THE LURE OF CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD

By

WM. Y. SEAMAN

PRICE 15 CENTS

16-13661

TN423
C7S4

I desire to acknowledge and express my appreciation of the cooperation of Harry J. Newton, the editor of DOLLARS AND CENTS of Denver, Colorado, in furnishing me valuable data for this booklet and contributing some of the chapters.

Wm. Y. Seaman.

APR -4 1916

Copyright 1916 by Wm. Y. Seaman.

©CLA430091

no. 1

'Tis Twenty-five Years Since the Discovery of the Cripple Creek Gold Camp.

A quarter of a century is not very long during which to mark the development of a giant industry, but of a surety the years have worked wonders in the history of the Cripple Creek district.

As we take a retrospective of the days when Cripple Creek was born, there stands out prominently the name of a man to whom the credit must be given for doing the first digging in the great El Dorado, and to whom must be credited with having made the first discovery—"Bob" Womack.

In the very earliest days of Colorado history the country around Pike's Peak was prospected for gold by the pioneers who were attracted from afar by the snowy crest of the famous beacon mountain. They were not rewarded by their search, and a whole generation elapsed before the expectations of the first prospectors became fulfilled.

History relates that there was a gold "rush" in 1884 to Mount Pisgah, at the very foot of which now nestles the town of Cripple Creek. A crowd of 4,000 men flocked to the scene, but what gold there was to attract the "rushers" had been "salted" there by the instigator of the stampede.

For several years prior to 1891 prospectors had wandered over the hills between Colorado Springs and

Florissant, and like their predecessors, unconsciously treaded, at times passing frequently right over the very trails, under which reposed the vast hoard of gold, that already has enriched the world upwards of $350,000,000, with yet a greater future in store.

There was exceptionally good grazing land around what is now the Cripple Creek district. The present site of the town was formerly the Bennett & Myers ranch. The very name "Cripple Creek" came from the fact that at a certain point along a little stream there was a morass in which straying cattle wandered and in their efforts to extricate themselves were occasionally crippled.

For ten years, from 1880 to 1890, "Bob" Womack had been living in the district, doing occasional work for Bennett & Myers. He spent some time in prospecting, for he had previously had some experience in Gilpin County, Colorado, and knew gold ore when he saw it. In the course of desultory digging he found several veins, and when seen, at intervals, at Colorado Springs, he would exhibit pieces of float (surface ore) as evidences of his discoveries. His statements made little impression.

In December, 1890, E. M. De la Vergne and F. F. Frisbie came up from Colorado Springs to prospect and returned early in February, 1891. They found Bob Womack at work in Poverty Gulch. He had sunk a shaft to a depth of 48 feet and had a good ore showing. The claim he had staked out was called the Chance, and a number of stakes indicated that he had re-located it six years in succession without putting it officially on the records. When he found that the new-comers were making inquiries he re-located the claim as the El Paso, and De la Vergne, finding another lode, heavy in iron pyrites, to the west of Womack's vein, located a claim

which he called the El Dorado. It was recorded a few days later, and in the certificate the district was called, for the first time, by the name which it now bears. Womack gave a lease and bond on his first location to his friend Frisbie. It was bought by the Gold King Company and has been a big producer ever since.

The name Cripple Creek is also believed to have sprung from the fact that many of the grazing cattle had their legs broken in "Bob" Womack's prospect holes, a compromise being subsequently entered into that if "Bob" must go prospecting and digging holes, that he cause fences to be erected around them for the protection of the cattle. "Bob" Womack stuck to his prospecting and for years kept trying to get others interested enough to visit the scene. In January, 1891, a month before De la Vergne and Frisbie went in "Bob" induced an old friend, Dr. J. P. Grannis to visit his discovery with him. They made the trip with some difficulty through the snow, and brought out some good samples of ore. These were on exhibition at two or three places in Colorado Springs, but excited only indifferent interest.

Commenting on this critical period in the gold camp's history, one of the early writers says: "I looked up Dr. Grannis and asked him about the gold ore Womack had been showing around. The replies were not sufficient to impress me and I let it pass." Naturally a gold discovery by "Bob" Womack was discounted. "Bob" in those days was a typical cowboy. He had arrived at near middle life, and had spent nearly his entire career in the saddle.

So there was very little attention paid to Womack's stories of gold around on the other side of Pike's Peak. But to him alone belongs the right to be known as the discoverer of the Great Gold Camp. He

stuck to it and subsequently Stratton, Doyle, Burns, Harnan and others made their big bonanza strikes. And if ever "Dame Fortune" played a man a scurvy trick she certainly did that same to "Bob" Womack, for he got virtually nothing out of his discovery.

Cripple Creek owes its discovery to a "cow puncher," and to the artisans and storekeepers who "rushed" to the diggings when skepticism was at last dissipated, must be given a whole lot of credit. These came principally from Colorado Springs, Denver, Pueblo and other Colorado towns, and the argonauts of Cripple Creek will tell you that they flirted with golden fortune, confident that Dame Nature would reward their search, in spite of adverse criticisms at the hands of the state press, and from old-time miners who were used to gold ores existing under other conditions; and there were not wanting actual denunciations to the effect that the entire business was nothing but a fake.

And today, those of the hardy pioneers who are left can count their rewards, if their keen foresight and good judgment has stayed with them through the years.

The "split-check" leasing system, adopted first in the Cripple Creek district and now used in all the prominent camps of the country, provides that the company furnishes the power, hoisting and other facilities, and the leaser furnishes the labor. The net returns from ore extracted is divided equally. The system is given credit for a large part of the general prosperity of the camp. Generally speaking it does not require much capital to start leasing operations and there are hundreds of instances of expert miners acquiring a little more ambition and a lease, becoming independent in a very short time.

The Wonder Story of the Portland Mine, and of Its Three Irish-American Discoverers.

PORTLAND MINE'S fame is foremost wherever —the world over—big mines are up for review. The Portland has stood at the head of the list of Cripple Creek district bonanzas ever since its organization in 1894. The story of the Portland is wealth told in millions.

John Hays Hammond, the world-famous engineer, on a visit to the Portland, emerged from the shaft so impressed with its magnitude and riches that he could simply repeat to questioners "A great mine." The production of the Portland that year—1900—was $3,259,000.

Hammond's laconic verdict expressed when its deepest working was about 1,000 feet, is fully confirmed by the continual outpouring of millions in the years following, and today at 1,600, 1,800 and 1,900 feet in depth, the same great prolific veins are disgorging their riches.

The discovery of the Portland reads like a fairy-book story. The chief characters are John Harnan, James Doyle and James F. Burns, all of Irish-American stock. Harnan was a Pennsylvania coal miner, who went prospecting in Idaho, then in Colorado. He walked into Cripple Creek, had a lot of hard work getting a job, and was about to leave camp when Stratton put him to work cooking for ten men. Harnan saved $300 and quit to go prospecting on his own account.

On his way up Battle mountain Harnan came to a log cabin occupied by Burns and Doyle. They were discouraged. Doyle had located a fractional claim, about one-sixth of an acre, January 22, 1892, and named

it Portland, for his birthplace back in the state of Maine. Burns joined him and the two had about made up their minds to seek another location, when Harnan came up and asked them why they did not make a mine of it. Burns retorted that he and Doyle would make him a partner with a one-third interest if he could find where their pay ore had gone. Harnan accepted.

The three men were typical of the army of gold-seekers then swarming over the Cripple Creek hills. Doyle had been a carpenter's apprentice, while Burns had experience at stationary engineer work, machinery and pipe-fitting, first on the sugar plantations in Louisiana, and later in Colorado Springs.

With what knowledge of Battle mountain formations Harnan had gained while he was at Stratton's Independence mine, the three went to work in better spirits.

