

Mining at Dutch Flat and Gold Run.

"We condense the following matter of general interest from an extended article in the Placer Argus:

The mining district of Dutch Flat and Gold Run, for the two towns are so close together and their mining interests are so closely blended that we shall treat them as one, has long been 'noted for its yield of the precious metals, and for the certainty with which the hardy miner could count on a return for his labor. Early in the history of placer mining in this State, the gulches and ravines were filled with miners, and large amounts of gold were taken out. The existence of the great gravel banks, and the fact that they contained gold was well known at the time, but the want of water prevented working them on a scale of sufficient magnitude to pay.

Mining at Gold Run

By the hydraulic process first begun in the spring of 1865, the Bear river ditch, supplying about 650 inches of water, having been brought in. The yield that year was light, but in the succeeding years of 1866 and 1867 work was prosecuted very extensively, and about \$600,000 was taken out each year. In 1868 a party of miners owning these claims bought the Beaver river ditch and organized the

Gold Run Ditch and Mining Co.,

And it is now the largest operator in that place. The company incorporated in 1870. The capital stock is \$905,000 and is all owned by citizens of Gold Run and Dutch Flat. Allen Towle is President, H. H. Brown is Secretary and Treasurer, and J. L. Gould is General Superintendent. They have over \$300,000 invested in mining property, of which \$80,000 is in ditches. Their water comes from Bear and South Yuba rivers through 28 miles of ditches. This season they have had plenty of water and expect to run seven or eight months. They are working five claims, use 2,000 inches of water and employ 40 men. They own the following claims:

Indiana Hill, 65 acres; North Star, 65 acres; two-fifths of the Druid, eight acres; 'one-half of the Gold Run, 70 acres; Church and Golden Gate, 35 acres; Kearsarge, 30 acres; Bay State No. 2, 25 acres; Pinetop, 30 acres. Thus far the surface gravel to the depth of 100 to 175 feet only, has been worked, the lower stratum of over 200 feet in thickness not being workable for want of fall to carry off the tailings. The company are now engaged in the prosecution of an enterprise that cannot fail to have a very beneficial influence on the mining interests of this section. For several years the yield of gold has been declining, and the surface beds are rapidly being worked out. The Gold Run company only has enough of ground to keep its men employed for about two years, and if something is not done, the day of prosperity would soon be over, and the prosperous towns of Gold Run and Dutch Flat would soon become dilapidated and deserted. The richest beds of gravel, fully 200 feet in depth, are yet untouched. To procure the necessary fall and enable them to work these rich beds the Gold Run Co. is running tunnel over 3,000 feet in length through the mountain, at a depth of 600 feet below the crest of the ridge. The lower end of this tunnel opens into Canon creek, while the head will open directly under the great deposits of blue gravel and furnishing means of working them to the bed rock. Clambering down the precipitous sides of the canon, we found an active little engine pumping away condensing air by which the drills are driven. A very steep and narrow wagon-road has been blasted in the rock, and the necessary buildings are perched on projecting crags. Wood is supplied by a slide on the opposite side of the canon, and water from a reservoir, situated some 400 feet above the engine house. The main tunnel, which is 12 feet wide by 9 feet in height, has been driven a distance of 600 feet, and when completed will be 2,200 feet in length. At a distance of 454 feet from the lower end, a branch tunnel leaves the main cut, and is now in about 300 feet from the point of intersection. The branch is eight feet square, and will be about 1,000 feet long. The

whole force is now at work on the branch, which will be ready for use by the first of January, when washing will begin. The branch is run for the purpose of reaching some claims not tapped by the main tunnel. As soon as it is finished, work will be resumed on the main cut, and it will be put through in about two years, or by the time the surface gravel belonging to the company is exhausted. The Burleigh drill, driven by compressed air is the effective agent in penetrating the rock, and it is walking into the mountain at the rapid rate of 100 feet per month, on an average. Twenty-five men are employed, and some \$3,000 per month is disbursed in paying expenses, and supplying the necessary materials. The total cost of the tunnel is estimated at \$125,000. The vast importance of this enterprise is manifest when we consider that the ground, which by its aid alone can be worked, is far richer than the best of the gravel that has already been washed, and that there is enough of it to employ all the water that can be had for the next century. Shafts have been sunk 200 feet to the bed-rock and good pay found the whole distance. Under the influence of this great work which is to unlock the hitherto inaccessible riches of the district, every kind of business is brightening up, and the future prospects of the towns dependent on the mines are proportionately improved. In addition to the Gold Run company the following parties are engaged in mining:

Hoskins & Brother are working a claim of 70 acres. They employ 15 men and use 600 inches of water.

The Fishhawk Company have a claim of 40 acres. Use 550 inches of water and employ 10 men. Sachs & Company's claim contains 100 acres. They use 350 inches of water and employ six men. O. Harkness uses 500 inches of water, employs seven men, and works a claim of 40 acres.

The Indiana Hill Blue Gravel Company is drifting on the channel and crushing the gravel in an eight-stamp mill, driven by waterpower. It is working 30 hands and is doing well, J. F. Moody works the tailings of all these claims; and, we should judge, is making a better thing of it than any of the claims. He owns about 3,000 feet of the canon, in which he has fitted flumes and undercurrents, and now has nothing to do but to catch the gold that escapes the workmen above. His cleanups have been of the most satisfactory character, and this season's work will probably net him a larger amount than usual. In fact, all the claims have paid well, and an expression of satisfaction rests on the countenances of all the miners.

The Cedar Creek Gold Mining Company is mentioned at length in another column.

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