

has been looked upon with more or less disfavor, but which will now stimulate prospecting and revive the courage of those inclined to abandon ground where the flow of water has been the chief obstacle to vigorous exploration. North of Big Evans gulch will most probably feel the impulse of this new strike, and valuable and extensive deposits will be opened up in that section, despite water and depth of wash.

The owners will push the work of development, and we confidently predict that ere many months this property will add very materially to the daily ore output of the camp. The property is owned by W. H. Wilson and C. S. Hurd, of New York.

SCOOPER.

GRIT AND PERSEVERANCE RICHLY REWARDED—TWO YEARS OF TOIL UPON LOW GRADE ORE SUDDENLY EXPOSES A BONANZA—AN ASSAY OF 17,100 OUNCES IN SILVER TO THE TON—MILL RUNS 706 AND 1,706 OUNCES IN SILVER PER TON—CAPITALISTS LOSE A HANDSOME INVESTMENT BY FAILING TO DEPOSIT THE FORFEIT IN SEASON.

THE presence of heavy masses of iron or low grade ore is, in this camp, a never failing index to the existence of mineral of high milling qualities. Notable instances of this occurrence are the Iron Mine, the New Discovery, Joe Bates, the mines of Breece Hill, the Belcher, and others too numerous to particularize. But the most prominent among them all is the Scooper, as will be observed by the following history of the mine and the extent of work performed thereon before rich mineral in bulk was reached.

Most of the mines specified above were contiguous to paying properties, and their owners were encouraged to prosecute the work of development under the almost certain prospect of ultimately striking the same rich mineral deposits. No such encouragement cheered the plucky original owners of the Scooper. Situated high upon the ridge dividing Fryer Hill from Carbonate Hill, where until very recently no mineral had been found, and its nearest neighbor, the Argentine group, being distant nearly a quarter of a mile, the Scooper was deemed of little account, and in

fact a well grounded prejudice existed in relation to it. The owners never relaxed their persevering work to unearth the riches they believed their ground to contain, except to accept a situation on some other mine to obtain money to prosecute the work of development.

Work upon this property was begun early in November of '77 and continued to the present time. Geo. Washburn and Peter Klinefelter, the locators, have grittily stuck to the Scooper amid all manner of discouraging obstacles, which, one after the other, were surmounted, until to-day they have a mine second to none in the production of high grade ore, with the flattering prospect of there being an abundance of it.

The discovery shaft, four hundred feet from the west end line, has been sunk to a depth of one hundred and forty feet. In sinking this shaft, iron was encountered at thirty-six feet from the surface, and found to be twenty-eight feet in thickness, averaging fifteen ounces in silver to the ton, and the highest assay ever had, reaching only seventy-two ounces. Such mineral at that time had no marketable value, and the Scooper at once attained the rank of a profitless property. After passing this iron, the owners sunk through fifty-six feet of lime down into quartzite, and twenty feet into it. Going back to the body of iron, two drifts were pushed forward into it for seventy-five feet, but the grade still remained as low as that developed by the shaft.

Number 2 shaft, near the north side line, and distant about one hundred and twenty-five feet, was next begun and pushed down sixty feet to iron, and a drift run in upon it one hundred and fifty feet. The ore here also proved generally of low grade, although occasionally very rich gold specimens were found, and assays of two ounces to the ton obtained, but not enough to pay for shipment in bulk. Foul air being the occasion of much delay and annoyance, number 3 shaft was sunk fifty-five feet to connect with the west drift to secure ventilation. In prosecuting this work, twenty-eight feet of low grade iron was passed through, showing the continuance of the iron seventy-five feet from the discovery shaft. The owners, far from being disheartened, began shaft number 4, which has been sunk to a depth of one hundred and fifty feet down to lime bed-rock. Here

at eighty feet from the surface the iron was found to be of much better grade, and some of the assays ran as high as two hundred and fifty ounces to the ton. This iron has a thickness of seventy feet, and the general average is of fair milling grade. Water began to flow in steadily at the bottom of number 4 shaft, and impeded the progress of work, and hence it was determined to start a drift in upon the iron at a point ninety feet from the surface. It will be noticed that during all this development very little ore had been extracted upon which cash could be realized to aid in paying the expenses incident thereto, but now much richer ore was being placed upon the dump, and when this drift had progressed sixty feet, ore running one hundred and fifty ounces demonstrated that the Scooper had finally struck pay in bulk, and accordingly certain parties began negotiations tending to a purchase of the property at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, the condition being that twenty thousand dollars should be paid in as a forfeit. The owners were willing to sell at the above figure, but the transaction was not binding upon them, as many delays occurred and the forfeit money was not deposited according to agreement, and the would-be purchasers were notified that the sale was off. In the last fifteen feet the ore has increased in richness to a remarkable degree until it rivals that of the wonderful Robert E. Lee.

Assays from picked specimens have returned values as high as seventeen thousand one hundred ounces in silver to the ton, while a mill run of nearly six tons, delivered in two lots, yielded seven hundred and six ounces of silver and half an ounce in gold, and one thousand seven hundred and nine ounces in silver, six-tenths ounces in gold, and thirteen per cent. in lead. The owners, of course, feel jubilant over their final good fortune, and hearty congratulations from their numerous friends, who know of their plucky persistence in achieving success, are daily offered them, while the parties who did not buy when they had the opportunity, feel like kicking themselves.

This rich ore body has been but recently struck, and its extent, of course, unknown; but as the ore is pitching sharply to the east beneath the solid porphyry roof, and the full face and sides of the seven foot drift being in ore with an ore floor, there is every reason to believe that an exten-

sive deposit remains to be exploited, and that the mine is destined to rank among the largest and richest bonanzas of the camp.

The extent of the iron developed in all the different shafts and drifts, is evidence of an immense deposit, and the solid lime bed rock with underlying quartzite, showing the formation to be true and regular.

The Scooper was sold on the 16th of November to J. W. Bonta & Co. for \$250,000.