Ten days after the partnership was signed Harnan reopened the bonanza ore shoot of the Portland. The shaft was already down 20 feet when Harnan put in a crosscut at six feet below the surface and made the strike. The three owners were afraid to let their discovery become known, because claim-jumpers had been doing gun work. Two of them sacked the ore by night while the third stood guard above. It was stored and sorted in the cabin and occasionally one of the three would strap a sack of the richest stuff on his back and trudge away by night to Colorado Springs, thirty-five miles distant, where it was accumulated and then shipped to the smelters. In this cruelly laborious way they paid for supplies and tools while developing their mine.

All the troubles of the rich then overtook them. They started to ship by wagon but the road was steep and the rough-locked wheels cut such gullies all the way

down from their shaft that prospectors on adjoining claims became suspicious and the news of the rich strike was forced out. All at once the Portland was besieged by adverse litigation filed by adjoining claim owners. The partners consulted Stratton and then by the use of some money, diplomacy and consolidation of interests, the Portland began to evolve and expand. At one time though there were over forty lawsuits over the property.

The Portland Gold Mining Company was incorporated in 1894. Additional property was added until the solid group comprised 200 acres.

During all the litigation and contention the recurring difficulties were overcome because of the immense richness of the Portland ore. Shares in the Portland sold as low as 25 cents shortly after its organization. Then as facts of the full value of the mine spread over the country the stock rose to 50 cents. About that time the London Exploration Company had an option on it, but gave it up, and in a few days the ore body opened up bigger and richer than ever! The stock at one time during the height of the excitement on the Colorado Springs Exchange, rose to $3.00 per share.

Around that little one-sixth of an acre has been built up one of the greatest gold mining and milling plants in the world. The mine has not faltered for a moment in the immense production. The Portland mill in the camp handles close to 30,000 tons per month, and besides this the mine sends an immense amount of higher grade ore to the company's big custom mill at Colorado City, which, in 1915, handled 170,000 tons of an average value of $21 per ton.

Recently the new flotation process of ore treatment has been added to the Battle mountain mill, which has still further increased the saving of values. Ore as low

in value as $2.50 a ton, or lower, can now be treated at a profit. In the very early days ore of $50 value went over the dump. Great dump piles of ore formerly rejected are now being worked over for additional millions in profit.

To the wealth of the world the great Portland mine has added $42,000,000. It has paid in dividends $10,267,080.00. If there is to be any end to the period of its productiveness no man has had nerve enough to pose as wise enough to place the limit in years.

Portland is one of the romances that have characterized the progress of Cripple Creek. And as if to complete the romance by a happy union the properties of the Portland and Stratton's Independence were merged in 1915 into one mining estate, in many respects the greatest in the world. Stratton was the first president of the Portland company, in grateful recognition of his kindly and neighborly advice to the three owners in its troublous days. The deal for the independence involved the payment by the Portland of nearly half a million in cash to the English owners. The addition gives the Portland an estate of nearly 400 acres.

The mines are operated through a series of shafts, elaborately equipped with up-to-date and powerful mining machinery, and the various laterals and other workings aggregate somewhere between 50 and 100 miles, the majority of which openings have been made on ore —yes, and rich gold ore at that!

Ed. Gaylord's lease on the Jerry Johnson mine, claimed the high record for 1909 with a profit of $250,000. Two years previously another group of leasers cleared up $100,000 from the same property. An Anaconda leaser in 1901 struck 12 feet of ore worth $130 a ton and took out a big fortune in a very short time.

The Independence Bonanza and Its Patriotic Locator -- The Late Multi-Millionaire W. S. Stratton.

STRATTON and his Independence mine will always stand out as the most sparkling chapter in the history of the Cripple Creek district. Newspaper and magazine articles unnumbered have heralded to the four corners of the earth the amazing wealth uncovered.

The Independence was the first great mine in the Cripple Creek district.

Stratton went into the camp in the spring of 1891, with a prospector's outfit loaded on a couple of burros. He had a talk with "Bob" Womack, who showed him some unlocated land, but in a few days Stratton pulled stakes and went up on Battle mountain, some six miles distant from the town of Cripple Creek, where a few others were digging. Stratton staked out a number of locations and was particularly impressed with a great dike of granite that stuck up through the wash. His blowpipe revealed gold in the float, but he failed to find its vein or source. He returned to Colorado Springs but his face kept turning west in spite of everything. It suddenly flashed upon him that right where that ledge stuck up would be found the contact of the granite and the porphyry and there would be found the mother vein. He hurried back to Battle mountain and on the Fourth of July located the Independence and the Washington claims.

Stratton's impulse proved well founded. His find became the sensation of the camp and he had some sleepless nights guarding it. Stratton held on in spite

of many offers to buy his claims at fabulous figures, and in a very short time found himself rich.

Winfield Scott Stratton represents a type of American manhood always exhibited in the pioneer and frontiersman. He was not a scholar but was well informed on all matters of business and in mining. Stratton came to Colorado in 1872, his capital being $300 and his knowledge of carpentry. At odd times and Sundays he prospected the hills within reach of his home, and became fascinated with the study of geology.

To fit himself for prospecting he took a short course at Colorado College and acquired knowledge of ores and rock formations, also the knack of testing ores by the blowpipe. When he had saved up about $3,000 Stratton, with others, acquired a property in the San Juan country and for seven years, each spring and fall, he trekked with an outfit loaded on burros nearly 300 miles to develop the mine, and then back again to spend the winter at his trade in Colorado Springs. He found himself lacking in knowledge of milling and spent several months in Breckenridge, Colorado, where he learned the details of amalgamation and concentration of ores. So it was no old scrub of a prospector who located the Independence. Had a man of ordinary intelligence opened this find he would have parted with it at the first good offer. Not so with Stratton. He recognized its value and his love for the work compelled him to go ahead.

Stratton's first batch of samples sent for assay returned, highest $380 and lowest $11 to the ton in gold. He sank a shaft on the vein and proceeded to push development. Years later the big boulders that gave Stratton the inspiration to dig were broken up and yielded $60,000 in gold.

The mine yielded the locator $4,000,000 and of this

$3,000,000 was profit. Then it commanded the fabulous sum of $11,000,000 when it was taken by the English syndicate. This transaction made the raising of capital for mining and milling enterprises easier both at home and abroad and was the means of immensely advancing the camp.

In the development and operation of the Independence, Stratton used the property virtually as a bank or depository, extracting ore only when he felt disposed to draw upon his vast account. To the impatient query of his friends he replied: "Why should I take out the ore? When I need money it is time enough and my wealth is safer stored underground than to be in a bank which might bust up."

An expert who had examined hundreds of mines for the English syndicate said he had never seen a better managed property than the Independence. The sale was made after engineers had spent months examining and testing. They estimated the value of ore reserves as 70,000 tons of a gross value of $6,712,000 and that probably $8,000,000 would be extracted. Shortly after the sale new ore opened up caused the engineers to raise the probable future output to $12,000,000. But all estimates of value were outclassed by a yield for the Englishmen of $7,500,000 in dividends and a total production of $23,000,000, according to a report made at the London meeting of the stockholders.

Gold occurring in what appeared like red building granite was new to the gold-seeker of the West, and it could not be. But Stratton struck his magic pick in the granite outcrop and the result thereof again demonstrated the truth of the oft-expressed theory that "gold is where you find it."

The Golden Cycle, Vindicator and Hull City Placer Aggregation of Great Gold Mines.

THE prominence of the Cripple Creek district as a dividend-paying camp was strikingly emphasized by the consolidation in 1915 of two of the big producing mines—the Vindicator and the Golden Cycle.

These two great wealth-makers, with a record production together of over $30,000,000, have been adjoining neighbors on Bull Hill since the early discovery days.

In point of steady output from the grass roots, they are cited as marvelous in the camp, and in the great depth of their lower workings, they are given among other numerous proofs that values extend to depths as yet unknown.

Together the two companies have netted in dividends for their stockholders the handsome sum of over $11,000,000 on a total issued capitalization of $3,000,000.

