

### Placer County Quartz Mines., 1882

During the last six months the energetic prosecution of work on two quartz ledges, known and prospected to some extent for several years, has developed two mining properties which will undoubtedly remove, in part at least, the cloud under which quartz mining in the vicinity of Auburn and Ophir has lain for the last six or seven years.

The owners of the Gold Blossom quartz mine, situated on Crater hill, about one mile west of Ophir, have had stoped several hundred tons of quartz from ground opened up by their shaft and levels. The average of the rock is of an excellent quality, carrying a very high percentage of rich sulphurets; and in the stopes just referred to a chimney of ore, consisting of an almost solid mixture of iron and copper pyrites and galena, and containing a large amount of coarse free gold, has been struck. This ore assays up into the thousands per ton. They have also just finished the construction of a mill for the ore from this mine. Owing to the condition of the gold in the ore, being almost entirely in the sulphurets, the usual form of mill used for the treatment of gold-bearing quartz has not been put up, the process and mill employed being as follows: The ore, after being broken by a crusher, is reduced to a powder by a Tustin pulverizer; then sized by screens, the finer material, containing a high percentage of sulphurets, going directly to the chlorination plant, and the coarse to concentrators, which separate the sulphurets from the gangue. This latter is not thrown aside as waste, but, together with quartz from the mine considered too poor in sulphurets to be treated as above, is first run through a ten-stamp mill. It is expected to save and treat by chlorination a much larger percentage of sulphurets than is practicable by the usual method of mill, and thus reducing the loss of gold in tailings to a minimum.

The other property referred to at the commencement of this article is the Belmont quartz mine, situated two miles northwest of the Gold Blossom. The ledge is very large, outcropping from 10 to 15 fms. above the surface, and about 6 ft. in thickness. About six months since, Wm. Werry, for many years engaged in quartz mining around Ophir, acquired control of the mine. A shaft had been sunk by the former owner, and from it ore taken claimed to have milled \$40 per ton. This shaft was cleaned out and continued to a depth of 170 ft., at 75 ft. levels run 100 ft., and at 150 ft., run 150 ft., opening up the vein in both directions from the shaft. The course of the ledge is northeast and southwest, and the dip nearly vertical. The thickness of the ledge is nowhere less than 3 ft., and varies from that to about 7 ft., the average increasing, as far as observable, with depth. The ore is free milling. About 300 tons on the dump, taken from the shaft and levels, by numerous samples worked by mill process gave results per ton varying from \$25 to \$80 in bullion worth about \$12 per ounce. From these tests it is estimated that the ore on the dump and in sight in the mine will yield about \$20 per ton. This property, giving every promise of being extremely rich and permanent, was purchased a short time since by G. W. Grayson—the first investment made in that locality by a San Francisco capitalist for several years.

*Mining and Scientific Press, V. 44, 6/17/1882, p. 389*

### Placer County Quartz Mines, 1893

To The Editor:—Although quartz exists in nearly every portion of Placer county, the majority of the located quartz claims are situated in the Ophir mining district, three miles south of Auburn, the county seat.

Ophir abounds with many claims that have produced gold in large quantities, the majority of which are not at present operated. But few claims in the district have been worked to a 300-foot level. Good paying rock was to be found in many of the mines when they closed down, but, with the increased cost of taking it out, under the directions of kid-gloved superintendents, the returns were not large enough to pay large salaries and heavy running expenses.

The section has often been called a specimen camp. The term hardly does the district justice. While it is true the richest ore runs in chutes depending upon the character of the granite formation, nearly all of the rock will pay a small profit when milled. It would seem as though the fact that the camp is but a mile from a railway station, and therefore easy of access, serves to work against it. Mint receipts show that a vast amount of gold has been taken from the mines of the district. "Distance lends enchantment," and it is the opinion of the writer that if the section was difficult to reach capital would be freely invested. However, the camp shows a change for the better, as is evidenced by the fact that work has recently been resumed at several mines.

