

MYSTERY OF THE KLONDIKE.

Some Speculations About the Origin of the Gold.

Does Not Believe in the Glacier Theory—Some Valuable Information Concerning Eldorado-Bonanza.

It is a mystery to know how and why nature distributed its gold in the Klondike as it did.

I have heard a great many theories advanced as to how the gold came to be here, but I have not heard one yet that looks reasonable to me. If the gold was carried by an ancient river, or an ocean wash, or a glacier passing across the country, why is it that there is no wash gravel on the mountains, or on some of the passes across the country in the direction which the rivers run, or at least some scattering boulders left on the high places when the country was heaved up out of the sea.

There is not a single wash rock to be found on the hills after you get above what is called the high benches, and on following up the creek to where the gulch begins to narrow up there is no more benches nor wash, and go a little farther up the creek and there is not even any wash in the creek. It is only broken rock with the corners worn off, and still farther up in the head of the creek, it is simply broken rock without the corners worn.

The farther down the creek you go the more perfect is the wash, showing conclusively the effect of travel from up the creek. It looks very much to me as though every rock and boulder in this country was made in the immediate vicinity of the gulch in which the creek now runs, and that the benches on the lower part of the creeks were at one time the creeks' bed, and as time has elapsed and nature's changes have taken place the gulches have worn deeper and have left parts of the ancient creek's bed on the foothills, now called benches, some places on one side of the creek and some on the other according to the course of the channel which the present creek has taken.

If it was oceans or rivers, or glaciers, or what ever it was that carried the gravel and gold to where it now lies, why should the gold cease in one of the richest creeks at a point where a side gulch comes into it, which is at a much lower altitude than the rich paying benches only a few claims farther down the creek, while the benches continue on up the creek but neither the benches nor the creek have any more gold, while the side gulch is rich and some of its tributaries carry gold in paying quantities to a much higher altitude on the mountains than the highest gravel bench in the country. And again, why is it that the gold in each different creek is of a different quality, different quantity, different size, different shape and different in general appearance. There are no two creeks in the country alike, some of the greatest differences being where one creek heads up on one side of a ridge and another directly opposite on the other side of the ridge, and the two heads only a few rods apart, one carrying gold which is mostly all nuggets, lumps and chunks, and in untold quantities, and is worth about \$15 per ounce, while the other is smaller in size different in shape, less in quantity and worth \$17 or \$18 per ounce. And some side gulches coming into a main creek will carry gold almost to their heads, while the next gulch only a short distance from it and on the same side of the creek will not have a color.

How can an ocean do such fine work as this, or a river, where the waters mix and flow in a solid body, or a mighty glacier sliding across the country rolling everything under it and dropping Eldorado gold in Eldorado and Bonanza gold in Bonanza and Hunker gold in Hunker, and missing dozens of gulches in between that are just as deep and just as steep, and the conditions are just as favorable to catch the gold and hold it as the oases that have proven so rich. But this mammoth glacier did not open up its clutches and drop its little wad until it came to the appointed creek, or if it was the ocean there must have been a few tidal waves at one time that did some very nice work distributing the different gulches.

Or if it was an ancient river there must have been some queer floods in ancient days.

Now to change the routine a little we will take Bonanza and Eldorado

creeks, beginning at the forks and follow them to their heads and see what results we get. On investigating Eldorado, the gold seems to have all come from the right limit of the creek, for when you get up to Gay almost every creek and gulch up to near their heads, while on the left limit there is not a single gulch carrying gold nor on the right limit below Gay gulch; except a claim or two at the mouths of some gulches that have cut through a gravel bench which has been formed along side the main creek, the same as all the gulches along lower Bonanza, which have received their gold from the gravel wash on the bench where the gulch cuts down through to meet the creek, for on going up the gulches when you get past the gravel bed the gold invariably ceases in the gulch.

But on the upper Bonanza is where we find the greatest mystery. After leaving the Forks the first side gulch that we come to that carries gold is Garvin gulch, which comes in on the right limit of Bonanza, and on the opposite side from Eldorado, and carries gold up to near its head.

Next we come to a gulch on the left limit, and head up on the ridge between Eldorado and Bonanza, but it has no gold. Then we come to Homestake gulch on the right limit, which also contains gold, and following Homestake comes O'Neal gulch, situated on the left limit, and heading in toward Eldorado, and has some gold; next we come to McKay gulch on the right limit, the same as Garvin and Homestake, heads up on the same hillside, but the gold is lacking in it. And now we come to the renowned Victoria gulch, one of the richest little creeks in the district, and is situated on the left limit of Bonanza and heading toward Eldorado, and lying directly over the ridge from Gay gulch; and in Bonanza at the mouth of Victoria gulch the gold seems to chop square off and Bonanza from there to its head as far as signs of work and mining operations are concerned it would put you in mind of a '97 stampeded creek; it would never be seen again if it was not that the government road going to the ridge via Carmack's Forks goes that way.

When you get on top of the high ridge at the head of Bonanza, on the left side of the ridge is Gold Bottom and Hunker, flowing to the Klondike, and on the right is Little Blanch, Sulphur and Dominion creeks, flowing into Indian river, all of which have more or less gold, and the greater portion of the coarser pieces contain more or less quartz, especially Eldorado. It being the coarsest, and there has been a few nuggets found with porphyry sticking to them instead of quartz. So, after considering everything, I can only make up my mind that the gold in each different creek is from a quartz ledge which is tapped by the creek in which the gold is found, but the bed-rock formation of this country is so completely covered up with frozen clay, muck and slide rock, that there is no trace left by which anyone has been able to follow to find the ledges. But some day they will be found, the like of which was never known before.

A LIAR.

This world is tough, and rough enough, we know And oft we get the names we don't desire, But swift and "bif," the upper-cut should go To meet the "mug" that calls a man a liar.

A man's abuse, if wild and loose, is tame And fails to hit the mark at which he'll fire. But if he'll state, in concentrate, the same, His tongue or hand will wield the brand of liar.

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