The consolidation involved the payment in cash by the Vindicator Consolidated Gold Mining Company of $1,300,000 and compromised agreements figured at $1,000,000 additional, making a total consideration of $2,300,000 paid to the Golden Cycle Mining Company. The magnificent production capacity of the Vindicator is indicated by the payment of the entire sum within a few months and that, too, without any cessation of its handsome dividends.

The Vindicator estate as now composed, which is second in the matter of gross production, is on of that magnificent string of gold properties extending around the rim of the Cripple Creek crater.

The Golden Cycle was organized by the David H.

Moffat group of operators in 1895, and was purchased in 1900 by A. E. Carlton and associates, of Colorado Springs and St. Louis. The Vindicator was organized in 1895 on 28 acres of patented ground and increased later by the purchase of the Hull City Placer of 40 acres, over which costly and sensational litigation had been waged. Other additions brought the whole Vindicator estate as it now stands, to 120 acres.

From a strictly industrial mining enterprise standpoint, these three mines have been among the most popular, because of the wonderful net work of producing veins developed, giving employment to a small army of miners, mechanics and millmen. The properties are gridironed by five producing veins, which have been developed in levels and drifts to a depth of 1,800 feet, and at the extreme depth it was found that one of the main veins divided with mineralization and volume of material as reliable as in upper levels.

In this veritable underground beehive leasing companies and individual leasers are working on blocks of ground in scores of places, taking out the rich pay ore; this, of course, being in addition to the operations on company account.

As an illustration of how everybody is making money on the Vindicator property and the proportion going to the company and that made by leasers, a paragraph from the official report is given: "The ore produced in 1915, totaled 218,487 tons, from which was sorted 125,397 tons of shipping ore of an average value of $23.73 per ton. The gross value of ore shipments was $2,164,669, while the net value of the same was $1,718,022. Lessees in the same period shipped 49,188 tons of the value of $16.57 per ton, and net value of $546,364, from which the company received in royalties $251,624. The total profits for the company from min-

ing amounted to $1,265,863 after payment of $703,784 for operating costs, salaries, taxes, etc."

To illustrate in another way how the wealth of ore is pouring from the big Cripple Creek producers, the output from the Vindicator in a recent month, on both company account and from lessees, was 458 broad-gauge cars; or in other words, a trainload every 24 hours, as follows:

Vindicator No. 1 shaft; company account 121 cars of ore with an average value of $30.00 a ton; lessees 80 cars, average value $29.00 a ton. Golden Cycle shaft: Company account 102 cars, average value $30.00 a ton; lessees 118 cars, average value $15.00 a ton. Christmas Mine, operated through both shafts: 27 cars, average value $40.00 a ton. Total 458 cars. Approximately 14,600 tons with a gross bullion value of $300,000.

The already immense ore supply of the Vindicator was increased by the discovery of a new ore body within the last few months and known officially as the Middle Vein. It was first opened up in a stope on the so-called No. 1 North ore body and runs diagonally to the general course of the old producing vein system. The new ore started in a small way in ground heretofore considered barren, increased steadily with drifting and eventually a continuous body was developed connecting No. 1 North with No. 1 South vein. As developed on the 1,600-foot level the new vein is 400 feet in length and has a width of 35 feet.

To test its extent work was started at once on the 1,500-foot level and the new Middle vein opened up again in a 60-foot crosscut. It proved as big as it was in the level below and has since been organized into the producing zones of the great mine. This find at depth is nothing new in the gold camp, for it is a fact that

many of the paying mines were "brought in" after periods of searching.

As an instance, the Cresson was at first a poor looking prospect, next was in low grade ore for years, and then opened up one of the great gold bonanzas in mining history.

The imposing surface equipment of the Vindicator properties, together with its mammoth dumps, the unceasing hum of engines, hoists, motors, mills and drills, its very air sensibly quivering and pulsating with energy, is one of the many interesting sights of the camp.

A remarkable performance is that of the concentrating mill on the Vindicator, which handles about 750 tons of lower grade ore, reducing it from 11 tons to one, and recovering 55 per cent. in handling material of an average value of $2.00 per ton. The milling cost is given as only 20 cents a ton.

Brewing interests of Denver who for years have controlled the Vindicator have less regret over their losses from Colorado going "dry" than they would have were their great gold storage plant of the Cripple Creek district to go petering—which the true optimist of the famed camp KNOWS can never happen, but instead proclaims that the golden yield of the future will be greater even than the glorious record of the past.

One of the richest ore shoots found on the famous Gold Coin mine, situated in a formation composed of what has the appearance of red building granite, was opened by blasting for the foundation of the Victor hotel—afterward burned down at the time the town of Victor was razed by fire. The beautiful pressed brick shaft house was occasioned by a Victor city ordinance requiring no more frame structures within the city limits. The mine paid dividends in excess of $1,250,000.

The Evolution of the Cresson from a Despised Prospect to Its Million-Dollar Pocket.

GOLDEN wealth untold——

A "vug," or "pocket" of gold ore opened in 1914 in the Cresson mine created a nation-wide sensation, again heralding the fame of the Cripple Creek gold camp. The big find is credited with a yield of over $1,000,000. This discovery at 1,200 feet depth in a mine that was already producing $1,000,000 a year in levels above is claimed as proof positive that the limit of ore values and ore measures are at depths simply unguessable.

It must be well understood that the Cresson was already one of the heaviest wealth producers before the big chamber or gold was opened, and for some time had been the second largest dividend-payer in the district.

Looking back a few years, however, it seems only a comparatively short time when the Cresson was in the class of raw prospects and in reality was given the title of a "joke prospect" by some of its early managers.

When the present management, under the now famous "Dick" Roelofs, took hold, the property had weathered various kinds of vicissitudes, and had as a showing an unproductive shaft of 600 feet depth and an indebtedness of about $80,000. Then Roelofs was given the job of trying to change a hole into a paying mining enterprise.

It seems almost magical that a despised prospect was transformed, almost before folks realized it, into one of the richest of gold bonanzas. The case of the Cresson is cited among scores of others to prove that with well-located ground in the recognized producing

area, big mining successes follow intelligent development in the Cripple Creek district.

Roelofs saw that the Cresson working had uncovered an immense quantity of ore, but so low in grade as to be considered by former managers as below the minimum of pay. It was here that the new head of affairs showed his genius. Economies were introduced in mining and handling of the ore, and losses turned into profits to a remarkable degree. Roelofs, as a starter, made some nice profit and paid dividends of 45 per cent. on ores which averaged $15.67 per ton, and that, too, with a refractory character of material!

Bigger and bigger grew this pay ore reserve under systematic development and intelligent handling along the most modern and economical engineering lines, and Roelofs had as a reward the more frequent occurrences of higher grade ore as depth was gained.

The first big strike that put the Cresson in the dividend-paying class, was opened at 1,000 feet depth. In mining vernacular, it was "a whale." When stoping began this fabulously rich ore body widened out to amazing proportions. Roelofs used a string of electric lights stretched across the stope and showed its full measure to be 135 feet from wall to wall. Pay ore was extracted clear across, leaving a gaping chamber. It was this same ore body, continuing to greater depths, that produced the famous $1,000,000 vug, or pocket of gold.

A vug is described as a cavity in an ore body and in this instance the walls of the chamber were covered thickly with glittering sylvanite and calaverite, giving the appearance of the mythical golden cave of Aladdin. When the miners broke into this chamber they found the floor of it thickly covered by a crumbly mass of particles that looked like jewelry, and this gold ore,

some of it worth about $100,000 a ton, was simply scooped into the ore sacks like so much sand.

Trusted employes were placed in the chamber of wealth and the drift leading thereto was closed with a regulation bank vault door so precious and valuable was the golden treasures Nature so bountifully had bestowed.

The first shipment of six cars from the vug resulted in a check for $468,637.29, issued to the Cresson Consolidated Gold Mining Company by the Copeland Ore Sampling Company. This check is said to be a record for a single shipment. Armed guards attended the shipments of Cresson ore the same as if it were gold bars from a mint. The stealing of ore like this would be like taking $20 gold pieces.