Arrangements for work on an extensive scale are being made at the Three Stars mine, recently sold by B. F. Hartley to the Gold and Silver Mining Company of Colorado. Mr. Hartley has been chosen as superintendent. The ledge is one of the most prominent of its kind in the county, from four to eight feet in thickness, and stands in some places as high as 15 feet above the natural surface of the ground. Pipe has been laid for a distance of 5000 feet to convey 60 inches of water, with a fall of over 300 feet, to furnish power to run the machinery. Shafts 1, 2, and 3 are being sunk. When the main shaft has reached a depth of 200 feet, drifts will be run the entire length of the lead, a distance of 3200 feet. The mine will have four Huntington mills of 100 tons capacity, Burleigh drills and an electric plant.

Work on the Hathaway mine has recently been resumed with Wm. Irwin as superintendent. He is working the mine on a lease in company with Martin Jones. They are now at work on the 200-foot level and 16 men are employed. Ten stamps of the 20-stamp mill are working an average of 18 hours per day. The ore averages \$8 per ton exclusive of the sulphurets and the outlook is encouraging.

At the Boulder mine, which will be operated by D. H. Hutcheson and Luke Ferguson, the machinery for the hoisting works has just been put in place. The machinery will be run by water-power and they have just finished laying 2000 feet of nine-inch pipe with a pressure of 270 feet. An eight-stamp mill will be operated with two concentrators. Hundreds of tons of rich ore is in plain view. The present working force of twelve men will soon be increasing.

At the Eclipse mine the mill is running on custom rock. This mine was purchased by Daniel Buck in 1890, who died two months later. He willed it to Dr. Wm. Blankman of San Francisco, the present owner. A superintendent under Mr. Buck took out 100 tons of ore that he estimated would go about \$3 per ton, which remained in the mill. The estate is still in probate, but an order of court was secured by the present superintendent, Ben Hawkins, to crush the 100 tons, which averaged \$27 per ton. W. R. Monahan and Ben Hawkins cleaned up \$1176 in February, 1892, from 30 tons of waste rock which was thrown over the dump. Monahan is still working the waste rock on a percentage.

Adjoining the Eclipse is the Morning Star. The ledge runs from six inches to four feet, but the prevailing width is two feet. The main shaft is down 92 feet, with a drift running west 50 feet. A second shaft 70 feet east has reached a depth of 75 feet. The mine is at present worked by a lease. Mint receipts show results from several crushings as follows: 128 tons, \$7387; 34 tons, \$382.33; 6 tons, Nov. 1, 1893,

\$582. The ore on the chute has run from \$6 to \$166 per ton, and has averaged \$57.50. A portion of this mine is situated on land listed by the railroad company as agricultural lands.

Also inside the surface lines of the Morning Star is a part of the famous Good Easter mine, which was a large producer twenty years ago, but it is idle at present. A spur of the lead runs parallel with the Eclipse, and two years ago a connection was made from an Eclipse shaft to a perpendicular shaft on the Good Easter. It was very rich, but neither the owners of the Eclipse or Good Easter were gainers, as the honest miners retained it. The waste dump afterward paid \$100 per ton. This mine is now filled with water.

J. Holbrook has four men at work at his June Bug quartz mine, and the main shaft has reached a depth of 108 feet. The ore looks very promising. About \$75,000 was taken from a shaft 50 feet west some years ago.

J. W. McCullough, superintendent of the Mina Rica quartz mine, is running their ten-stamp mill on custom ore. The mine, which is at present idle, has a 250-foot shaft, with 500-foot tunnel; also levels at 100 and 150 feet.

Wm. Pallow, who now owns the California mine, is working the waste rock on the dump by the arrastra process. The ore yields a steady average of \$6 per ton.

The Bellevue extension on the east, owned by Edward Tremmelling, is being worked only by the owner. The main shaft is 180 feet, with drifts 70 and 80 feet east and west.

