

level, and that a flood plain has been formed at that level. The pay-streak will occupy its normal position in this flood plain on the line of the bottom of the old V-shaped valley, as shown in Fig. 96.

If the stream is rejuvenated and again begins to deepen its valley a number of other conditions may occur.

1st.—It may cut down its channel directly beneath Pay-streak No. 1, in which case the pay-streak will simply be lowered, and will contain practically all the gold from the older pay-streak, as well as any gold that may have been collected into the channel since the time of its formation, as shown on Fig. 97.

2nd.—It may cut down its channel to one side of Pay-streak No. 1, and while still actively engaged in downward erosion may undercut the pay-streak, and allow the gold to slide down the side of the valley into the stream, where it will be carried downwards until it finds a new resting-place. In this case, too, the second pay-streak will contain most of the gold that was in the first, but it will have undergone a decided movement down the stream. (See Fig. 98.)

3rd.—The stream may cut out its second V-shaped valley entirely to one side of the first pay-streak, but when it again begins the process of lateral planation and forms its second flood plain, it may undercut the pay-streak and allow it to fall into the meandering stream, where part of it may quickly sink and form a pocket off the line of the true second pay-streak altogether (though it will give an indication of the former position of the first pay-streak) while part of it may be carried down by the stream and distributed in its winding channel. The true second pay-streak itself will, in this case, probably be very weak. (See Fig. 99.)

4th.—The second channel may be formed altogether to one side of the first pay-streak, in which case the first pay-streak will be on a terrace and the second pay-streak will probably be weak. (See Fig. 100.)

Any of these conditions may occur in different parts of the same valley, and their relative intensity, or rapid changes from one to another, may cause great variations in the character of the pay-streak.

A greater number of stages in the deepening of a valley would allow for a still greater complexity in the character of the one or more pay-streaks which might be found in it, and these might be still further added to by a filling of the valley with detritus and partial re-excavation at one or more different times. But, for the period in which it was formed, the pay-streak represents the bottom of the young V-shaped valley, which formerly occupied part of the present valley.