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THE FIRST STAMP MILL

Geo. M. Munger Brings Heavy Shipment of Machinery Which Includes a Stamp Mill for Testing Quartz—He Will Undertake Systematic Prospecting—Has Confidence for the Future.

Interest in the various quartz properties throughout the territory, many of which are just entering upon their first stages of development, will receive a very great impetus through the arrival yesterday of the first stamp mill to be brought into the country for purposes of exploitation. The mill is a small one, it is true, but for the uses it is intended it will serve equally as well as one of a hundred stamps. Very quietly and without any ostentatious show or flourish of trumpets Mr. George M. Munger and his representative, Captain Spencer, have secured interests in several different quartz ledges and these it is proposed to test in a most thorough manner. Mr. Munger is from Chicago, where his name is as familiar and well known as that of Armour or Field, and has ample means to successfully carry out any enterprise which he may undertake. In the shipment referred to are 12 boilers, seven steam hoists, a sawmill outfit and the stamp mill. Ten of the boilers will be placed on placer property in which the gentlemen are interested, one will be utilized by the sawmill and the other by the stamp mill. A Burlington steam drill has also been ordered and will arrive before the close of navigation. The stamp mill is of a pattern new to most hard rock miners, which, however, in Colorado and other states has proven most satisfactory in its work. It is almost wholly for prospecting purposes yet it will do the work of any ordinary five-stamp mill. The innovation over the old gravity system of the arrangement of the stamps lies in the fact that instead of the ore being crushed by the mere weight of the stamp falling upon the die, the shoe is propelled downward by the force of steam, the stamp stem being nothing more than a piston which plays back and forth out of a small engine situated on the upper end of the battery where the coins are ordinarily placed. When in operation the stamp shoe rises and falls as the piston or steam moves in and out of the steam chest. The battery has a triple discharge and Tremaine, the inventor of the mill, claims for it a greater crushing capacity with but two stamps than in the old style battery of five. The stamps weigh but 300 pounds each as against 850 where gravity alone does the work. Mr. Munger was visited at his residence to-

day by a representative of the Nugget and it was with the greatest reluctance that he consented to make any statement concerning his intentions. "I really have nothing to say for publication," said he, "at least not at present. I have brought in this little mill merely for experimental purposes and shall use it only in testing some ledges in which I am interested. It is not in any sense a custom mill. I believe there is some good quartz here; in fact, I have seen specimens which appear to consist of nothing but rock and free milling gold, but one can't tell if such ledges amount to anything until they are developed. It is a mistake for a prospector upon turning over a haulie and finding a little piece of gold 'licking to it to imagine he has a mine. He hasn't even a prospect; only a location. To make a prospect out of it requires months of hard labor and to then transform it into a mine means the expenditure of thousands of dollars in sinking shafts, running levels and crosscuts. Yes, I know just exactly where we shall put up this mill and I might add that it will be erected and put in operation just as soon as it can be hoisted up there, but that I do not care to divulge to the public at present."

MILNE'S TITLE IS O. K.

The statement published in our contemporary yesterday afternoon that Ottawa had confirmed the issue of grants to locations made on the Milne concession prior to December 31st last, including the claims disposed of at the commissioner's sale last November, seems to be altogether erroneous, and is based upon a private letter to Dr. Milne from the secretary of the minister of the interior, a copy of which was sent in official course to Assistant Gold Commissioner Bell. This letter was in reply to one written to the department by Dr. Milne from Victoria last June, inquiring as to the stamped reports in the newspapers to grounds embraced in his concession. The department wrote a letter of inquiry to Assistant Gold Commissioner Bell, who replied that no injustice was done the concessionaire because no grants had been given for grounds staked since the closing of the same on December 31, 1900, the date upon which the notice closing the creek was published, and the department replied to Dr. Milne accordingly. Dr. Milne contends that his rights were established long before that date; that they date from August, 1900, when the lease was granted by Commissioner Ogilvie, and from which date he has paid the government. This morning he appeared before the gold commissioner's court with his legal adviser, Public Administrator Congdon, and laid the letter in question before Mr. Senkler. Mr. Congdon pointed out that this private letter could in no way affect the rights which had been granted to Dr. Milne, and Mr. Senkler, after reading the letter, said decisively: "It does not affect your position in the least, Dr. Milne."

