

This natural state of things has offered a very convenient entrance to the ore body, and the gravel and gold in the crevices of the slate. It only required the clearing away of the *debris* of gravel, wash, etc., to the slate, and the work could be pushed forward and slightly downward along the dip of the bedrock. Taking advantage of this state of things, all the areas from 1 to 14 have been broken into from this bank, and more or less work done. Such work was for the most part performed by the farmers hereabouts, in the expectation of discovering a rich "seam" of free gold, and if this was not found after a few dollars had been expended, then operations came to a standstill. On the Areas 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 there are no works that can now be entered without the outlay of considerable money, as the old tunnel entrances are caved, filled with water, and overgrown in some cases with trees. However, the presence of this stratum of gold-bearing conglomerate through the whole distance of two thousand four hundred feet, beginning at No. 1, has been clearly determined. Considerable work was done on No. 11, and any one can be satisfied of the existence of gold, in paying quantities, in the conglomerate that lies about the mouths of the old tunnel. On Areas 1, 2, 3 a few short tunnels have been driven, many years ago, with the object of obtaining gold from the "runs" or crevices, and the prospectors were never wholly disappointed, as several of them still living can now testify.

In working Areas 1, 2, 3, and 50, they mined the slate to a depth of from two to ten feet along the crevices. This slate cleaves very readily and breaks easily, and in working much of it was broken into small pieces; this material was thrown into sluice-boxes and washed, and hundreds of tons of it lie around the intervals. These old sluice-dumps I have repeatedly tested with a pan, and they will still repay milling.

Upon Areas 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 955, 956 considerable work has been done from time to time until within the last ten years, and never by any mining company or wealthy individual, and yet there is one tunnel on Areas 45 and 46 that could not have been made at a less cost than \$5,000. In spite of the fact that those who made it had no mill, they managed to earn wages by following up the gold-yielding crevices and sluicing the adjacent slates.