

Mines and Mining



The Utica Mining Company, Angels, Calaveras County, is about adding two new veins to the present chlorination works, which will then have a capacity for handling twenty-eight tons of sulphurets a day.

The mining property of the Calaveras Consolidated Gold Mining Company, limited, in Calaveras County, has been purchased by E. K. Stevenot and other San Francisco men. The English company spent about \$300,000 on this ground, but quit work about a year ago. It now comes back into the hands of Californians.

George W. McNear has started men at work running a tunnel on the Iron Rock Mine at Carson Hill, Calaveras County, and has recently commenced work on a dam on the Stanislaus River, a few miles below Robinson's Ferry, so as to generate electric power to be transmitted to the mine at a distance of about five miles. Mr. McNear is working the mine under a bond.

W. H. Martin, of Rawhide mine fame, is running a crosscut tunnel on the South Carolina mine to tap the ledge. He has six men at work on the tunnel, and the direction of Del Ray, who was foreman for two years at the Rawhide. This property, which is at Carson Hill, Calaveras County, is being worked by Mr. Martin under bond.

Mr. Smith, who has charge of the chlorination works at the same mine, and Mr. Morgan are opening up the Plymouth Rock mine near Milton, Calaveras County. This mine is very large and the prospects are said to be very good for a fine mine.

A very rich chute of ore has been struck in Taylor or Idewild mine in El Dorado County. This is the richest and most productive mine in the county.

The Merced Mining Company, which bought the Seth Cook properties at Coulterville, Mariposa County, has given orders to the Union Iron Works of this City for forty-stamp mill.

E. W. Chapman, one of the owners in the Idewild mine, has purchased the Zantograf mine at Rattlesnake Bar, in El Dorado County, and has sunk the shaft to a depth of 220 feet. He is now erecting a 20-stamp mill on the property.

J. B. White, the well-known mill-builder, is erecting a 20-stamp mill at the App Mine, Tuolumne County, belonging to Ballard, Martin & Nevill, of the Rawhide. Mr. White is also building the Merced Company's 40-stamp mill in Mariposa County, and the 20-stamp mill of the Zantograf mine, in El Dorado County.

Charles James, under-ground foreman of the Uncle Sam mine, in Shasta County, left this week for Johannesburg, South Africa, where he will join his father and brother, who went from here some months since.

W. C. Ralston and R. R. Grayson (son of S. W. Grayson), who formed a mining partnership some time ago, have reopened the old Stanislaus mine, belonging to the McJones Mining Company on Carson Hill, Calaveras County. They have five men at work extending the tunnel. This firm has also put five men at work on a gravel property on the Ralston Divide, a few miles south of Michigan Bluff, in Placer County. A bedrock tunnel is being run to strike the channel. This latter work is being done for the Ralston Divide Gold Mining Company, limited, a new French corporation, which has the property under bond.

Dr. A. Scheidel, author of the bulletin on the cyanide process issued a short time since by the State Mining Bureau, has returned to this City from a tour of several months in Europe. He leaves in a few days for New Zealand and will from there go to Coolgardie, in Australia, to examine certain gold mines for an English company.

The attempts at a cyanide monopoly in South Africa are to be headed off by the Transvaal Government, which recognizes that such a thing would be a detriment to its gold-mining industry.

New York as well as Chicago is beginning to take an interest in shares of stock of gold-mining companies, and the Exchange proposes to establish a place where speculators, residents of New York, may be advised by those companies which wish to enlist New York capital.

There is talk of a direct line of railroad from Colorado Springs to the Cripple Creek mines, a distance of twenty-eight miles. Six miles of this will have to be a "cog" road.

The London Mining Journal predicts that as soon as the "deep levels" of the Witwatersrand, in South Africa, are reached, gold the output of these fields will rise from the present \$9,000,000 per annum to about \$20,000,000.

In South Australia, the cyanide process is giving excellent returns from ore which has hitherto been unprofitable. In New Zealand experiments with dry crushing and dried cyaniding have answered so satisfactorily that foreign capital is being attracted into the gold-mining industry.

The rule of "big mountains for big mines" is particularly applicable to mines of gold and silver, so the main mountain range of any section is the place to work. In the immense range of the Sierra runs from one end of California to the other, and in it, from one end to the other, gold mines have been found.