THE LECTURE LAST NIGHT.

Rev. Dr. Sparling, principal of the Wesley College, of Winnipeg, who has been in Dawson for some weeks past attending to the pastoral duties of the Methodist church during the absence of the pastor, Rev. A. E. Heathcote, gave an instructive and very entertaining lecture at the church last evening on the subject "The Claims of the Bible."

The lecture throughout was a scholarly discourse and showed the result of deep study and research and was delivered in the speaker's usual brilliant and forceful manner calling forth generous applause from the large audience which was present. Miss Mary Case

CAPITAL AT NOME

The Beach City Will Expend \$30,000 on a Ditch.

The Fort Davis Hydraulic Mining Co., with a paid up capital of \$100,000, is the name of a new corporation, organized here in Nome and made up of Nome's most prominent capitalists. The company broke ground yesterday for the construction of a seven-mile ditch on the east bank of the Nome river, running from Osborn creek to a point about two and a half miles north of Fort Davis. The cost of the ditch complete will be \$30,000. It will be five feet wide at the bottom, seven feet wide at the top and two and one-half feet deep. The flumes necessary at the crossing of gulches and other places will be 27 inches deep and five feet wide. The average grade of the ditch for the seven miles will be six feet to the mile, and the capacity of the ditch will be 2000 miners' inches of water. It has been estimated that it will supply water to about 200 claim owners. W. H. Rowe is the contractor who started work yesterday and he is being assisted by A. G. Blake, U. S. surveyor; and A. Blanc, a celebrated and experienced French mining engineer. Mr. Rowe's agreement calls for a completion of the ditch during the present open season of 1901, and as he is interested also in the corporation he insures good results and plenty of water for all the mines of that section next year. The work is being commenced at the lower end of the ditch. The promoter of this enterprise, and the one most largely interested in it financially, is Mr. Schneider, the French consul of Nome, who, besides being one of Nome's prominent capitalists, also controls large outside and foreign capital. Mr. Schneider's partner, Mr. V. Forte, of Paris, is also interested in the venture, and as they own four of the richest claims on Nome river, near Osborn, the construction of this ditch is as much for the benefit of their own property as for the benefit of the 200 claim owners above them and 200 below them.—Nome News.

INSPECTING THE CREEKS

Prominent Gentlemen Are Viewing the Creeks.

Professor Myers, of Oxford university, and Professor Coleman of Toronto, under the guidance of J. W. Tyrrell and Major Syckland yesterday made an inspection of the methods of working gravel on Trail creek. They went to Bonanza, inspected the dredger at work and the other operations on the creek, and drove up Eldorado. They were simply taking a cursory preliminary view to determine upon the points at which they will prosecute their scientific investigations, and this morning the party started for Gold Run and its vicinity with the same purpose. The statement that these eminent geologists and mineralogists are sent here on an official mission is untrue. They are simply on a scientific exploration and believe that the district will furnish a mass of interesting matter some of which may be new to the scientific world. "No, we are not on a government mission," said Professor Coleman this morning. "It is simply a trip for scientific investigation, and with the commercial aspect of affairs we had no purpose of dealing. The mistake has arisen, I suppose, from the fact that we were to accompany Mr. Clifford Silvester on his proposed trip here. When he found that he had to postpone his visit we came on by ourselves. I know that he was very much disappointed not to be able to come, as he was promising himself a great deal from the trip, and a great deal of satisfaction from the knowledge he would gain of the exact condition of affairs in the Klondike. But we have no commission from him or from the government."

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