

The Quartz Mines of Placer County.

The Duncan Hill mines, about two miles west of Auburn, are all doing well. At the Conrad mine, the main shaft is now down 180 ft., and drifts at this point run both east and west on the ledge have struck shoots of high-grade milling rock, with occasional rich pockets of specimen rock. A second shaft 800 ft. east of the above is down 80 ft. in fair milling rock. The last mill-run of the ore averaged \$32 per ton.

The Hunter mine on the north end of the hill, located and opened within the last six months, is prospecting well. The ledge is parallel to the Conrad ledge, and similar to it. A shaft has been sunk on the ledge which is three ft. thick, and 150 ft. of levels run to prospect the ore body, A portion of the rock taken out in opening the mine, some 50 tons, was milled as an experiment, and yielded \$15 per ton. In addition, several hundred dollars' worth of rich specimens for jewelry were picked out. Probably what will be the best mine the gold-bearing quartz district around Auburn has developed is the Ohio, or Gold Blossom mine, owned by Messrs. Craig & Fulweiler, of Auburn. It is situated on the western slope of Crater hill, about two miles west of Ophir. The location covers 1,800 ft. on an east and west ledge that can be traced by croppings for two miles. Both walls are granite, the ledge standing nearly vertical between them. In width the vein varies from 30 to 60 inches, and while carrying some free gold which is rarely coarse enough to be visible to the eye, is principally enriched by the high percentage of auriferous sulphurets that it carries. Assays of the rock run all the way from \$40 to \$1,930 per ton. A quantity of rock hand sorted so as to contain but a small quantity of sulphurets worked \$16 and upward per ton in free gold. The ledge having only been located this last summer but little work has been done toward developing the property. One permanent working shaft down 80 ft, and several prospecting shafts and drifts have, however, exposed an ore body of several tons of high-grade rock. The recent decision of the Land Commissioner throwing open to mineral location under the U. S. mining laws school sections of mineral land patented to the State, will give quite an impetus to quartz mining around Auburn, a section of such land on which are many ledges, some known to be valuable, being only a mile distant from the town.

Several quartz mines in Humbug mining district, one and one half miles west of Damascus, have been worked on a small scale with very encouraging results during the past summer. One of these, the Pioneer, is opened by a tunnel 287 ft. long, which cuts the ledge at a depth of 300 ft.; the ledge at this point is four ft. thick, and high-grade milling rock. From the old workings at a less depth on the ledge, 1,200 tons of rock were milled, and yielded at the rate of \$20 per ton.

High up in the mountains about 15 miles west of the summit, and far down in the almost inaccessible Sailor canyon, is another ledge which bids fair to develop into a mine. The vein, which varies in thickness from 7 to 13 ft., and dips at an angle of 45° to the northeast, has been prospected at several points by short tunnels which tap the ledge at considerable depths. Averaged assays made on samples taken from all points on the ledge yet opened indicate that the ore will mill about \$15 per ton.

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