Cripple Creek, Colo., is not a new camp. It has come into great notoriety. Two previous periods of mining excitement and exploration have occurred, one in 1874 and the other in 1880, and no paying mines were discovered at those periods. It is now being discovered that the Sierra runs from one end of California to the other, and in it, from one end to the other, gold mines have been found.

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and work on the old placers as far north as Gold Stream, seventy-five miles from Revelstoke, has been carried on during the past summer.

A company is constructing a 7000-foot ditch and flume to bring water on placer ground near Salmon River, Idaho, near the mouth of John Day Creek. This region was mined with crude appliances as far back as 1860, but there are now 100 men in the district and more work being done than ever before.

A six-foot vein of bituminous coal has been discovered on the Illinois River, Curry County, Oregon.

H. G. Widman and Chris McCoy have found a four-foot ledge of gold-bearing ore in the coast range in San Luis County, between Paso Robles and Cambria. Colonel A. G. Myers has found some very fine white granite on Marble Mountain, Scott Valley, Siskiyou County, which is said to be well adapted for building purposes.

The miners on the Klamath River, Siskiyou County, are crowding work and getting out gravel as fast as possible before the winter storms raise the river and drive them out.

A man in Yreka, Siskiyou County, in sinking a well, came across pay gravel which yields \$2.50 per day to the man, and may improve conditions of two more well-known mines in Nevada City district will be sold this month, and the deals will involve the construction of new machinery and the employment of many men.

The Zirn-Schultz mine, in Pine Nut district, Nevada, with its extensions, will probably be sold shortly to Eastern men who have recently examined it.

Canadian mica, having driven, now has a hard struggle to keep the East Indian product from taking its place. The latter is perfectly free from iron and excellent for use in electrical appliances.

The Bewick mines, Peshastan district, Wash., are doing well and keeping the 20-stamp mill busy.

Men with rockers are making \$2.50 per day on the placers of Snake River, Idaho, but it is now getting too cold for this kind of work this season.

In the Wood River country, Idaho, a great deal of development work is going on and the mines are looking well.

An important find of free milling gold ore is announced in Newton District, Beaver County, Utah.

Some very heavy capitalists of Montana are investing in the copper-gold properties of Boundary Creek District, on the borders of Washington and British Columbia. A large number of claims have been sold, but the transportation question is the most serious obstacle to the mines.

The Canadians do not seem to be investing in Utah. They are, however, to so large an extent as Americans are doing.

The quartz ledges recently found in the northern part of Spokane County, Wash., do not come up to expectations.

Los Angeles County has gold mine called the Big Horn, on Big Horn creek, above Almondale, upon which the Lancaster Gazette announces a 100-stamp mill will be built in the spring. In some places the ledge is said to be fifty feet across.

Dr. C. O. Donnell of this City, who has run for Mayor a few times, owns a ranch on Sonoma Creek, near Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, on which there is a deposit of coal.

This he is now about to open and work, and will purchase the necessary machinery and commence mining.

It is stated that La Fortuna mine, near Yuma, bonded for \$150,000 to C. D. Lane of Angels Camp, is showing a large body of \$60 rock in the 130-foot shaft.

The Helen Mining Company, Mogollon, N. Mex., is now employing 100 men on its mine and mill.

John H. Talbot of Denver has succeeded Hugh H. Price as general manager of the Helen Mining Company at Graham, N. Mex.

The Dalton mine, Utah, upon which a great deal of money has been spent, and only a few pockets found, has at last struck the true vein, which is four and a half feet thick and quite rich.

Miners who have not yet attended to their annual assessment work only have about six weeks left in which to do the work or spend the hundred dollars.

Judge W. W. Wallace of Sevier County, Utah, has taken a bond and lease on the Beck mine and mill in the Gold Mountain district, Utah, at a fixed price of \$55,000.

Some thirty-seven claims, in different parts of Camp Floyd district, Utah, are to be sold by the State Mining Bureau. A Chicago company was the bidder.

The Chicago Pumice Company, which owns the claims at Black Rock, Utah, has completed arrangements for regular shipments of pumice.

Lee A. Chisholm, storekeeper, is the principal owner of the Benz Bar claim at Klamath River, Siskiyou County, and keeps forty-four men at work, divided into four shifts, day and night.

Most of the river miners on the Klamath in Siskiyou County have pulled out for the season to save their wheels and apparatus before there is danger of a freshet in the river.

Marcus Daly, the Montana "Copper King," has purchased two large mines on the boundary section, B. C., for \$75,000 and has put a gang of men at work. The Boundary Creek people are delighted with the transaction, as they think it makes a new era for their district.

