

prospected to any extent, and that is called the "Nugget Lead." It has been worked downward through three shafts, the deepest being but 25 feet. The vein is four inches in thickness, and has yielded some genuine nuggets, one of them containing fully two ounces of gold. In spite of its slender dimensions it will doubtless be followed with profit. The other nine leads just mentioned have only been cut in the bottom of a trench that extends across their ground.

Between the Rabbit and Chester leads are others, well worthy of a more extended notice than can be given them in this article.

The "Fine Gold Lead" lies about 1000 feet to the southeastward of the mill. It is eight inches in thickness, with an observed outcrop of 500 feet, and shows gold at all points of exposure. No work has yet been done upon it.

The "Twin Leads," five and seven inches in width, respectively, situated between the Fine Gold and Chester leads. They can be worked together, which is an important item, considerably reducing the cost of mining. But one small mill-run of six tons has been treated from these leads, and it gave the gratifying result of two ounces per ton.

The "Crow's Nest Lead" is within 50 feet, to the southward, of the Chester lead. It bids fair to take a place among the good ore-producing veins. It will be worked through a cross cut made from the Chester lead at a depth of 100 feet. Work is already in progress, with steam drills.

To the northward of the Chester lead, about 50 feet, is the "North Lead." It has been traced to a distance of 1500 feet, and has an average thickness of nine inches. Upon this lead are two timbered shafts, 25 feet in depth. No mill-runs have been made from this property, but the appearance of the ore is very satisfactory. It will soon be tapped at a depth of 150 feet by a cross-cut run from the Chester workings. Between this lead and the northern boundary there is a promising piece of country still unexplored.

There is yet 400 feet, across the metals, unprospected ground. It lies between the Twin and Fine Gold leads, and, judging from the float or boulders to be seen thereon, good things will be found when a search is made.

Having concluded this hasty survey of a property that merits a much greater space to do it justice, we will pass on to the mill which is separating the precious metal from its close and long companionship with the quartz.

This is a fine structure, 56x60 feet on the ground, and three stories in height, upon one side. It has an assuring look of permanence about it as if it was built to stand not only the "racket" of the machinery, but the tooth of time as well. It is fitted with four batteries of five stamps, weighing 750 pounds each, with a drop of seven inches. They are constructed in a workman-like manner, with an eye to steadiness and endurance.

The amalgamating apparatus is of the usual form, of silver-plated copper plates. There is also a special contrivance, consisting of a copper-plated cylinder, revolving in front and below the battery-screen and arranged to receive the splash of the escaping water. Special advantages are claimed for this invention. I cannot discuss them here, but its mechanical action would surely count for something favorable in its operation upon any escaping dry amalgam.

The batteries are fed by automatic feeders, and a rockbreaker cracks the ore to the needed dimensions.

The mill is situated within a few feet of the lake and is always sure of a supply of water for all purposes.

In addition to what I have mentioned, there is a demand for concentrating machinery. All the ore carries a small percentage of "white iron," arsenical pyrites, and this mineral holds from \$80 to \$125 per ton in gold in its mechanical grip. It is not in the chemical compact made up of sulphur, iron and arsenic. These concentrates may be roasted, to get clear of the sulphur and then in the presence of chlorine gas a soluble gold chloride is formed. These valuable concentrates are now going to waste, but in due time there will be provisions made to save them. Everything cannot be done at once, but all needed additions and improvements are receiving prompt attention.

It too often occurs in mining countries that fine mills are built and expensive development works carried forward, and yet when the actual test is made there is not a dollar of profit in it all. In fact, it is a phenomenal occurrence that a mine pays from the start. The amount of development work to be done before reaching "pay ore" bodies is often so great that the original stock-holders lose heart, and money too; and it is only after some one (or many) has lost a fortune that another fellow, taking it for nearly nothing where they left off, makes a fortune out of it.

That anyone may see what our, as yet, largest Queens Co. mine has done, I subjoin the official figures:—

	Tons Crushed.	Oz.	Dwt.
August 15th, 1888.....	340.....	441.....	6.....
September 15th, ".....	180.....	248.....	18.....
October 15th, ".....	172.....	253.....
December 1st ".....	245.....	370.....
	937.....	1313.....	24.....

Turning this gold into currency we get \$26,264. The average yield per ton has been 1 oz., 8 dwts., and a fraction.

That the general average is not somewhat higher is due to the Nine Boulder ore. Anyone interested can easily calculate from the data previously given what amount of profit has resulted from the treatment of this small quantity of ore. The mill has evidently not been run to her full capacity during four months, or she would have treated about double the amount mentioned.

There are employed by the company \$5 men in all. Wages vary from \$1 to \$1.50 per day. Wood costs \$1.50 per cord; hemlock lumber is delivered at the mine for \$7 per thousand; pine lumber \$10 per thousand; shingles \$1 thousand.

The outlook of this company is most assuring. The existence of large

bodies of pay ore has been clearly proven, and there does not seem to be a cloud as big as a man's hand on the horizon of the company's prosperity. The principal owners are Edward D. Davison, John McGuire, Fletcher E. Wado, Robert A. Logan, Thomas A. Wilson, G. Alfred Wado, Alexander Nelson, James D. Eisenhaeur, and Lewis Anderson. The concern has always been under the general superintendence of Mr. John McGuire, who has quietly conducted matters to their present state of prosperity. This is the largest crusher in operation within the limits of Queens County, and I have, without entering into much detail, already written at considerable length; but the dimension and importance of the enterprise fully warrant even a more extended introduction to the readers of the *Gold Hunter*. I cannot take leave of this matter without a word about the comparatively favorable location of the mine. After quite an extended acquaintance with some of the mining regions of the Rocky Mountains and Mexico, I do not hesitate to say that there is not a better placed gold mine in either the United States or Mexico than is this property on the shores of Ponhook Lake. Labor is cheaper, building material is cheaper, food is cheaper. There are no mountains to climb, no snow-slides, and no mule trails to follow. The climate is healthier, human life is held more sacred, and therefore securer, and it is not so cold as Colorado mountains. The winters are not even as severe as they are in New England.

I am aware that many interesting features about this property have been passed over in silence, but whoever will take the trouble to locate the leads as described, on a bit of paper, and read carefully what I have written, will get a correct idea of the general aspect of the mining operations of the Molega Mining Company.

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