

iding into deep and shallow, the next classification is according to their topographical position, as into hill, flat, bench, bar, river-bed, ancient river-bed, and gulch mines.

"Hill diggings are those where the pay dirt is in or under a hill. Flat diggings are in a flat. Bench diggings are in a 'bench' or narrow table on the side of a hill above a river. Benches of this kind are not uncommon in California, and they often indicate the place where the stream ran, in some very remote age.

"Bars are low collections of sand and gravel, at the side of a river, and above its surface at low water.

"River bed claims are those beneath the surface of the river at low water; and access is attained to them only, by removing water from the bed, by flumes or ditches.

"Ancient river bed claims are those of which the gold was deposited by streams, in places where no stream now exists.

"Gulch claims are those in gullies, which have no water, save during a small part of the year."

In reference to the celebrated "blue lead," Mr. Hittel says:—"This is not one of the many petty leads an inch or two in breadth or thickness, which, after being traversed a few hundred feet, end as suddenly and mysteriously as they commence; but it is evidently the bed of some ancient river. It is often hundreds of feet in width, and extends for miles and miles, a thousand feet below the summits of high mountains, and entirely through them. Now it crops out where the deep channels of the rivers and ravines of the present day have cut it asunder; and then, hidden beneath the rocks and strata above it, it only emerges again miles and miles away. Wherever its continuity has been destroyed, the river or gulch which has washed a portion of it away, was found to be immensely rich for some distance below, and the