For the year 1915 the Cresson produced over $2,000,000 and paid $1,000,000 in dividends, besides adding a large amount to cash reserve. The average value of the 1915 output was $33.00 per ton for all ore handled, while great quantities of high grade ran $5,000 to $12,000 per ton.

While the Cresson vug was a world's sensation and was a particularly strong object lesson for investment in the camp, it hardly produced a ripple among mining men. It was taken merely as an incident in connection with the immense tonnage of ore pouring from a hundred other shippers. The methodical wealth producer of the Cripple Creek district merely cities the Cresson strike as proof that the camp's days of gold digging have just begun, and that the rich reward is still in the hills for those who will come with confidence and work with energy and intelligence.

The enormous flow of water coming from the Roosevelt drainage tunnel measures about 18,000 gal-

lons per minute and experts believe this will increase somewhat as the tunnel is driven ahead on the next lap of 10,000 feet to the far rim of the volcanic basin. The tunnel in length is nearly 20,000 feet from its portal and when finished will have a total length of over five and one-half miles. It was figured that the gold producing volcanic basin held about 50,000,000 gallons of water for every foot of altitude, and results show that this was approximately correct. According to T. R. Countryman, its chief engineer, the flow of water since the tunnel reached the rim of the eruptive area is as follows: Year 1911, 3,283,496,000 gallons; subsidence of water in feet, 77; gallons of water per vertical foot drained, 42,642,820; year 1912, 5,177,949,000 gallons; subsidence in feet, 131; gallons per vertical foot drained, 39,526,330. The flow decreased slightly in 1913, but increased again in 1914 when the total flow was 4,340,718,000 gallons; subsidence 93 feet; and flow per foot drained, 46,674,380.

According to a curious compilation in the last Review edition of the Cripple Creek Times-Record, if all the rock broken and handled in this camp in its first quarter of a century should be dumped into the Panama canal, it would transform that waterway into a boulevard; and if all the dumps in the district and all the ore shipped could be piled in a heap on the plains of Kansas, Pike's Peak would cease to be the chief attraction, for the new one would be far above the perpetual snow line and so high that travel to its summit would be almost prohibitive.

A lease on the C. K. & N. mine in 1904 netted the lucky operators $315,000 in a few months.

The Belief Held that the Stratton Estate Contains the Greatest Mine in the Camp.

WHEN the late W. S. Stratton sold the Independence mine for $11,000,000 he did not let time get heavy on his hands but plunged again into the thick of the industry, and proceeded to carry out pet plans for the building of another mammoth mining enterprise and in every way possible to try to prove correct his long-cherished belief that the Cripple Creek district holds larger and richer deposits of gold than any yet discovered. He scoffed at the suggestion that he proceed to enjoy his well-earned retirement and wealth. "Why shouldn't I be allowed to pursue my fad, the making of mines," he argued. "I get lots of fun out of it and I intend going into it up to my neck as long as I live. I have a theory about what I am doing now in a mining way in the district, and," he continued, "I hope I am correct, for otherwise it might break me."

So Stratton proceeded to go at it on a giant scale. Of the millions he received by the sale of the famous Independence mine, he re-invested about $5,000,000 in undeveloped property, wherever his judgment and knowledge told him there might be developed some future bonanzas. With unbounded faith that he would get his money back many times over he gave orders to purchase, and there was welded into the Stratton-Cripple Creek Mining and Development Company a string of properties stretching clear from the summit of Bull Hill into the town limits of Cripple Creek and right up to, and still beyond Bob Womack's first location. This was an object lesson to investors that admitted of no misunderstanding.

Stratton's purchases during a whole year (1900) furnished the investment sensation of the mining world. Some of the acreage bought was privately owned and others were included in stock companies. The former were purchased outright and control of the others were secured, sometimes in one block, and sometimes by purchase on the open stock markets. Some of the purchases involved immense sums which were paid over as soon as titles were confirmed.

There was built up the great property now generally known as the "Stratton Estate." Then plans for an enormous amount of development furnished another striking chapter in Stratton's quest for the biggest mine in the Cripple Creek district. Nearly all his plans involved deep mining. Whether or not his unbounded faith in the camp's future was accepted in all its phases, the fact remains that the big ore bodies, almost without exception, improve at depth.

The work of sinking immense shafts and the running of tunnels in various parts of Stratton's new properties was begun at once. On the summit of Globe Hill there was driven one of the largest of three compartment shafts, requiring 18-foot timbers and having two cage-ways of 4 feet 10 inches by 4 feet 6 inches in the clear, with a large pipe and manway. This shaft was projected to meet the extension of the Chicago-Cripple Creek tunnel which had its portals near the town, and after connection the shaft was to proceed to indefinite depth. This work was to give development facilities to a large underground area. There was plenty of mineral in sight and the veins were profit-makers, but Stratton, pursuing the same plans carried out in making the Independence, made output of pay ore in quantity a secondary matter. His desire was to hurry down

into the bowels of the earth and establish greater values at depth than had been yet uncovered.

Another important deep exploration was begun in the sinking of the workings on Bull Hill. The shaft on the American Eagles was pushed down with immense energy, the objective being a depth equal to that on the John A. Logan mine, and necessitating sinking to 1,500 feet. These and other gigantic operations were inaugurated to work out Stratton's theory, sometimes named "Stratton's dream."

He believed that if one could dig straight down in the Cripple Creek district till he got through all the volcanic material and onto the floor of primitive granite he would find gold in such quantities as no one ever dreamed of finding near the surface.

Stratton believed that the whole volcanic area of Cripple Creek cooled in the form of a huge champagne glass. The stem of the glass is the neck of the old volcano, the passage by which the molten rock and steam and ores found their way up from some unguessable depth. The bowl of the glass is the present mineralized area. If the volcanic rock of the Cripple Creek district could be scooped out and tossed away there would remain an irregular granite-walled bowl over six miles across in its greater dimensions, and—how deep? No one knows and here comes in Stratton's dream.

Stratton reasoned that the superheated water and steam from the lower regions would deposit more or less of their load of ore all along their route. The mere fact that some of the water escaped in steam would force the precipitation of a portion of the ore carried by the rest of the water. Stratton believed that the ore-bearing waters and steam had deposited the heaviest—which would mean the richest—part of their burden close to the bottom of the bowl and in the vol-

canic pipe—the stem of the champagne glass. Stratton was following his theory when he drove down the big shaft on Globe hill, which he believed to be directly over the chimney or volcanic route from below. Stratton planned his big work expecting some day to reach that gold-littered floor.

What might have developed had Stratton retained his health and been given a longer lease of life is left for each to guess, according to his faith or imagination.

Turning to results, some of the best mines and steady wealth-producers of the camp are located on different parts of the Stratton Estate. Under the leasing system, the executors of the estate are permitting operations on many properties with good results, which is another proof that Stratton had an unerring nose for good paying mines.

There are many in the Cripple Creek district who believe that somewhere in the great Stratton Estate the biggest Cripple Creek mine will be discovered.

The story is told that "Tim" Huzzy was at one time called as an expert witness on a mining case. The attorneys for the other side were putting him to innumerable tests, and trying, without avail, to twist his evidence and otherwise disconcert him. He was handed a geological or mine working plat which had been introduced, and was asked to identify it, and to explain it to the jury.

With the wiseness of a thoroughly competent "expert," "Tim" examined it carefully, turning it various ways, and after getting it squarely upside down, he announced with assurance:

"Why them's the Lakes of Killarney."

The Mary McKinney, the Anaconda, the Isabella, the El Paso, the Elkton and Other Famous Bread Winners.

MARY McKINNEY is always classed with the big producers of the Cripple Creek district. Its 144 acres contains one of the camp's greatest veins, famous for the persistence of pay ore for 2,600 feet, with values holding to the bottom, or 1,000-foot level.

The production to date is close to $9,000,000. Total dividends $1,169,306.

