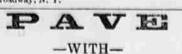
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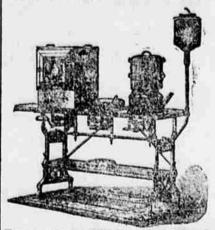
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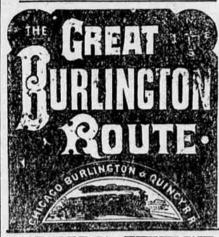
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IN A MINING CAMP.

the Cour d'Alene Country

Claims of Doubtful Value.

Towns-Extent of the Diggings. Eagle City, Idaho Terr., Cor. San Francisco

work impossible.

CLAIMS GOBBLED UP.

Some hundreds of men rushed in, so fearful they would get nothing in the gulch that they gobbled up the claims not taken as though they had been town lots, rather than spots specially valuable for a mineral showing in each. This is not true of the claims taken last fall. They were prospected and showed up indications. These older claims are found to be irregularly scattered up, and down. to be irregularly scattered up and down the length of the gulch throughout a distance of from fifteen to twenty miles. The number of people in the several camps has been at all times overstated. There is a disposition to lie about this camp that is virulent and contagious, and the nearer I approached to the heart of the speculative point the worse I found the disease. The impatience I felt at the deceiving stories told me served as a prophylactric, and some days of wearying investigation have enabled me to give the truth of the condition and appearance

course of Pritchard creek as it flows to the It is indeed beautiful and looks as though north fork of the Cour d'Alene river. molten gold had been spattered over it,

north fork of the Cœur d'Alene river. Eagle creek runs southerly and joins Pritchard at Eagle City. Pritchard runs through what is known as the main gulch and its course is zigzag from the abrupt rise of the mountain on each side, the bottom, to a width varying from a quarter of a mile, being so flat that it cannot find its way through the center, as though it were a gently sloping valley. A bar here and a depression there send the little stream from side to side, making constant crossings necessary in traveling up and down. These crossings are very difficult, over poles felled across when the snow over poles felled across when the snow was deep and the water low. Now the many places, and resting in the depressions, where its presence is an aggravating surprise to those who thought they had only to wait for the snow to go away.

The water will be present in the most

surroundings. EAGLE CITY. At Eagle City, which is reached by monotony of the profane hum of male side gulches, voices. Immediately in the vicinity of Eagle are some thirty placer claims and upon some of these the owners are beginand is the general stopping place for all

The next place up the gulch is called "Osborne's," from William Osborne of Montana. Here there are fifteen log houses, about seventy-five men, twenty placer claims and three quartz. None of them have shown anything remarkable yet, so far as I can learn. though there is a deal of digging going torward. The Old Abe quartz lode is being vigorously produced under the superintendence of Mr. Sweeney of Spokane Falls, who was at one time foreman in the Belcher mine. At Murraysville the Blackhillers prelominate. There are sixty houses and

been located near. Raven has twenty-five dwellings and

THE FAMOUS WIDOW CLAIM. So much for the location, population So much for the location, population and general lay-out of the camp or camps. While Eagle is the principal place and the central point for loafers, Murraysville is the liveliest just now. Judge Claggett is an old timer in the mines and his cabin is stoled with law books. is stocked with law books, wise sayings and parallel instances. The Widow's claim is just in the rear of Claggett's cabin, and I went out one morning and we panned out some gold. Some one had felled a tree above and shut off the water for a few hours, so the sluices were cleaned up, and while I stood there one of the men gathered up some black sand and gold which he said was worth \$25. There are nine of the men working this claim and they have little to say to the prying seekers for information, who bedevil them from morning to night. The "boss" is William Keeler and some of the miners call it Keeler's claim. the miners call it Kesler's claim. The history of this source of hope is a mixed up one. It seems that Mr. Pritchard, the reputed discoverer of gold in this sec-tion, located this claim for some widow, There are genuine widows and bogus widows known in connection with this

patra in her barge, basea her claim, I am told, upon money advanced to Pritchard.

THE DISCOVERER DEPOSED.

CAPITAL PRIZE, \$75,000 to The DISCOVERER DEPOSED.

Keeler and his partners went in last September and found some men working the claim under Pritchard's direction, I believe, though Pritchard was not there. Keeler asked the men if they had claims of their own, and upon learning from them that they had, he remarked: "Well, this is the claim I want." They demurred Eagle City and Other Mushroom and remonstrated, but he forced his arguments. They asked time to clean up, which he gave. So the jumpers turned in and proceeded to business. They have worked away, regardless of injunctions or This mining camp has thus far been given more to real estate speculation than to mining speculation. Generally, the mines make the mining town, but in this case the town has grown upon the rumor The Keeler crowd was on hand and noof mines, and now some comers are mis-takenly led to believe that so considerable an aggregation of houses and tents indi-one with whom I have talked on the subcates rich mining. Of course it does not, though the hope which led to the building is kept up by the daily taking of some gold out of the "Widow" claim and the occasional half-mysterious uncovering bakery there. Just previous to this venter of the widow of the widow in Rathdrum, who was keeping a bakery there. of a speckled rock known as the "mother ture he begged of Widow Edginton the What there may be tarther is a favor of her hand in marriage, as I unmatter of speculation, since most of the claims have been located without prospecting, the snow making this preliminary willing widow, Poor Pritchard! He seems as clever an old miner as I ever Some hundreds of men rushed in, so talked with, but some incredulous people

