

BLACK WAKES THE PERSIAN.

Invincible Energy Compels Unwilling Nature to Yield Her Treasures.

A RIVER BED STUDED WITH GLITTING GOLD.

The Sugar Beet Industry in Utah—Mining Activity in Montana—Development in the Black Hills—A Panorama of Progressive Life in the Northwest—Summary of the Week's News.

Getting to Rock Bottom.

Mining enterprise is not balked by natural and apparently unsurmountable obstacles. Mountains have been penetrated and valleys uprooted in search of mineral wealth, but it remained for California to inaugurate and carry to successful completion the most extensive mining scheme ever undertaken in this country.

Feather river mines rank among the richest gold producers in California. They were worked in the early fifties and fortunes realized. But like scores of others they were apparently exhausted and left to other hands to be improved.

That portion of the Feather river sought to be worked was in a narrow canyon hardly accessible to a footman. To reach the mines had to be constructed at a large expense, buildings erected and tools and machinery provided. It was determined to build a rock dam and dam the river, and the dam was built and the river was dammed.

Owing to the deep and strong current of the river at the head of the Golden Gate mine no work was done until the summer of 1887, when hundreds of men were put to work and the dam rushed ahead with great rapidity. The great dam, 90 feet wide and 3,200 feet long, was completed and the pumps quickly raised, but ere the channel could be drained the second dam was built and every precaution was taken to make it stand during the winter, something unknown in river mining.

The company, nothing daunted, set to work early the following spring to put the dam in shape, but the high water continued so late that the summer was well advanced before much could be accomplished. During that summer, however, the second dam was built and every precaution was taken to make it stand during the winter, something unknown in river mining.

This season the big mine was extended so as to make it 1,000 feet long, and this added to the great canal made nearly two miles of river bed to work. Five China pumps were set to work in the fall and the canal was drained dry, while the hydraulic elevator is rapidly draining the water from the other. It is thought that the gravel will average from 100 to 150 dollars per ton, and the celebrated Cape claim averaged \$800 per linear foot, and at this rate the Golden Gate mine will be worth to its owners \$1,500,000. It is believed that the whole section of the two miles of river bed will pay well to work.

The history of these mines is full of interest. Feather river is the richest gold-bearing channel known in mining history. Oroville, on its bank, became the third town in California during the mining period. Its annual output, for years added many millions to the circulating medium of the world. It was the richest of rivers, and where the river could be turned vast treasures were obtained. In its bed were located the famous Sailor, Cape, and Union claims. The Cape mine, from the Cape in a single day \$30,000 was taken, and one pan of the auriferous gravel yielded \$100.

In 1878 when the Cape claim was worked it being a portion of what is now known as the famous rich placer of the Cape, it yielded \$175,000, while \$680,000 was paid in dividends. In 1888 when the Union Cape was worked, the expenses were \$100,000, and, though only a few months of mining were obtained previous to the rains, yet \$250,000 was taken from the bed of the stream.

The bed of the river in these long years has been filled to some extent with silt and gravel, and to remove this is a huge undertaking, but in no other manner could the rich bed be reached. This gravel must all be removed and the bedrock itself thoroughly cleaned and the river channels all cleared. It has been found the largest quantity of gold in all river mines.

WEALTH IN IDAHO.

New and Old Mines Proving Exceptionally Valuable. The eastern section of Idaho promises to equal, if not surpass, any other section of the state in mineral wealth. Considerable excitement has been occasioned by the discovery of extensive and valuable gold, silver and copper quartz mines at Pocatello, one of the leading towns in southeastern Idaho. One of the citizens there, while digging a cellar, found some rock which proved quite rich in gold. The news spread rapidly and soon hundreds of men came to the place with pick and shovel with the result of finding large bodies of rich gold, silver and copper-bearing quartz. Assays of the ore show that it runs from \$100 to \$400 a ton free milling. A company with quite a heavy backing was organized and the mining operations are expected to be pushed vigorously. The town is full of miners from all sections of the country, and all speak favorably of the find and the outlook.

Following close upon the discovery at Pocatello came the discovery of a fine, or rather refined of a veritable bonanza ledge of gold quartz in the old Boise basin. It calls to mind the early mining days of Idaho, when the man in a pair of overalls and a hat had more gold dust than they knew what to do with. In those early days, sometime in 1861, a man named Bunch, who had been working some rich placer claims on Ouhir creek in the basin. It was thought pretty good then to get from \$20 to \$30 to the pan, and Bunch became curious to know where all this gold came from. He followed the "sign" up the creek and finally struck the ledge on the mountain side, taking some rich specimens.

As he was mining was little thought of in those days, but as time went on, and the matter was dropped and no further attention paid to it until this summer. An old prospector named Mahan, to whom Bunch spoke of the ledge, was called, and he concluded to go on a prospecting tour. He called on Bunch, brought up the long-forgotten story of his find, and asked him whether he thought he could find the old ledge. He said he was sure he could. "If you could," said Mahan, "my fortunes are made." Proceeding together, after a careful search of some days they struck the ledge. The vein is ten feet wide as far as they have gone into it. It is a ledge of quartz, and high bridges have been built or a detour has been made wherever it was necessary to keep the maximum grade down to 25 or 30 feet to the mile. It is strange that the last Pacific railroad built should have been able to secure this advantage.

A CELEBRATED CASE.

The Blaine Divorce Contest in South Dakota Courts. According to reports from Sioux Falls, the famous divorce contest of the west, James G. Blaine, jr., will not allow his wife's suit for divorce to go by default. Through his attorney he has filed an answer to his wife's petition, denying that the plaintiff has a good faith belief in her own innocence, and returning looking toward and happy, and his horse was found with the saddle turned under the body. Search parties were organized and a thorough patrol of the mountains for twenty miles back was instituted, but although his camp was discovered, no trace of Blaine was found. As he was worth some property an administrator was appointed and the estate distributed to the different heirs. One day last week a hunter, while on a hunt, discovered fifteen miles from La Grande, discovered a human skeleton covered with what once had been a human body. It was found in a hole in a cliff, in the clothing established beyond a doubt the fact that it was the long missed Haller.

ment of the action, and alleges that she came to this state for the sole purpose of commencing the suit. He denies that he deserted the plaintiff and claims the said plaintiff deserted defendant on September 3, 1888, willfully and wrongfully leaving him and his home. He denies that he has refused to support the child, and says he is now, and always has been, and willing so to do. He denies that for the past year he has neglected to provide for the plaintiff, and denies that he has compelled the plaintiff to live on the charity of relatives.

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