The old Anaconda Company's property, containing over 100 acres, was purchased in recent years and added to the Mary McKinney estate. The Anaconda was the first shipper in camp and was sold to the Dave Moffatt group of wealthy operators, who took their profits from it for many years, and then sold out to John T. Milliken of St. Louis. Since 1900 the Anaconda has been worked by leasers in the upper workings marketing pay ore that was formerly considered too low value to mine. Under Mary McKinney ownership the old Anaconda will be given deep exploitation.

The Mary McKinney property has been given a fine equipment for deep mining and has a total of about twelve miles of underground workings.

With the deepening of the mine made possible by the Roosevelt drainage tunnel and better opportunity to market a lower grade of ore than formerly, the Mary McKinney is conceded to have a long production career still ahead. Of the present output, two-thirds is by company operation and one-third by leasers.

The Isabella, one of the famous Bull Hill producers, is almost a household word. At one time or an-

other in its career nearly all the early settlers have been connected with it either as employes, leasers or stockholders. It has been the scene of some of the richest gold finds and many of the most substantial men in camp got their start or made their fortune from the Isabella. Its reputation as holding in its 160 acres so many good places where gold could be found makes it one of the great leasing properties in camp, and its fame in this regard still stands. The regularity with which the Isabella has produced new finds of profit-making gold ore has caused some big flurries in its stock. Without being thrown off its balance by these big strikes and excitements, the Isabella has proceeded with regular development and its fine present condition indicates a long future production. The Isabella still holds the Colorado record made in 1903 for a one-car shipment, $219,000 in gold, according to smelter returns from about 30 tons of ore. The mine is traversed by a marvelous network of veins and ore bodies, many of which were first discovered hundreds of feet below the surface. Only a few weeks ago in pursuing regular development on the 15th level at 1,275 feet depth the company drilled into a five-foot ore body carrying a "core" six inches in width that is yielding 800 ounces gold, or $16,000 a ton. Leasers on a block of ground between the fifth and seventh levels have to date shipped 2,600 carloads of high-grade from one stope.

There are now forty sets of leasers on the Isabella. The mine has an average output from leasers and company account of 2,500 tons per month, averaging $20.00 per ton.

The Isabella works through two big shafts known as the Lee and the Empire State. The property has an up-to-date mill, which is now taking good profits from

the big dump of ore rejected as too low to handle in earlier days.

The Isabella Mines Company has produced a total of $8,000,000 and has paid in dividends to date $750,000.

The El Paso mine on Beacon Hill, owned by the El Paso Consolidated Gold Mining Company, has a record production of over $8,000,000 and has paid nearly $2,000,000 in dividends. It is developed through two main shafts, has about 36 miles of workings and is shipping from headings and stopes on various levels to a depth of 1,200 feet. Its ore occurrences are still opening under development with encouraging regularity and yielding for the company and eighteen different sets of leasers about a total of 2,500 carloads of an average value of $20.00 a ton.

A few years ago El Paso stock was going at around 9 cents a share. That El Paso has since sold at several dollars a share indicates the healthy prograss and profit-making quality of the property.

The Elkton mine, a most conspicuous property located on Raven Hill, is also famous for having made a bunch of poor men wealthy almost over night. A half interest in the original location of this big Bonanza was given in settlement of a small grocery bill.

After twenty-four years as a producer the Elkton is still yielding its golden wealth and stands among the first five leading mines of Cripple Creek.

The Elkton has a total production of $12,000,000 and has paid its stockholders $3,600,000, besides providing handsome profits for 25 to 30 sets of leasers.

The Elkton was located by W. D. Shemwell, a blacksmith, and named it for his native town in Kentucky. He gave a half interest in the claim to wipe out a grocery bill of $36.50, owed to three partners in the grocery store at Cripple Creek, Sam Bernard, Geo. Ber-

nard and Van E. Rouse, a school teacher. The four partners did very little but assessment work on the claim for two years and then unloaded some of their stock on their relatives for enough money to pay for patenting. Then the school teacher, Rouse, went to prospecting the ground during a summer vacation in 1895 and opened up an immense body of rich ore. The mine has since made all the lucky owners very wealthy men, and most of them are still among the prominent operators of the camp.

The Elkton was extended in acreage and later was merged with the Raven Gold Mining Company and the Toronado Gold Mining Company, giving a total of 120 acres.

A strike of 33-ounce ore by Lew Hayden in 1904 netted the lucky leaser $200,000 in a few months.

Since 1908, when the Elkton came within the influence of the big drainage tunnel, it has exposed at 1,600 feet depth the same immensely rich ore measures as have been mined ever since the blacksmith and the grocer discovered the mine.

The Strong mine on Battle mountain has a record of never missing a monthly dividend for 20 years and it is still yielding its wealth at a lively gait. There is always one or more mystery mines in big mining camps and the Strong is Cripple Creek's legendary and fabulous pot of gold from which only a certain amount, regulated by the will of the millionaire owners, is extracted every month. The alleged net sum is around $25,000 a month. This fact and the published statement of a total production to date of $8,000,000 is enough to tell that the Strong is a great mine.

Newspaper men seeking details for a story about fabulously rich finds have invariably "got the door," but the miners will talk, you know, and it is general

belief that enormous ore reserves are showing in many of the lower workings which insures a heavy output of gold for a long term of years.

The wealth of the Strong all came from the original location, only seven and one-half acres in size.

The owners are known as the Lennox and Giddings group of wealthy miners, of Colorado Springs. The mine was named after its locator, "Sam" Strong, who was one of the several famous millionaire of the early days of the camp, locating several good properties. Strong was killed some years ago in the town of Cripple Creek.

A number of the "good things" in Cripple Creek a few years ago were collected by A. E. Carleton and associates, and merged into the United Gold Mines Company. The total dividends paid by the mines composing the merger is given as $7,038,300 and some of the properties are yielding better than ever under the extensive development plans being carried out. The owners are the same group of millionaires who control the Golden Cycle Mining and Reduction Company's mammoth plant at Colorado City, which handles more than half the shipping ore of the Gold Camp.

Included in the United Gold Mines properties are the Wild Horse mine, with a total production of $2,500,000; the W. P. H. with a record of $1,000,000; the Trail Group of 25 acres, $900,000, and located between the Cresson and Portland; and the Deadwood Group, adjoining the great Vindicator mine.

The company owns outright 200 acres, and in addition is interested by stock holdings in 200 acres more in Cripple Creek. The Wild Horse mine of this estate has a wonderfully productive vein, which has been followed for 3,000 feet linear, on the various levels. Talc seams are frequently found yielding 15 ounces gold to the ton

and one stope 40 feet long by 27 feet wide mined above the ninth level produced bullion value of $250,000.

The W. P. H. of the United Gold Mines Group is another sensational ore producer. A few years ago a body of ore was mined across 33 feet, had a bullion value of $100 a ton without sorting, and produced $300,000 in a few months. The claim is only about four acres in all.

The Gold Coin mine is a conspicuous land mark in the gold camp by reason of its location right in the bustling city of Victor. Its $250,000 surface plant enclosed in a pressed brick structure is one of the "sights" of the camp. The Gold Coin had paid $1,350,000 when it was sold to the Granite Gold Mining Company.

As composed by recent purchases the Granite estate has 40 acres of property located on the famous rim of the Cripple Creek crater, not far from the Portland and Independence. New equipment and plans for development are showing in increased production and stamps the Granite as one of the big mines of the Gold Camp.

The production of all the Granite properties to date is $14,000,000.

The late "Sam" Strong and the late W. S. Stratton both bonded their properties, the Strong and the Independence, for about $50,000 or $60,000. Lennox and Giddings took up their bond on the Strong, but the option to purchase the Independence was not executed and the property reverted to Stratton.

It is recorded that both these men's wives divorced them about that time by reason of their insistence on spending their money on "holes in the ground." Both died multi-millionaires.

The Cripple Creek District Has Yielded Upwards of $350,000,000 in Gold.

HUNDREDS of millions! It takes a gold camp, with great bonanza mines, to be there with such fabulous figures.

In a compilation of the production by years the amount credited for the first year looks, and was, a very modest starter for the big after results. have followed.