Some good discoveries have been made in the mining country east of Palouse, in Washington, Wash. Several rich strikes are reported, and good wages have been made on placer ground.

Some Utah men have been making a good thing at the Sweetwater mines in Wyoming by working over tailings by the cyanide process.

The dry concentrators at Gold Basin, Ariz., have proven a complete failure, and a cyanide plant will now be put in, but water has first to be sunk for.

A new five-foot vein is being added to the Heck's quartz mill at Ashland, Or.

The difficulties about the Desert Queen, or McHoney, mine have been finally settled, and the mine has again been put in operation.

If work is renewed on a claim after it has been open to relocation, but before such relocation, the rights of the original owners stand as though there had been no default.

Work has been commenced again on Dr. Boyson's Pioneer mine, in Amador County.

By hard work almost single-handed and alone, F. A. Trask has two veins opened up a 400-foot tunnel on the Enoch mine in Pine Grove district, Amador County. Some rock of his was crushed the other day which went over \$30 per ton.

It is rumored that the McQuig mine, San Andreas, Calaveras County, has been sold for a good price.

In Christian Gulch, Bear Mountain, three miles east of Copperopolis, Calaveras County, there is a new vein of the State Mining Bureau, finds the coal in the northern end of Mendocino County to be exceptionally good. The coal land in Round Valley is very valuable.

CHARLES G. YALE.

FOR GOLD-SEEKERS.

A Water System for Placer Mining and a New Type of Dam.

By Robert Brewster Stanton, M. Am. Soc. C. E.

In the spring of 1893 the author began the construction of a pipe line and reservoirs for the development of a placer mine, comprising fourteen claims on the summit of the Coast Range in Southern California. The water supply was obtained about 2.5

miles from the mine, at a place where there is a basin from 1200 to 1500 acres in extent, bounded on three sides by high mountain slopes. The snow drifts and packs into this basin during the winter and remains until late in July. Springs issue at the lower edge of the basin at the foot of San Antonio Creek, forming the source of the water supply for the mines. The water from these springs drops into the gulch at the head of this stream and sinks into the debris that fills the gorge. To catch this water and turn it into the head of the pipe line a small reservoir was built.

The debris was leveled off across the gulch for a width of sixty feet, leaving a basin of finely broken granite rock, with the rock walls on three sides. A pine log dam six feet high was built across the gulch, and lined with a double thickness of plank sunk into a trench in the debris, the fine rock fragments being filled back against the plank. Owing to the fact that the gravel in the mine was of limited extent, all the work done on this reservoir and other parts of the water system was of a temporary nature. There were five different methods in this small basin to be joined by a water-tight lining; shattered slate to be joined to solid granite and to the plank dam; the broken stone bottom to be joined to slate, granite and planking. This was done by joining to the end of the iron pipe line.

This was done by covering the whole inner surface with two coats of hot asphalt paste, which was not over half an inch thick. The second coat was made of the best refined California asphaltum and one part of crude petroleum without sand. These were boiled together until, when absorbed, it was brittle and hard. The last coat, while elastic and pliable with the warm, this lining is in good condition after two summers and a severe winter, the only repairs made being the application of a few quarts of asphalt last spring.

The pipe line is two miles long from the collecting reservoir to the pressure reservoir, and runs along a very steep, rough and stony mountain side, where it would be impracticable to maintain a ditch or flume on account of the snow and rock slides from the mountains. The pipe was made of No. 16 sheet iron; it was boiled in asphalt and had driven joints. The first 1800 feet is 12 inches in diameter, then comes 2000 feet of 10 inches, and the remainder is 8 inches. The first 500 feet is on a grade of 40 feet per mile, and the remainder 16 feet per mile. Air valves are located about 1200 feet apart, and a whole line, and cross and waste valves are provided at the upper and lower ends and at the head of the 8-inch section. It was decided to be cheaper to lay the pipe on these contours than to dig a trench to cross the gulches by descending into them, and the pipe line could be emptied of water in winter without the use of so many expensive valves.

The size of the pipe line was not recommended by the author, but was determined upon to save the extra cost of larger sections. At three places the line is carried over gulches by wooden lattice spans, the timber for which had to be carried up the mountain on men's backs. Like all the pipes, valves, asphaltum and other materials. The laying of the pipe was very difficult where an immense rockslide had to be crossed. Here the loose top material would move without jarring, and only one 20-foot length of pipe could be laid at a time, as a longer trench could not be kept open. It was dangerous work, for in driving the joints the heavy blows of the maul shook the whole side.