The Moore mine, owned by J. W. White, T. M. Tharpe & Son, is being worked by the owners. The ledge runs from 4 to 10 inches in thickness. They have reached a depth of 300 feet on the incline. At the 200-foot level an 80-foot drift is stoped to within 100 feet of the surface. Specimens of the ore are so rich that the owners crush them in a hand mortar, and they have pounded out during the summer more than \$4,000. While your correspondent was on the ground they were engaged pounding specimens which weighed 108 ounces. All quartz aside from specimens has milled about \$100 per ton. In sinking to the present depth the present owners have taken out over \$40,000. Mrs. T. M. Tharpe has a cabinet of specimens taken from this mine which is valued at \$15,000.

Parallel with the Moore mine may be found the Centennial, Hope and the Conrad, all idle properties, but I understand that San Francisco parties will back mining superintendent

Fred Dependener, who will soon have a force of men at work on the Conrad.

The Green mine owned by F. X. Lavalee, which has produced well in early days, is not being operated at present.

J. Malmberg, who owns the Baltimore quartz mine on Baltimore ravine, has recently sunk a 20-foot shaft. The ore shows free gold and looks very encouraging.

Tharpe & White are opening an old tunnel on the Cox & Denton mine, owned by Mrs. Dr. Crandall, and will work it on a bond. The ledge runs from 18 inches to three feet, and has paid some \$40,000 at former workings.

George J. Morgan, owner of the New Year, Argonaut, Flat Lead and The Wilson, is doing no work on them at present.

N. Maring & Son, who own the Bullion, have a shaft that has reached a depth of 100 feet with a 50-foot drift. The ore has milled from \$3 to \$40 per ton, with sulphurets at \$100 to \$300 per ton. They are doing no work on the mine.

Ivan H. Parker.

Penryn, Cal., Dec. 23, 1893.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 67, 12/30/1893, p. 421

Placer County Quartz Mines, 1895

To The Editor:—The Blue Canyon placer gravel mine, owned by S. C. Jordan of Dutch Flat, has lately been bonded to W. T. Jackson of Sacramento and Prof. F. I. Kimball, et al., for three years; The parties who have bonded it propose to run a tunnel into the mine the length of 2800 feet, which will tap the channel.

The Shady Run quartz mine, also owned by Mr. Jordan, located five miles east of Dutch Flat, has been bonded to New York capitalists for a period of ten months. This new company propose to put up a mill and thoroughly develop this mine. This mine, the ore of which runs fifteen per cent of gold, has two distinct ledges; one is a foot wide and 100 feet deep; the other is six feet wide and sixty feet deep. Mr. Jordon feels confident that with these new companies the output will increase and prove a profitable, investment, both for the new companies and himself.

Mr. K. Mallons. who owns the Golden Shaft mine. near the edge of Dutch Flat, which has a shaft down already ninety feet, intends to at once go ahead with developing his mine by running side drifts and erecting an eight-stamp mill thereon. The mill is on the road and, as soon as the weather permits, the work- will be pushed. It is a cement gravel mine, and Mr. Mallons estimates the total expense of getting ready will be \$10,000, two-thirds of which amount has been expended. It is expected to pay from \$3 to \$4 per ton. The skip process self-dumping apparatus is adopted.

W: S. Garrett, superintendent of the Polar Star gravel mine at Dutch Flat, states that ground sluicing and hydraulicking was commenced on. The 1st inst. and is to continue through the summer. They have employed thirty men and anticipate a prosperous season. The claim contains 107 acres and they are washing on the bed rock with a 150-foot bank. Everything has been fitted up to meet the demands of the business.

At Iowa Hill it is claimed that over \$3,000,000 in gold has been taken oat just north of and adjoining the town, and more is left for the next generation, A Mr. Brown, who had a claim near Iowa Hill in 1854 that paid \$10 in the pan, returned after an absence of forty-one years a few weeks ago, and found his claim just as he left it, minus the \$10 per pan. .

Miners looking for work and prospectors looking for good paying locations, arc constantly met on the road, going to and fro. as in the days of old. By yours truly,

Traveler.

*Mining and Scientific Press, V. 70, 4/13/1895, p. 227*