. The ledges have rich pay streaks, as

(Continued on Page Twenty-two.)