The pressure reservoir was built for two purposes: First, as a penstock at the head of the pressure pipe leading to the mines; second, as a reservoir to hold water for some hours during the latter part of the season, when the supply is limited. It has a capacity of 330,000 gallons, but as originally designed it was to hold 3,000,000 gallons. The depth at the bottom portion is 12.5 feet. It is located at the head of a gulch on a thickly timbered part of a ridge above the mines. A semi-circular dam was built across the gulch of a single thickness of large pine logs, with ends sawed on radial lines and butted close together, forming an arch with a slight batter up stream. Each row of logs is separated with, and bound together by, small logs laid at right angles to the dam and extending up into the reservoir. As these were put in place a bank was formed on the upper side of the timber of earth and broken rock well tamped around the logs. The slope on the upper side of this filling is 1 1/2 to 1.

There is no material in the neighborhood that could be used in any way as a puddle for a dam, and the bottom and sides of the reservoir are of earth, rotten granite and shattered slate. To make the basin water-tight, a lining of asphaltum was laid, and this is what is known as the street-paving business by that name, which is composed of asphaltum and sand, for clean, sharp sand would have cost \$20 a ton delivered on the mountain, but is a true concrete of broken stone and asphaltum. The stone was obtained from a porphyry dike near by and was broken into pieces two inches or less in size. All the fine material was left and enough more added to have the entire mass free from all but the smallest voids.

This concrete was prepared from two street-paving pans. The rock was heated and well mixed in one pan and the mixture of four parts of red paste and one part of concrete of broken stone and asphaltum was poured into the other. The boiling paste was poured with ladles over the hot rock and the whole mixed over the fire until every part of the concrete was thoroughly coated. The concrete was then taken in hot iron wheelbarrows to the site of the work and put in place in the usual manner, being rammed, smoothed and finished with hot iron.

It was put up in a four-inch thickness, strips from four to six feet wide, and where the strips were joined, the old edge was well coated with hot paste. After the lining was finished it was painted with hot paste mixed in the proportions, but boiled a much longer time, until, when entirely cold, it was hard and brittle, breaking under the hammer like glass, yet tough, pliable and elastic when heated. The concrete was laid while the paste was very hot, and should not be over one-eighth of an inch thick, although, through the fault of the contractor, it exceeded this amount at some places, and the result was a bad road. The lining cost 15 cents per square foot.

In spite of the faulty manner in which the material was laid in places by the contractor it has stood so well that the author has no hesitation in recommending it to be built in Southern California. After clearing the site of the dam to bedrock and preparing proper catches in the bottom of the canyon where the structure is to be built, the dam is to be built of loose rock bladed from the sides and dumped in place by cableways. Care must be taken to have the larger masses of stone surrounded with smaller pieces, so as to reduce the amount of settling and movement to a minimum. The inner face of this dam is to be laid up with great care. A thickness of perhaps 10 to 15 feet at the base, and diminishing to 5 to 6 feet at the extreme top, should be placed in the form of a well-laid dry wall. The joints should be well filled with small stones and the surface left as even as can be done without hammering, though not smooth. Starting from the bottom every 5 or 6 feet of this hand-placed surface should be stepped back about 3 inches, leaving a series of these narrow herms all the way to the top. On the surface thus prepared place a true asphalt concrete perhaps 1 foot thick. If this is properly proportioned, mixed and laid the 3-inch steps will prevent creeping. New York Engineering News.

A Brief Will.

A will, which is retreating in its brevity, has just been filed in the Probate Court. It is as follows:

"I, my will, my entire property, without exception, I do hereby bequeath to Miss Louise Keath, 1253 Oak Street, San Francisco, to be paid to her executor without bonds. My body shall be interred in the cemetery at San Francisco, Cal., November 9, 1895.

The estate consists of a half interest in a saloon. It is worth \$500.

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ASHWORTH'S TRIAL BEGINS

Seven Jurors Secured From a Special Panel of Twenty-eight.

OUTLINES OF THE DEFENSE.

The Whole Blame Will Be Laid Upon the Deputies in the Street Office.

The trial of the indictment against Thomas Ashworth, the Street Superintendent, for misconduct in office opened before Judge Murphy in Department 3 of the Superior Court yesterday morning. The day's proceedings brought seven jurors to the box out of the twenty-eight talesmen who were examined.