THE THREE ORPHANS. The Mother Load claim is a mile and a half above Murraysville and is owned by three stumpy old graybeards, known as the "three orphans." The principal or-phan is old Billy King, an Idaho miner, and if he is half as rich as he is dirty he has a fortune Miners cannot be fastidious and all the "rustlers" look rough and tough, but old Billy carries more chewed tobacco in his beard than any man who owns chunks of gold ought to. The owners are sitting on their rocks waiting for a buyer. For some reason or of the camp at this time.

THE GOLD-BEARING GULCH.

The general direction of the gulch is from the southeast to the northwest—the

A CRUSHER,
I asked about machinery.—" Would there be a crusher at work soon?" The water is high, running over the poles in question itself was a sort of a crusher for none of the sanguine men who stood around had the assurance to say that the mines were anywhere ready for heavy machinery. One of them said a R. R. Cummings had offered to trade a crusher troublesome plentitude for a month or six that would work two and a half tons per weeks, if one may judge of indications or hour for a half interest in a particular lode. I cannot now remember which one it was It is evident, however, that there must be some more showing before tramp of four miles from where the creek | capital will venture to either take in maempties into the North fork, there are chinery, or be taken in by the owners of about 150 dwellings and stores, and half claims. The gold which Mr. Shelton, a of them being tents and one-quarter log houses. Two saw mills now supply lumber for future buildings. The lumber used in the camp up to a week ago was whip-sawed in the old back-breaking way. These dwellings and stores at Eagle shelter about 800 men, women and children, the women being were searce and the transport of the side gulches. The gold which Mr. Shelton, a merchant, and Mr. Hassey, a banker, showed me, and for which the banker pays \$16.50 per ounce in cash, and the merchant \$18 in trade, came some of it from the Widow claim and some from Missoula gulch, where it was rocked out. Missoula gulch is one of the side gulches. the women being very scarce and the that run into the Pritchard creek bottom, children scarcer, though now and then a and there are cabins scattered along up boy's laugh or an infant's cry varies the the steep sides more than in the other

Scenes in CAMP.

The camp is a rough place, though as yet no crimes have been committed here. ning the work by stripping and digging drain ditches, slready full of water. This is largely the camp of Montana miners, though it catches men from everywhere, gambling houses, and the saloons are lined with loafers and drinkers. In some comers. It is from five to seventy five feet to bed rock in this lower camp.

OTHER TOWNS.

The next place up the gulch is called proaching a blush. This morning a well dressed young woman came into the place where I was at breakfast. It was a combination eating house, barroom, gamb ling house and concert hall. She went up to the bar. I have seen plenty to shock my Puritan recollections, but somehow this was a little the worst of

"Give me some whisky," she said, "and put lots of absence (abainthe) in it. I go home to sleep—no, not home—I've got no home; but (drunkenly) never dominate. There are sixty houses and tents here, about 350 men, twenty-three placer claims and five quartz openings. It is pretty generally agreed that the best mines will be found hereabouts, and it is in Murraysville that the Widow claim is in Murraysville that the Widow claim is with a clear voice into "only to see his Butte has ten cabins and tents, some seventy-five men and a dozen or more placer claims, upon which men are beginning to work. Ten quartz claims have been located near. round the stove.

Raven has twenty-five dwellings and four or five times as many inhabitants, with some eighteen placer mines, jealously guarded, though not yet worked. Sullivan, away up the gulch, has but two houses and a dozen inhabitants or less, and besides a few placer mines, boasts of three quartz lodges of great expectations.

ARE YOU GOING TO EUHOPE?

In another column will be found the anouncement of Messra, THOS, COOK & SON, Tourist Agents, 261 Broadway, New York, relative to the very complete arrangements they have made for tours in Europe the coming Spring and Summer. "Cook's Excursionist," containing maps and fuil particulars, will be mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

Wm Gentleman,



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windows Rhown in connection with this mine. The original widow, as I understand it, is a Mrs. Lane, of Indiana, for whom Pritchard located in 1883. Mrs. Edginton, the widow I saw coming up the North Fork in all the state of Cleo-Millinery and Hair Dressing Parlors

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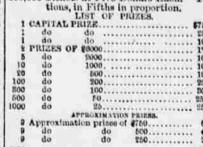
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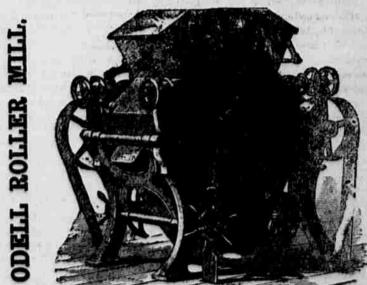
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