

cabin there is a bunk, generally constructed of poles, sometimes of boards; the other furniture usually consists of a table, a stool, or cracker-box, a few tin plates, pans, etc. The proprietor is seldom "at home" except in severe weather and then his most comforting solace must be either a roaring fire in the big chimney, his pipe, an almanac, or his hopes of striking it rich on the morrow. According to theory, a good quartz prospector should also be an assayer. He should know in what formations of earth or rock to expect ore, and then be able to test it scientifically by fire and acid assays. It is reasonable to suppose that such a man would be most successful, but it appears that it is not thus. Any old prospector will tell you that "scientific fellows never find anything. They can't see into the ground, and it is where you find it, not where it ought to be, according to theories. Some greenhorn, tenderfoot or immigrant always finds the bonanzas." I have observed this to be frequently the case.

The pocket-hunter is a comparatively new comer in the country, and only made his appearance during the last year and a half. He too, is a prospector, but he despises quartz. He prospects for gold only, and does not desire to find a little of it in huge masses of flinty rock. He expects to dig a hole in the earth the size of a barrel and take therefrom a fortune in the pure article. His hopes are neither groundless nor without precedent. A number of pockets and seam deposits have been found, some containing a few ounces and others thousands of dollars. I was shown a hole a yard square from which \$2,700 was recently taken (I was also shown the mint's receipt for the dust.) The deposit was found within a foot of the surface on a hillside. These pocket deposits are found in various formations, and "scientific fellows" don't succeed well in locating them, either. They are usually found in decomposed quartz, in clay seams and sometimes in wash gravel. The mode of prospecting for pockets is simple, but it too requires hard work and faith. The pocket-hunter selects a section where extensive placer-mining has been done and where the yield was rich. He conjectures that the gold came from somewhere, and he follows the gulches up stream as far as they have been worked, and there takes pains of dirt from the surface and hillsides. If he obtains a "color," or speck of gold, from the surface it is a fine prospect, and he follows the trace carefully, taking the next paul of dirt to be washed from higher ground, and so on until the prospect fails; then he digs for the deposit. Occasionally it is there.

Many quartz prospectors, after finding a ledge, select fragments from various parts of the rock, and, after pulverizing it in a hand mortar, wash the result in a horn or saucer, and if no free gold is obtained it is considered worthless. Ore containing sulphurets, silver, lead, tellurium, etc., has of course to be practically tested by fire or acid assays.

Indications are often found where weeks of panning fail to locate from whence they have been-washed or thrown; and again pockets are found by mere accident that have thrown no trace to the surface. A good prospect may be obtained from every spot on a hillside, and yet nothing be found beneath the surface.

A pocket-hunter will carry and wash dirt for days without obtaining a color. When he obtains a speck of gold, however, and if it is the rough, unwashed pocket metal, his chance is fair of finding a deposit—perhaps a fortune. The winter season is the most favorable for prospecting in this manner, as every gulch then contains sufficient water for panning, while during the summer the prospector must either follow-courses, or carry dirt long distances to springs or streams, and there pan it. There are those who frequently find pockets, and, even though the deposits are not large, they find them often enough to prosper moderately well in the uncertain occupation, and appear cheerful, confident and always possessed of a little money. I am inclined to think, however, that, considering the number engaged, the fortunate ones are few, and for the amount of labor performed I am forced to believe that both prospectors and pocket-hunters are scantily paid.

The party of prospectors who have been at work on the property of T. B. Simpson and others at Millisic during the past week, have discovered a rich lead 14 inches wide. It is said to be well filled with the precious stuff. —*Enterprise*.

MOLEGA.—Work on the new mill at the mines is being pushed vigorously. The foundation is laid and the superstructure commenced. Mr. J. D. McPherson is the builder, a man who seems to thoroughly understand the business.

PLEASANT RIVER.—The work of building at the Lower Mines is going onwards. Engine house well forward and crusher frame up or ready to be raised. —*Gold Hunter*.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.—Asbestos mines at Thetford, Black Lake, and Coleraine, Megantic County, on the line of Quebec Central Railway, are in full blast. Over 500 men, with the most improved machinery, are taking out large quantities of ores of the very best quality. The price of the material is increasing and the demand cannot be supplied. These mines are paying over 200 per cent profits on the actual workings. Ore is sent to United States, England, France, Germany and Italy.

MOLEGA AGAIN HEARD FROM.—Another large brick of gold was brought to Bridgewater from the Molega Mining Co's. mine last week. It was valued at \$5,300. We were shown a very rich specimen at the Molega Mining Co's. office yesterday morning. This piece of quartz, which will weigh fully fifteen lbs., was taken from a new lead which has recently been discovered on their property, and it is completely dotted with gold. The lead is said to be eight inches in width, and if we are to judge by this specimen it must be immensely rich. We wish the enterprising and wide awake company every success in the development of this property. —*Enterprise*.

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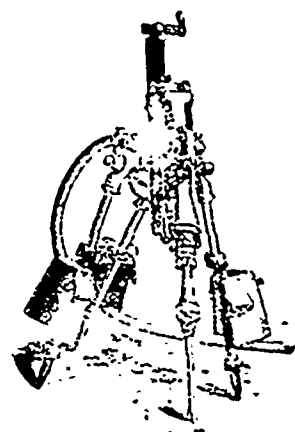
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