The case came up in pursuance of the indictment which was filed against Ashworth by the Grand Jury about four weeks ago. The indictment charges that he was guilty of wilful and corrupt misconduct in office, in that he accepted

to satisfy counsel. He had no particular prejudice against any one connected with either side of the case, nor was he a member of the Civic Federation. He had read the papers, but the papers did not influence him. He would refrain from passing an opinion on the case until finally submitted to him; he would report at once to the court if any one approached him on the subject of the case in hand, and altogether he seemed a model juror. He was accepted.

Nathan had known Mr. Ashworth for a great many years, and he had had no business dealings with him. He did not favor actions of the kind then pending. He thought it too late in the day to bring an action of this kind, and, besides, he was not on the assessment roll. Under this last admission he was excused.

C. Dickey did not know Ashworth nor Keating, Ashworth's deputy, nor any other politician in the City. He knew about the case through the newspapers and considered the whole business a rotten affair. He would weigh the evidence, he said, but he would not give the defendant the benefit of the presumption of innocence until he had heard the evidence. He thought, too, that Ashworth looked honest, "but," he added, "there is no telling, he may be like the rest of them." He had a pretty decided opinion of the guilt or innocence of the defendant, however, and so was excused for bias.

L. Lowenstein, a retired merchant, knew no one connected with the case, and had no prejudice or bias. He was a property-owner, and had not read much about the case in the papers. Mr. Lowenstein seemed to be generally satisfactory, and he was taken as a juror.

H. Braunschweiger, a liquor-dealer, was in a proper state of ignorance of the facts

of the case and the persons connected with it. He had had dealings with Ashworth, and had found him all right. Braunschweiger was passed.

Thomas Rivers and H. Braunschweiger came in to the box and worn. Hugh Curran, a hotel-keeper living on the corner of Broadway and Montgomery street, was the first one examined. He was a Supervisor at one time, when Ashworth was Superintendent of Streets during a former term, but he only met the defendant then in the course of committee work. He was willing to try the case fairly, and so was accepted.

Mr. Shedy was questioned closely as to his opinion of the responsibility of Mr. Ashworth as head of the street office and in accepting contracts which were defective. Mr. Shedy believed that when the Superintendent of Streets accepted a contract, he was responsible, even though one of his deputies had reported the work all right. He would, however, want to have guilty knowledge proved before he would remove him from office. Mr. Shedy was accepted.

J. Klenck was accepted by both sides after numerous questions as to his opinion of the responsibility of heads of offices, and so was J. B. Warren.

Thomas Rivers and H. Braunschweiger were absent from the jury-box when court convened at 2 o'clock, and attachments were issued for them at once. Mr. Ackerman was also absent, but he came in in time to testify to the slight reprimand. Soon after Mr. Braunschweiger came in with an excuse, showing why he should not serve on the jury, which he should have given before he was called. He was excused, and then Mr. Broder was called, and he was examined.

Mr. Black, who took Mr. Barnes' place during the afternoon, was on his feet before the examination had been long in progress, objecting to Mr. Ackerman's question of the defendant. He claimed it was only necessary to prove wilful misconduct, and that therefore Mr. Ackerman's questions were irrelevant. The question was allowed, however, and then Mr. Broder was passed. Mr. Black will put in some authorities on the point before the case is over.

Dunn was examined and accepted after a rigid examination, and the remainder of the panel was no good from the standpoint of the different counsel. A special venire was ordered, returnable this morning.

The jurors so far are: F. M. Black, 1324 Octavia; L. Lowenstein, 1012 Jackson; H. Braunschweiger, 1900 McAllister; Hugh Curran, Broadway and Montgomery street; M. Shedy, 515 Stevenson street; F. J. Klenck, 714 Fulton street; J. B. Warren, 30 Elgin park; C. D. Broder, 13 Warren street, and H. Dunn, 161 Octavia street.

The will of Charles D. Root was filed yesterday afternoon. The testator was the son of the old pioneer D. Root. He left an estate worth about \$100,000.

He leaves the entire estate to his widow, Ruby A. Root, with the exception of \$25 a month, which he leaves to a child by his former wife until the child is of age. The child is now about 14 years old.

The will was filed together with a petition to set aside the appointment of his executor, and the appointment of herself as executrix. At the same time Attorney Walter H. Linforth had Judge Coffey appoint her special administratrix, until the general will has been issued to her when the will has been admitted to probate.

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