

to refuse an offer far above the value of a thing, and that sum is far above what this tract of country is worth. Just now they are putting its value to a test, by sinking a shaft. Although far down, they have, besides the shaft, sunk only money. They have, 'tis true, found some

Calcite

which leads up to the story of the tenderfoot who, shortly after his arrival, asked in all simplicity: "Which is the more valuable, calcite or silver?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Why? Well, I hear so much about calcite that I have come to look upon it as the most valuable of minerals. Everybody tells me: 'I've struck a splendid calcite vein,' and he's prouder over it than any one I've seen after shipping a car of silver ore that has brought him a hundred thousand dollars. Yes, calcite must be most valuable!" He later learned some things, and calcite's real worth was one of the things.

You, too, no doubt, want to learn some things, so let's talk about some of the mines. We won't talk of all of them. I've seen a lot of them that would come under the definition of the man who said: "A mine is a hole in the ground with a liar on top." This is more true than elegant. I could appreciate the fact one day when I went hunting for a wonderful mine (?) which a newspaper, in a big edition, had lauded to such a height that I expected to find a great plant with a hundred men bagging rich ore. Among my pictures you may see what I found.

The Liar Wasn't There That Day

A friend had asked me to go and look over the property and tell him if the newspaper story were all true. It took me over a month to find where the thing was located. Even the men I met on an adjoining claim could not tell me where it was. I put in the afternoon, as I was determined to find it. Finally, I found some men chopping wood in a clearing. I thought it was

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