

Cement Mining in Placer County.

From an Occasional Correspondent .

Messes. Editors :—You have asked me for some jottings with regard to the gravel claims, since my return from the interior. As the Yuba and Nevada county claims have been pretty well ventilated, I herewith give you some items from a range of claims at Forest Hill, Placer county, which the public know but little about. Why these rich claims should not be better and more generally known, I don't understand, unless the owners thereof have done so well that they prefer to keep "shady" to avoid the inquisitive tax collectors.

I will commence on the north, with the Maus claim, which is about three-quarters of a mile from Forest Hill. The eastern boundary of this claim is some 2,000 feet east of the road leading to Bath and Michigan Bluffs. The western line is a canon, known as Devil's Canon, 2,000 feet west of the road, making the claim 975 feet wide by 4,000 feet long. Adjoining this on the south is the Garden claim, 270 feet wide, and same depth with the first—4,000 feet. Next is the Eagle, 165 feet wide; then the India Rubber claim, 200 feet wide; the Alabama claim, 270 feet wide; the Pacific Blue Gravel claim, 950 feet front by 594 feet back. This last has recently erected a 10-stamp mill, now about ready to commence work. Next is the Gore claim, which takes its name from its shape, being 594 feet at back, and running to a point in front; then comes the famous Jenny Lind, 400 feet front, running through to Devil's Canon. The front part of this claim has already yielded \$1,100,000; the tunnels have caved in, and the back remains unworked, which is richer than the front.

Next adjoining is the New Jersey claim, say 400 feet front by 4,000 feet deep and 650 feet broad, on rear line, as one of its sides run goring. It is opened by a main tunnel 2,800 feet long, with lateral drifts of 1,200 feet more, making 4,000 feet in all. This claim has produced \$850,000, and is said to be the best opened claim on the Pacific coast. In running the main tunnel, eight distinct streaks of rich gravel have been struck, resembling ancient river beds. From one spot of 400 by 500 feet, seven feet high, the above mentioned amount of \$850,000 has been taken. An air shaft was started on this claim to run up to the surface on the hill, a distance of 460 feet ; after going up 200 feet it was abandoned, air having been obtained by means of a water blast. The shaft showed the pay gravel to continue for 178 feet above the bedrock, which is an interesting fact to ascertain. All of this gravel could be economically worked by mill process. Next adjoining the New Jersey claim, is the Independent, 250 feet wide on front, running through, same width, a distance of 4,000 feet ; The front part of this claim has paid \$400,000. Next comes the Snyder, 100 feet wide; then the Northwood, 320 feet; then the Boston, 96 feet; next the Baltimore, 1,538 feet front and 1,118 on the back. The latter company erected a 5-stamp mill, found the ground paid well, and then put up an 10-stamp mill, with power for twenty. Adjoining this, is the Hope—first called Little Hope, but since then it has confirmed great hopes, The tunnel in this claim is 1,800 feet long, developing a splendid claim. A 20-stamp mill is just completed on this claim. This claim is 528 feet front and 975 feet on the back. Next to this is the Uncle Sam, 165 feet wide, and running through the hill. Then comes the Green Spring, 570 feet wide all through. Next is the Oro, 1,000 feet wide, and through,

This claim has a fine 20-stamp mill in operation under the control of Mr. Triglow, from Washoe, who says he would not exchange it for the whole Comstock lode. Adjoining the Oro, is the Dardanelles, from which over \$2,000,000 has been realized. It is about the size of the Oro claim. This claim was worked with hydraulic pipes, and I am confident that \$4,000,000 was wasted in getting the \$2,000,000. The American river, just below there, in its rich placer washings, affords abundant proof of the immense waste from these claims.

I have here given you the names of nineteen claims in Forest Hill, covering an area of ground, 8,800 feet long by 4,000 feet deep or broad. Statistics show a yield from the working of these claims, by sluicing and hydraulics, of about \$9,000,000—or an average of about \$500,000 from each claim. Had this dirt been worked by mill process, it would unquestionably have produced \$36,000,000 instead of \$9,000,000. A large proportion of this dirt that will not pay by washing, will pay well by milling, owing to its being so hard that it does not slack nor break up, even when it passes through several thousand feet of sluices ; while in a mill, it will pay equally as well, whether it be hard or soft. These recently erected mills will soon demonstrate all this.

I claim that not one-tenth part of the pay dirt in these claims has been worked out, taking them all together, and I claim that the \$9,000,000 obtained from that tenth which has been worked, should have yielded at least \$36,000,000. And I further claim, that the working of gravel claims is easier, cheaper, surer, and more profitable than quartz.

I can scarcely account for the neglect of these gravel claims, among the seekers after wealth, except it arises from the indifference of the owners to sell, and their carelessness in grouping together statistics, that fairly and fully represent their value. Still, like everything else in California, these claims must go through their dark days or apprenticeship, before even their present owners can clearly appreciate their value. The imperfect mode of working them heretofore, is one great cause of their not being better known; but all that will soon be changed, and gravel claims will take their relative rank in the gold mining of the coast. In my next, I will endeavor to give you some further statistics and other facts with regard to this interesting and important locality.

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