

Iowa Hill District, Drift and Quartz Mines.

Editors Press:—The cold and snow have prevented us from getting much water so far for hydraulic purposes, and, consequently, many of us miners are out of employment. So yours truly concluded to send you a few lines regarding what is and has been done in our drift and quartz mines. To commence at the old

Mountain Gate Mine.

They have for some time been making preparations to put in a Liffell turbine wheel, which was made especially for the company, it being 8 inches in diameter, and to work under 40 ft. head; supply pipe, 15 inches. Their old wheel was not put in by men of experience. It was almost impossible to get a millwright in the mine 6,000 ft. from the mouth of the tunnel damp and poor light, etc. The company, too, had been prospecting so long, . they could not afford to pay extra wages, and they undertook to put in their machinery with what ability they had within the company. The result was, to use the expression of an old member of the company: 'It cost enough to be silver-plated all over.' The new wheel was missent, and did not get to the mine until the snow set in, and it has been found impossible to get it delivered to date, as there is from 3 to 4 ft. of snow on the ridge. As soon as they get a good hoisting and pumping rig in, they expect to take out pay in the old-time style; though it always seemed to your correspondent that there was more to do than there was brains to do it, considering the amount of perverse humanity a manager had to contend with in the shape of shareholders, who did not know much about anything.

On Humbug Canyon,

Some half-mile west of the Mountain Gate mine, very fine quartz has been found in what was formerly known as the Pioneer quartz company's claim. This consists of different locations consolidated, for which they hold United States patent. It was found difficult to get supplies in through the winter, and work was suspended on the coming of the first winter storms. A large quantity of rock has been crushed from this mine. Several years ago, some of their tunnels on the east were run, when black powder was as high as \$20 per keg. The claim is 6,000 feet long, and is held in ten shares. I understand they intend to continue their developments as soon as winter is over. Lower down on this canyon is the

Poole Quartz Mine,

On which was put a five-stamp mill. Their ledge got broken up in the face of the tunnel late in the fall. It was followed below the grade, and found to pay about \$25 per ton. Not having time to make any arrangements for drainage, they also suspended operations for the winter. Some think this is an extension of the Pioneer-Union ledge, as the first-mentioned ledge is now called. Both of these ledges average thirty inches in width. There has been much prospecting done in the vicinity of these ledges, with varying results. Quartz is very plenty in that vicinity. The country rock is slate, and hills steep, consequently all prospecting can be done by tunnel, which can be run from \$4 to \$6 per foot, and is considered by many to be a favorable place to find gold-bearing quartz. As we travel

Down the Divide

To the right or "North Fork" side, we come to the Colfax Co. 'a tunnel, which has been run some 1,100 ft. across a flat toward the main hill. It passes through some very similar gravel to that being worked in the Mountain Gate mine; nor could I understand why the Colfax Co. did not extract some of this same gravel.

A little further down the ridge to the left is the West Damascus Co.'s hoisting and pumping works, which have been shut down, pending the settlement of the estate of the principal owner, who died some time since. His death was quite a loss to this community. He had means, and the courage to use them. Had he lived, it is conceded many developments would have been made. The great want here is capital, judiciously expended. This mine was opened by a shaft, as it is located in a fiat head of the north

branch of Short Tail canyon, expecting to find a continuation of the pay channel, which the Mt. Gate Co. have. So far they have not been successful Again, on the "North Fork" side, adjoining the Colfax, is the Pioneer gravel. They have done some prospecting, but are all poor men and unable to push their tunnel ahead. The location is considered by many as a favorable one, and that it was the outlet from the main channel which made Green Valley and Haden Hill so rich. We next come to the

Giant Gap Claim,

So called, I presume, from the immense slide which appears to have been carried from the top of the ridge into the North Fork of the American, some 1,500 ft. below. This work is being done by capital from the "Hub." Tunnel in 1,500 ft. and incline raised some 130 ft. Favorable looking gravel was found, though many think the, course of the tunnel was not the correct one; that pay was passed to the north or left hand side. They are making connection with some old workings for air after which they will run for the main channel. Much energy has been displayed in this claim. It is the general wish that their efforts may be successful as, should a good mine be opened, it will be a strong inducement to other capitalists.

There are several

Other Locations in this Vicinity.

But very little work has been done on them. The Mohawk company, about a mile down the "Ridge," an incline has been sunk 220 feet, as near as I can learn; but only one drift, some 80 feet in length, has been run from the bottom of the incline ; work was then suspended, for reasons best known to those then in charge. Yet for the amount spent to get bottom, a single drift of that length into a hill one and a half to two miles wide, would seem like child's play. The next claim down-ridge to the left, or Short Tail canyon side, is on

Succor Flat.

This fiat has been worked more or less since 1852, The two principal claims being worked now are the Copper Bottom and Succor Flat. The front was what is called "spotted." Occasionally a 4 to 6-ounce piece would be found, and again the gravel was poor. The latter company had extended their works to the foot of the hill, or back part of the Hat, when they lost the rock. An incline was run some 30 feet, and good pay found. Though they could make fair wages, working up to their waists in water, they concluded it would not last long, and started a lower tunnel. This was about 1862, when no high explosives were in use, and very stiff rock was encountered. Assessments came in so frequent, many of the company moved off. The claim lay idle for several years, until another company undertook to relocate it. They, however, found a good chance for a lawsuit, and gave up. The old company then went to work with a will, and it is now being worked with good judgment, and considerable gold has been taken out in the last three years; one piece of gold taken out about 18 months ago coined \$1,203. Several other large nuggets have been found. Everything connected with the mine has been put in with a view to permanency. About 25 men are employed. Horses are used to run the cars. In the tunnel very little water is encountered. The workings are 2,000 ft. from tunnel mouth, where they find the bedrock has commenced to pitch to the N. W. There are many other locations in this district which would make subject for another communication, if you think this worth inserting in your interesting paper.

Yours, etc.,

Miner.

Iowa Hill, Placer Co., Cal., March 20, 1882.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 44, 4/1/1882, p. 210