In considering the table it should be carefully noted that the largest output from the standpoint of gross bullion value of the precious yield was made when there were in evidence a larger number of smaller operators consequent to the boom, and before the time when the large acreage now in the Stratton Estate was left idle by reason of the death of Mr. Stratton.

It should be noted also that at the present time the camp is sending out a larger tonnage than ever before in its history, and the lower average grade of the product is consequent to the fact that milling and mining facilities have been so improved that a lower grade of ore is now commercially marketable.

Here is the production record of the camp as compiled by the Cripple Creek Times-Record:

1891	$ 200,000	1904	21,414,080
1892	578,310	1905	22,307,952
1893	2,010,400	1906	16,268,291
1894	3,256,000	1907	13,148,152
1895	6,100,000	1908	16,230,525
1896	8,750,000	1909	15,850,113
1897	12,000,000	1910	15,982,819
1898	16,000,000	1911	15,958,684
1899	21,000,000	1912	14,006,741
1900	22,500,000	1913	14,335,520
1901	24,986,990	1914	13,551,931
1902	24,508,311	1915	16,189,727
1903	17,630,107	GRAND TOTAL	$354,764,653

The Public Companies Have Paid Millions and Millions in Dividends.

BREAD WINNERS is the name used by mining writers in referring to dividend-paying gold mines. The camp of Cripple Creek has its great bread winners in a most pleasing array.

Fabulous dividends have been paid the fortunate shareholders in many of the large Cripple Creek district companies, and in this connection it should be noted that many of these stockholders invested in the shares while those shares were yet quoted "in the pennies," and, accordingly, after they reached "the dollars" per share they have the profits resulting from this source, as well as their dividend earnings—oh, yes, well selected gold mining investments "bring home the bacon" for the discerning business man who uses his spare funds for this purpose.

An exact accounting of **all** the profits which have been made from these mines cannot be given. The reason therefore is that some operations are by close corporations. Again, some are by private individuals. And then there are the leasing operations, some by leasing companies, and others by close corporations or private individuals.

But a compilation of MILLIONS IN PROFIT has been prepared, and which will serve the purpose of presenting most interesting and convincing statistics that gold mining PAYS.

Here are some of the bread winner records of the public companies:

Acacia .....$	136,194	Cripple Creek	45,000
C. K. & N.....	171,828	Cripple Creek Con.	180,000
Consolidated	380,000	Dr. Jack Pot Cons.	90,000

Elkton Cons.	3,547,460	Mary McKinney...	1,169,306
El Paso	1,707,545	Modoc	275,000
Findley	350,000	Monument	27,124
Free Coinage	180,000	Mt. Rosa	19,897
Gold Coin, Victor.	1,350,000	Pharmacist	91,500
Gold Dollar Cons..	100,000	Portland	10,267,080
Gold Sovereign....	31,571	Stratton's Cr. Crk..	300,000
Golden Cycle	7,578,300	Stratton's Independence	5,719,818
Granite	286,500	Stratton's Leasing.	50,000
Independence Con.	281,375	Strong	2,275,000
Isabella	742,500	Union	444,244
Jerry Johnson ....$	187,500	Vindicator	3,307,500
Last Dollar	180,000	Work	1,597,685
Lexington	12,500		

The following is an interesting compilation by the Cripple Creek Times-Record and which includes estimates of the profits resulting to close corporations and leasers:

DIVIDENDS OF CLOSE CORPORATIONS 1915.

Cresson Consolidated Mining and Milling Company (conservatively estimated on production of $2,000,000)	$1,000,000
Stratton' Cripple Creek Ltd. (sale of property, estimated)	500,000
Strong Gold Mining Company (estimated)...	250,000
Stratton's Cripple Creek Mining and Development Company, The Stratton Estate, (estimated	50,000
Gold King Mining Company	50,000
Total	$1,810,000
Profits of Leasing Companies and Lessees, closely estimated	$ 500,000
Grand Total Dividends and Lease Profits, 1915	$6,499,375.04
Dividends, Operating Profits, 1915	6,499,375
Dividends prior to 1915	45,389,309
Grand Total paid stockholders	51,888,684

Gigantic Strides Have Been Made in Mining and Metallurgical Science and in Providing Other Facilities for the Great Camp.

IN the matter of extracting the values from the gold-laden rocks of the camp it puzzled the early arrivals, for the ore was refractory in character, and strange to miners, who had worked in other camps of the country.

Accordingly, therefore, if some of the rock carried into the three figures and they could not save the values, it was for the nonce valueless to the men who found it. And for some time after they had found a way of recovery, ore as high as $50 to the ton "went over the dump."

As time advanced improvements were made in metallurgical science and the minimum grade of marketable ore was reduced and reduced, but it is not a great while since that ore carrying $15 or even $20 to the ton was considered as not "pay," except by the larger operating companies, who had the facilities for mining a heavy tonnage of the material.

To appreciate the strides which have since been made, let it suffice that an unofficial announcement recently, is to the effect that the Portland people have perfected a milling system, under which their milling cost is reduced to 70 cents a ton!

As it is, a recent report showed that the Independence mill handled ore at a cost of $1.53 per ton, and a vast tonnage of ore carrying between $2 and $3 per ton has been treated by the Portland mill.

Great dumps containing heretofore worthless rock have been worked, in turn by dump leasers with various forms of washing and other reducing machines; dumps

have been sorted over, and the better grades of ore shipped; and now we have the spectacle of a great tonnage of the remaining rock being put through the mills, and the golden content recovered down to a few cents a ton, and netting a handsome profit, by the handling in the aggregate of a large tonnage at the very minimum of cost.

Students of conditions used to dream of the day when ore which did not run into the double figures could be profitably handled, and the wise ones would denounce them as "bugs," or "process cranks," but the dream has been fulfilled, although not to the extent as some had predicted—that in time they would ship the entire "scenery" of the Cripple Creek district.

Incidentally the visitor to the camp can see some evidences where great gaping holes have been quarried of their contents, and these already have placed some dents in the landscape.

Mining methods have kept stride with those of the mill and smelter man. In the great camp can be seen wonderful plants of mining machinery, comprising all the newest and up-to-date improvements known to mining science. Millions of dollars have been invested in giant plants, which handle a daily tonnage of rock the figures on which would indeed prove startling.

Miles and miles of mine workings have been driven and every day sees this mileage greatly increased, as the underground men continue to delve for the wealth of gold, with which this camp has been so fortunately endowed. Tunnels and shafts, and crosscuts, and drifts, and winzes, and raises, in endless extent have been driven and sunk and there is constituted a labyrinth in which one might easily be lost to eternity.

The Cripple Creek gold district is fortunate in its equipment and its facilities. The early arrivals walked

into the camp, most of them following the lowly burro equipped with its pack of blankets and "grub" and digging tools. Later the horse stages brought the fortune hunters from different nearby railroad points. Then came the day of the railroad, two different lines competing for the promised traffic of the growing camp, and in turn a third, the Cripple Creek Short Line, capped the marvels of railroad building into the mountains, and today constitutes one of the greatest wonders for the sight-seeing tourist who annually invades Colorado, to view her scenic beauties and her matchless natural points of interest.

"The one day trip which bankrupts the English language," is the characterization of this daring and truly marvelous piece of railroad engineering. Without any attempt therefore to describe this vocabulary denuding railroad experience, let it suffice that you travel over a solid road bed of disintegrated granite, in perfect ease and comfort, and you gaze from the well-apportioned observation car, upon scenery of wonderful grandeur, as the train climbs and climbs, and literally reaches the very tops of the mountains, from which dizzy heights one may look with awe and with inspiration, over this combination feat of man and nature.

Come to Colorado, and whenever you do, take in that trip to the Cripple Creek district over its far-famed Short Line—you will always be pleased afterward that you took this little tip.

