

have mentioned, to arrest it by suddenly cooling off at "straw," would make it too brittle for ordinary drills, except a "bull drill." Now the "straw" turns into a copper hue, a good point to cool off for a *drill*. Now it passes into a blue, at this point it would be well to cool off for a *pick*. The edge of a drill is almost of secondary importance to the *sharpness of the projecting corners*; when these are gone, the drill is used up, and clogs in the hole. Some rocks like sandstone will, by reason of the quartz in them, wear off the corners very rapidly, others, like limestone or granite, less rapidly.

Another blacksmith advised me not to dip (as is commonly done) the point *only an inch* in water as it is apt in use to break at the water line, but plunge it *all over* in the water. "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

A prospector should take with him a regular blacksmith's hammer for sharpening, as well as the 4 or 5-lb. hammer he uses for striking drill or the rock.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

### SOME ELEMENTS OF MINING LAW RELATING TO PROSPECTING.

A prospector would do well to acquaint himself with a few elements of mining law, so we will give a few samples of Colorado mining law for his benefit.

*Extent of Lode or Claim.*—The length of any lode may equal, but not exceed, 1,500 feet along the vein.

*Dimensions.*—The width of lode claims in Gilpin, Clear Creek, Boulder and Summit counties, shall be 75 feet on each side of the center of the vein or crevice.

*Certificate of Location.*—The discoverer of a lode shall, within three months from the date of discovery, record his claim in the office of the recorder of the county in which such lode is situated, by a location certificate, which shall contain: