

The Strike at the Mayflower Mine.

We mentioned recently that a rich strike had been made in the Mayflower gravel mine, about a mile and a half northwesterly from Forest Hill, Placer county. Wonderfully rich gravel has been found. The mine has been skillfully prospected by the superintendent of the Mayflower Company, Mr. Felix Chappelet. They own about a mile and a half on the main channel, which is probably the same channel as that on which Breece and Wheeler are at work, as the gold is of precisely the same character.

They first started hydraulicking a bed of gravel 100 feet deep overlying white cement. They then sunk a shaft 150 feet, and struck gravel when they passed 50 feet. They then found a rim pitching east, and drifted easterly 500 feet through gravel. There they sunk shaft No. 2 about 52 feet through gravel when they came to bed-rock pitching east. From here they drifted southeast 500 feet and struck bed-rock—supposed to be the east rim. Winze No. 3 was sunk at a distance of 300 feet from shaft No. 2, and at 135 feet bed-rock was met. From the bottom of shaft they drifted east 160 feet and found the bed-rock pitching east. A slope was sunk on the bed-rock, at about 18 degrees, a distance of 100 feet, and here pay gravel six feet deep was struck which yielded \$400 per pan. In five days they took out 300 ounces. This is from hard cemented bluish gray ground, containing quartz, trap, syenite and bard ribbon slate boulders. It is similar in all respects to that worked by Breece. & Wheeler, at Bath, about two and a half miles east of this ground.

Great difficulty was encountered in handling the water, during this most excellent piece of prospecting. First it was necessary to place an 8-inch Cornish pump in the main shaft, run by an engine on top; and also a steam pump. On shaft No. 3 water was hoisted by donkey. At the bottom of No. 3 they are using two steam pumps; and at the bottom of the slope they also have a steam pump. The steam for all the pumps is furnished by a boiler on surface and passes through a two-inch pipe a distance of 1,300 feet, the pipe being protected with felt. A fan is used for ventilating. The mine is now in proper shape for rapid and easy development and the character of the gravel is such that the owners are sure of an exceptionally rich yield.

Since writing the above we learn that the mine is increasing its weekly returns at a rapid rate, it being now over 1,000 ounces, with good prospects. It is the company's intention to run a tunnel to facilitate the work and increase its returns. Mr. Chappelet, the superintendent, is quite energetic, and his management is highly complimented by those familiar with it. A new company called the Live Oak Drift and Gravel Mining Co. has just started on a mine situated close to the Mayflower.

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