As a part of the same railroad system a street car service encircles the camp and in turn penetrates the heart of it, and one can easily reach any mine in the camp via the street car route. It is a facility for the miner possessed by the miners of few other camps, and the fact that spurs are run in every direction and almost to every shipping mine, one can easily appreciate

how the railroads of late have announced a "one dollar haul" from any point in the district to the local mills.

The evolution of the transportation facilities is again in evidence by the presence of numberless automobiles which travel over splendid roads and high-power machines easily make the precipitous hills. Auto trucks also ply to the mines and between the different towns and miners are seen going to work in their own chu chu cars or mounted upon motorcycles.

Great power lines stretching from the valley plants below furnish light and electric power for the mines and for the towns. Custom compressed air can be had, hoists and other machinery may be rented, and in fact all that the enterprising operator has to do is to sign his contract with one of the companies, and—well, just press the button, or rather throw the switch which turns on the magic "juice."

The question of eliminating the enormous cost of pumping water—a bitter problem for the operator in less fortunate camps than this one—is solved for many of the mines by the driving of deep drainage tunnels. The first one driven a comparatively short distance relieved the situation somewhat, but spurred on by the accomplishments attained, the mine operators got together and subscribed a fund for driving the present Roosevelt tunnel, and which to date has made available hundreds of millions of dollars more ore, according to some authorities.

This new tunnel now being pushed from some distance below the camp, and being driven through intermediary shafts, as well as through the main heading, has already penetrated through Beacon and into Raven hill, and in due course will relieve the water situation for the mines of Bull Hill and Battle Mountain. It opens a new ore zone to a depth of over 700 feet deeper

than the old one, and in effect is creating a new and greater Cripple Creek.

Water finds its own level and naturally drains through the big bore driven for this purpose, but when it comes to pumping it to the surface from depths aggregating up to nearly 2,000 feet, it spells a cost which eats into the margin of profit, if not making some operations entirely prohibitive. And while millions have been spent in the drainage enterprises, think of the saving of many times more millions from pumping, as well as enabling the handling of a lower grade of gold ore from the various mines.

The camp is perfect in facilities, with cheap power, ideal transportation; a continual lowering of the cost of treatment, and dry workings, which means comfort for the miners and more profit for the operator.

The camp of Cripple Creek was placed within an easy riding distance from Denver by the completion of the Nighthawk road, and the motoring enthusiast can now enjoy a 90-mile trip in three or four hours over a boulevard affording some of the most wonderful mountain scenery in the world.

The gold camp boasts of the most scenic highways in the country. Many of the narrow trails over which cattle climbed to seek pasturage in the early days, have been converted into beautiful boulevards, winding their way through gorges in the shadow of majestic mountain peaks and by devious routes traverse mountain passes to a height of 12,000 feet above sea level.

The Night Hawk 90-mile auto road winds through the hills to the west and north of Pike's Peak, then for fifty miles follows the Front Range to Sedalia, where it connects with the famous mountain roads out of Colorado Springs.

Miscellaneous Anecdotes and Stories of the Mines and the Gold Miners.

CRIPPLE CREEK'S first dividend-payer was the Pharmacist. It was so named by its locator, the late A. D. Jones, a "dapper little drug clerk," who hailed from Colorado Springs. Like others of his class who "rushed" in, in the early days, he knew next to nothing of gold mining.

"Paddy" Burns was working on his claim, the Burns of the present Acacia company. Jones came along and asking Burns where ground could be secured, he was referred to some open territory on the top of Bull Hill. Jones returning later to ask where he should do his digging, found Burns busy and irritable—likely, too, resentful of the audacity of the "collars and cuffs" miner. Burns didn't give a heck where Jones should dig.

Crestfallen, perhaps, but undaunted, Jones figured that one place looked as good as another, and decided that he would toss his hat in the air and where it fell there would he dig. And digging at that hit-or-miss location Jones developed the first dividend-payer in the camp. The Pharmacist proved a rich producer, and Jones numbered his friends by the score.

"Bill" Davenport opened the Jack Pot mine under a lease—and it proved some jack pot.

"Bill" had been sheriff of Union county, Iowa. He had been sent to the mine on Raven hill by his Creston, Iowa, associates to look after things, because he was a good handler of men, and moreover he had made one visit to the camp already.

They had spent $13,000 without finding ore, and

Davenport was called to Iowa, the intention being to suspend operations, and wind up their leasing company. The meeting was called, and it was on the order of a funeral party.

But "Bill" told his people that the lease would be operated another month if he had to carry the entire expense himself. It was decided that were it good enough for "Bill" it was good enough for the rest of them, but ONLY for another month would they put up more of their money.

Before Davenport left Iowa he got a wire recording the rich strike. He cried for joy. And before that lease expired those Iowa farmers shipped a total of $1,250,000 in gold!

N. E. Guyot, after whom Guyot Hill is named, owned at one time a vast acreage in the camp, but left his remaining stocks and interests in a trunk in his cabin, in disgust, and enlisted for service in the Philippines. Guyot was the first assayer in the camp, and is now a successful mine operator elsewhere, with still a lurking love for his earlier diggings.

Guyot was formerly employed at the Pueblo smelter, and was staked by fellow employes. As an evidence of his poor luck, he at one time had locations covering the entire west slope of Beacon Hill, where is now the El Paso and other bonanzas. He was dissuaded by his associates from doing the annual assessment work, and the ground reverted to the public domain. Such was the knowledge of the "mining men" associates of Guyot in those early days of the Cripple Creek district.

They used to trade Mary McKinney stock for groceries and supplies to the merchants around the town

of Anaconda, in those early days when the mine was yet a prospect. And the merchants thought they were being robbed by taking in stock of that future dividend-payer, on a basis of a few cents a share.

The late John Barbee, who opened the first ore on what is now the El Paso, used a "forked stick," or "divining rod" to locate the vein on the Orizaba and Fannie B claims. The finds were of sensational richness.

Barbee had mined in the zinc-lead fields around Joplin, and the old-timers remember both he and "Clint" Tillery—the finder of the equally rich Tillery vein—sitting on their respective dumps joshing each other, usually by asking what such "Missouri farmers" knew about gold ore. But the "Missouri crowd," including the Bernards, cleaned up BIG from the El Paso.

Another Missourian who fooled the natives was the late A. G. White, who was the type wearing a black slouch hat, a white shirt and collar, with no necktie, and a black suit of clothes. He used chewing tobacco in liberal quantities and his white shirt carried the evidence thereof. His appearance brought many a smile as he mined where the wise ones would not have had the temerity to dig. He sunk a shaft, entirely without "indications," dropping it through 120 feet of "wash" on the Hull City Placer, right into the heart of one of the richest ore shoots in the camp. His lease produced $750,000 before it expired.

A New York syndicate had one of the early day leases on the Mary McKinney mine. The superintendent used to walk up the trail to work, dressed in a black

frock coat, with a plug hat, and carried a gold-headed cane.

He subsequently showed up missing, owing several thousand dollars for wages and supplies. Subsequently, under company operations at the mine, one of the richest bodies of ore was opened within about a foot of where he stopped digging.

"Tim" Huzzy was one of the picturesque characters of the early days of the Cripple Creek district. The story is related that he was staked by Colorado Springs merchants, to whom he would on his visits to the valley below, sell "eighths" in his mine, for funds to continue his explorations.

The merchants confided in each other about their lucky investments with "Tim" Huzzy, who was thought to be quite a prospector. It seemed though, on comparing notes, that there had been sold quite a number of "eighths." On the next visit of Huzzy to Colorado Springs, they decided that they would "call" the gold miner pretty hard, and scare him by telling him of the dire happenings which might be brought to bear.

"Tim" proved highly indignant, and swelling up accordingly, he demanded:

" 'Fwat do ye think I have—one of those ordinary prospects, with only eight eighths? No, siree, mine is a rale gold mine with sixteen eighths."

There are many stories of the early days of the discovery by Doyle, Burns and Harnan of the great Portland bonanza. There were times of disappointment, privation, and hardships galore. Discouragements experienced would have daunted men less faithful that Dame Nature would reward their search.

