

WHENCE COMES THE GOLD?

At a recent meeting of the Seattle Mining Bureau a paper was read by Peter D. Trout, a mining man of large experience, which contains some novel theories concerning the origin of the placer mines in British Columbia and Alaska. It is, of course, the general belief that where the flaky gold is found in the beds of creeks there must of necessity be quartz further back from which the little nuggets and flakes were worn and washed away. Mr. Trout says he has another theory, and it comes from ripe experience. The gold comes from the skies. Mr. Trout's interesting paper follows:

"At our last meeting I consented to read a paper on my experience in Alaska, but did not intend to give any detailed account of what happened to me in that country, and were it not that I found gold under very peculiar and extraordinary circumstances I would not have thought that there was anything in it worth telling, as with this single exception there is nothing in the trip to which I can look back with any degree of satisfaction or pleasure.

"Among the properties that gold possesses, one, it seems, is that of being just where it ought not to be, and in many cases being in places where reason, common sense and scientific research have declared that it is impossible for it to be. And on the other hand, where reason, common sense and scientific research have declared that it is, is very likely to prove to be the place where it is not.

"So often have I seen in my own experience examples of this condition of things that I have long since believed that all that has ever been written about where gold may be found and where it may not be found is not worth the paper on which it has been written, as my own experience has furnished exceptions to every statement that I have ever read on the subject. Of all that has been written or said in regard to gold there is nothing more universally believed than that placer gold, or the gold found in creeks, comes out of quartz veins. In all my experience I have not seen anything in print that ever cast the shadow of a doubt on the truth of this theory, for theory is as good a name as it deserves.

"During the last ten years I have always maintained that the placer gold in British Columbia did not come out of the quartz veins, or, if any, only a very small portion of it. Whenever I made any statement of this sort I was at once asked, if it did not come out of quartz veins, where did it come from? To which I have often very bluntly replied, 'How do you suppose I know?' I have learned to think this from dear experience. I have seen a creek rich in gold and have spent time and money looking for quartz that the gold in the creek must have come from. In every instance it was time and money wasted, and still worse, in one instance, when I was persuaded to go on one of these fool errands an opportunity was missed that would have made me some thousands of dollars richer. But all the time and money that I have lost looking for the quartz veins that supplied the gold to the creeks is nothing compared with what others have lost. I know of fortunes and lives that have been wasted in this vain search. Others who might have been wealthy have gone down to their graves in the deepest poverty because they wasted their lives and missed their opportunities while looking for the quartz veins that they supposed supplied the gold to the creeks.

"Many of this class will unhesitatingly say that it is no use looking for gold in the rock if you find it in paying quantities in the creek. There are others to whom experience can teach nothing, and they still persist in saying that the veins must be there and will be found at some day.

"Now, the facts of the case are that after more than thirty years of patient toil and search, the richest creeks of British Columbia, or what have been the richest creeks in the country, have failed to show up any kind of rock in paying quantities anywhere in the neighborhood; and, on the other hand, we have Trail Creek, which has been considered about as poor a gold producer as there was in the country, and which has during the last year yielded over \$2,000,000 in gold, all of which came from the rocks in its neighborhood. Now, for many years I have firmly believed that gold found in the creeks of British Columbia did not come from quartz veins, but during my trip to Alaska the last summer, my views on this matter re-

(Continued on page 3.)

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No. 6, PASSENGER, Sunday only—	Leaves Rossland	8:30 a. m.
	Arrives at Trail	9:15 a. m.
No. 4, PASSENGER, Daily—	Leaves Rossland	3:00 p. m.
	Arrives at Trail	4:00 p. m.
No. 3, PASSENGER, Daily except Sunday—	Leaves Trail	10:30 a. m.
	Arrives at Rossland	11:30 a. m.
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