

amount to a few hundreds, and after all he should decide on condemning the property, it is far better for the company to entail this expense, and perhaps lose this small sum, than to involve themselves in the loss of thousands of their own as well as other people's money in a bogus, worthless, or wildcat scheme.

CHAPTER XXII.

PROSPECTORS' TOOLS AND HOW TO SHARPEN AND TEMPER THEM.

The principal tools a prospector takes into the field are picks, drills, hammers and shovel.

A prospector, especially when climbing mountains, likes to be as light-handed and unencumbered as possible.

For his trip as a whole, he may carry several different tools packed on his donkey, but when he has arrived at a locality, the vicinity of which looks likely, he leaves most of his heavier tools in his temporary camp, or near to where he pickets his pack animal. He makes a short excursion up the mountain for a general reconnoitre, armed with nothing more than a light prospecting pick, weighing not more than three or four pounds. This little pick is about ten inches in length, with a handle about fifteen inches long; the longer portion is sharpened into a pick, and the shorter ends in a square-faced hammer. We recommend a square sharp-cornered face to the hammer, in preference to the bevelled face, as the sharp edges and corners are better adapted for breaking rock than the rounded or bevelled ends. This prospecting pick or geological pick and hammer, should be all of good steel, with a good sized eye to admit a springy handle of hickory. See Plate CXXV, Figs. 1, 1, 1.

Armed with this little weapon he climbs the hillside, hunting for "float" or for rusty outcrops of ledges. Loose pieces of rock he cracks open with the hammer end, softer rock in place he explores with the pick. "When I am climbing over the hills," said an old weather-beaten prospector to me, "I want nothing but my little pick, then if