Taking turn about they would walk to Anaconda

with their samples to be assayed in Guyot's office. More often than was encouraging they would get as a result, "trace," being the assayer's symbol that their sample contained nothing more than a trace of the yellow metal.

"Jimmy" Doyle came back one day, and "Johnny" Harnan was there to receive the news.

"Did you get another of those traces, Jimmy?" asked Harnan, and he received a reply in the affirmative.

"It's a pity," said Harnan, "we cannot get two of the blamed things, when we could hitch up, and get out of the dummed country."

The streets of several of the many towns of the Cripple Creek district are literally "paved with gold;" the roadbeds being made of discarded "dump rock," some of which carries values into the double figures per ton, and is now good "pay dirt."

As if to keep up its reputation of doing things on a large scale the Cripple Creek district in the year 1894, produced one of the most spectacular periods of labor troubles ever known. At the climax of the strike 1,000 armed miners were entrenched on the hills around the big mines, 1,000 deputy sheriffs imported for the purpose of driving the union miners out of the district, were encamped at the foot of the hills, and 500 state militia held the ground between to prevent a battle.

One of the miners' leaders was the mysterious "General" Johnson, a West Point graduate, who built a big fort on Bull Hill, bristling with cannons, which afterwards were found to be logs painted black and improvised stovepipes.

The miners' ranks were reputed to contain a large number of the most determined union "scrappers" from all over the west, who had been thrown out of employment by the closing of the silver mines the year before. Among the deputy sheriffs were a large number of notorious gunmen and "killers," who were eager to show their skill, and the affair had an ugly look for a few days. Cooler judgment intervened, however, the leaders of all factions and interests got together, and what is known as "The Cripple Creek War" was settled almost without bloodshed.

The settlement gave the miners what they asked for in the matter of wages, $3.00 a day for eight hours, but they conceded the right of the mine owners to employ both union and non-union miners at the scale of wages agreed upon.

Except another serious strike some years later, the camp has been in perfect harmony and with everybody in the district enjoying prosperity there is the strongest assurance that labor troubles are a thing of the past.

A greater tonnage of ore than ever before in its history is now being produced from the Cripple Creek mines. The total treated at the mills and smelters for the year 1915 was 982,897 tons. This is certainly a record to boast about after 25 years of fame as a wealth-making gold camp.

About half of the great tonnage from the gold camp goes to the Golden Cycle mill, at Colorado City, which treats ore at the enormous rate of a ton every minute. Over one and one-half tons of gold bullion is extracted at this plant every month, equal to a daily grist of $25,000.

What of the Future of the World's Greatest Gold Camp.

A MINING magazine published in Cripple Creek some years ago used to carry on one side of its title the sketch of a prospect hole equipped with a windlass, and on the other a towering shaft house, and other equipment of a great producing gold mine.

Respectively under the two sketches were the titles: "Faith in the future" and "Faith rewarded."

The Cripple Creek district has been builded upon "faith" and "optimism." The man who combined these with intelligent business judgment is the man who has succeeded in the Cripple Creek gold camp. And that man's faith today is GREATER than it has ever been; and his optimism stronger, because he KNOWS more about those deposits than he did—his Cripple Creek district geology is an open book, and its reading and interpretation to him, tells him plainly that the future has in store BIGGER things than the past has recorded.

Why do we say with almost postive assurance that these great gold mines will produce MORE than they have already yielded?

There are various reasons.

New gold mines are still being found, and more will follow. Some will likely outdo the bonanzas of today. Do you realize that when the government men made their re-survey of the district and published the result of their findings in 1906 that their report did not mention the great Cresson bonanza—because at that comparatively recent date that wonderful mine had not yet "arrived"?

Some six or eight brand new shipping mines have been found within the past twelve months. They were for the most part opened in the northern section of the camp, and so to speak, within a stone's throw of "Bob" Womack's first discovery. Certainly this demonstrates the positive evidence of the possibilities of the camp, and at this late year shows that all the good things have not yet been found in the district.

Faith, optimism, and intelligent digging will tell the tale of a good many more shippers brought in, and that within the immediate future, because the Cripple Creek district is entering a new era, a repetition of the prospecting days, as men are encouraged to search, and have been stimulated by the finds of recent days. The coming season will see more surface prospecting, more exploration of holes in the ground which for years have lain idle, and digging in the Cripple Creek district, invariably tells a tale of more gold.

Why have these claims been idle and remained undeveloped?

We must revert to the days of the boom when new companies sprung into existence every day, many of which were of the prospect variety, based upon meagre acreage, and not infrequently accomplished only sparing and unintelligent work, winding up as derelicts with their shares distributed to the corners of the earth. In the years which have passed these companies have lost their properties through tax sales and otherwise, and many have passed into entirely new ownership. Gradually they have been absorbed and discerning people have taken over the ground, perhaps not themselves having the funds for the necessary development and equipment.

Again, capital has not been seeking the development of this undeveloped ground in the camp in any

large amounts. But the awakening has come. The old prospecting, and digging, and exploring spirit is again in the air; good ground is in increasing demand at advancing prices; properties are again changing hands; new work is starting up every day; and in fact the Cripple Creek gold camp is showing every evidence of being in the throes of another nation-wide excitement, which should attain boom proportions.

IT IS GENERALLY HELD BY INFORMED MINING MEN AND OTHER AUTHORITIES THAT IT IS PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE AND MERITORIOUS MINING EFFORT TO DIG FOR GOLD ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE RECOGNIZED AND PROVED PRODUCTIVE AREA OF THE CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT.

It should be mentioned also that another factor which has resulted in a lot of undeveloped ground being left in the camp, and incidentally has left so much good "picking," was the untimely death of W. S. Stratton, who had acquired so much acreage which he had intended to develop. The policy of the executors of his estate required that the only new work be done by leasers, and this has not been very extensive, although there is a growing demand for leases on this ground, and the Stratton Estate properties are to share the general activity and increased development of the rest of the camp.

The improved facilities and the lowering of the minimum grade of marketable ore is another factor looking for an increased production from the mines, which are right now producing a greater tonnage than ever before in the history of the camp.

As a most important and convincing evidence of an increased prosperity and an increased output from the mines, there was recently advanced a theory by an

accredited mining engineer and student of conditions. He held that with the depth, perhaps not as many veins would be found to go down; the majority proving to be superficial surface fissures which would merge with other veins or pass out entirely.

He held though that the veins which did go to the greater depths would be found to be larger and richer than where opened in shallower workings—and the wonderful developments in the larger mines which have attained a depth of 1,000 feet or more, bears out this theory to a remarkable degree.

He further called attention to the fact that in other great camps, noticeably Butte, Mont., the Comstock of Nevada, Bisbee, Ariz., and others, the period of greatest results, as viewed both from the physical and the financial or investment side, was when the mines of these camps were at an average depth of between 1,500 and 3,000 feet.

The Great Bonanza of the Comstock Lode—the lode which is credited with a production of something like $600,000,000—was encountered at a depth of 1,200 feet; and the big mines of the Cripple Creek district are now only getting below the 1,500-foot mark, but already are enjoying their periods of greatest prosperity.

The optimists of the Cripple Creek district, and with every good reason, face the future with faith and assurance that the remarkable gold deposits of this great camp, which have already enriched the world upwards of $350,000,000, will produce as much and MORE gold than they have already.

Have YOU participated in the yield of Cripple Creek gold; and have you planned to secure your share of the wealth of the future?

Nature has been prodigal, and there is no more

patriotic undertaking than for the individual to do his or her part in developing a wealth of mineral which has been placed for the enrichment of the nation.

So in conclusion the author trusts that YOU have been enthused; that you have imbibed the optimistic spirit of the men of the Greatest Gold Camp on Earth, who have won; that you have in fact become inoculated with:

THE LURE OF CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD.

For additional copies of THE LURE OF CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD, or for any additional information on the Cripple Creek District, apply to

WM. Y. SEAMAN,

1842 Stout Street, Denver, Colo.