

Mining in Placer County 1868

A RICH MINE NEAR AUBURN.

Quartz appears to be the rage at present in the vicinity of Auburn. The most exciting development is that of the "Pete Walters." This ledge was located some two years ago, but no free metal was discovered until the Fourth of July last, when, at the depth of twenty-eight feet, it was found to be exceedingly rich in free gold. Mr. Walters has since sunk two more shafts, making three in all—the first, 28; the second, 35; and the third and last, 48 feet in depth. The ore gradually becomes richer, until at the bottom of the richest shaft it is apparently one-third gold! A drift is being run to connect the three shafts—the whole covering a line of about 150 feet on the ledge. Mr. W. has taken out about \$30,000, up to August 1st. One day's work yielded him as high as 450 ounces. His laboring force consists of only four men, while his mechanical and machine power is still less, viz: a 1-stamp battery, or, in other words, a hand mortar. Said ledge is about eighteen inches in width, and bids fair to continue rich. Col. Holdredge, backed by prominent Eastern capitalists, is prospecting a number of ledges, said to promise well. The Colonel is sanguine of success, feeling confident that Auburn and vicinity abounds in good pay ore.

BATH—THE DEWEY CLAIM.

This place is comparatively lively, owing to the continued and constantly increasing success of the Dewey claim (Paragon Mill Co.) owned by Messrs. Rae, Wheeler, Freeman & Breece. This mine consists of a deep strata of cement, one hundred feet above the bed rock, and running into the Forest Hill divide nearly at right angles with Volcano Canon. Their main tunnel now extends, in a direct line, a distance of 2,400 feet, with a sufficient "breast" to employ their 20-stamp mill a period of five years. They employ a force of fifty hands, taking out sufficient pay dirt in ten hours to supply the mill twenty-four. The average yield is about five dollars per ton, crushing at the rate of 100 tons in 24 hours, and cleaning up upwards of 150 ozs. per week. The gold nets them a trifle over \$18 per oz., clear of expressage and Federal tax. The dirt is growing richer as they progress; as evidence of this, their last clean up (August 1st) amounted to 186 ozs. The proprietors are all workers, and every way worthy of the rich harvest they are now reaping.

LAST CHANCE.

Drift mining is being pushed with considerable vigor in this place. The Little Hope Co. are in about 1,000 feet in solid bed rock, expecting to strike the lead every day. Messrs. Young & Co., of Morning Star mine, are doing well, realizing \$12 to the man.

DAMASCUS—THE MOUNTAIN GATE CLAIM.

This is a lively little place, made so by kindness of disposition and temperate habits of its citizens; financially, by their inexhaustible and even-paying mine, styled the Mountain Gate claim. This mine is owned by 21 shareholders, all workers, each realizing liberally in proportion to his labor. The claim is opened by a tunnel nearly a mile long in a direct line and is paying uniformly—never realizing anything less than good round wages—\$6 and upwards to the man. Messrs. Powers, Hughes, Devley, and Cameron, are among the principal owners. The Damascus Mill Co. (Messrs. Rae & Fagan, proprietors, and Robert Lewis, superintendent) have an excellent 10-stamp mill, and fair prospects for good paying cement as soon as their mine is properly opened up. They are confident of striking it rich.

IOWA HILL.

The Morning Star Mill Company (Dodds, Mitchell & Co.) are crushing some extraordinarily rich cement, demonstrating that they have a lead unsurpassed in Placer county. Also the Jamison-Weisler hydraulic claim, having, unlike their neighbor, plenty of water, are taking out "big money." Evidences are that the future promises well for this locality.

GOLD RUN

Presents a lively appearance. About one third of the claims (hydraulic) are now being worked, all paying well; yet, it is believed, they do not save near all the gold, which, by the way, is very fine and mixed with such immense mountains of wash gravel as to entirely preclude the application of any improved machinery in washing. The mines here are "piped" off to the depth of from one to two hundred feet, when the gravel and pipe clay becomes so hard as to prevent further working at present rates of water and labor. Far beneath, say from 100 to 150 feet, is supposed to exist a "blue lead," extending from Indiana Hill through Gold Run to a point a little below Dutch Flat, at which two termini it has been found, and now being crushed.

Indiana Hill Mill Co. (Messrs. Stone & Co., proprietors) are working the lower end of this lead successfully. Their mill is small and they have but few hands employed, intending to enlarge as soon as their mine is sufficiently opened up. Portions of the pay strata is very rich, the writer having witnessed the washing of one pan of dirt, which yielded about \$40. Messrs. Kinder, Carr, Taylor & Co., talk of uniting their efforts and means, procure machinery and sink a shaft at some intermediate point yet to be designated, for the purpose of prospecting the channel underneath their hydraulic claims, for cement. The project is a good one, and commendably spoken of by the citizens generally.

DUTCH FLAT,

At this season of the year, is considered rather dull—want of water being the cause. There are many rich claims yet to be worked. Messrs. King Bros., it is said, are doing a handsome business, crushing cement—don't want to sell—presumption is, they have "struck it." Messrs. Strong, Frink and others, have organized a company, styled the "Dozier Metallurgic Co.," formed for the purpose of making an immediate test, and upon a large scale, of Dr. Dozier's invention, a chemical and mechanical process for reducing refractory ores—something entirely new—and if successful in working large as well as it does small quantities, it will make valuable many mines now considered worthless, or comparatively so, at least. The company has employed Dr. D. (who is already at work) to make a thorough practical test on their mine (Camanche ledge) in Mono county. They claim to work to within five per cent, of the fire assay, and at a cost not to exceed \$20 per ton. The writer was shown a \$40 brick, made from thirty-one pounds of Camanche ore, by this process. Mr. Frink has kindly offered to keep the Press posted with experimental results as they are made. B.

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Bath (formerly Sarahville), Placer County, is the liveliest little place that I have seen through these parts. There are two mills running.

THE PARAGON MILL

has twenty stamps; it is owned by Wright & Day, obtains its material out of a tunnel 2,600 feet long, and is doing well. A clean up was made on Sunday last, from a week's run, night and day, and the result was \$2,600.

THE ROUGH GOLD COMPANY

are in 2,000 feet; they are working only in the day time at present, though it is the intention to run both night and day after next week. The mill has ten stamps, and produces satisfactory results in the way of substantial returns. More men will be put to work in the mine in about two weeks. I went through the mine; it looks very well. I could see specks of gold in the gravel.

FOREST CITY

is at a stand-still at present, but they are expecting to have lively times in the rainy season. All the mills are standing still.

THE BOYS AT LAST CHANCE

are making arrangements to get some men to carry the mail up to them this winter. Six miles from Last Chance a good quartz vein seventeen inches in width, has been struck by It. M. Richards. Tile prospects are very good. He is in only four feet, but has taken out over \$100, by pounding the ore up in a mortar.

W. H. M.

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