

number of rich pockets, from one of which a yield of \$75,000 is reported. Another, the Princeton, near the center, has yielded between two and three millions; and at the north, the Pine Tree and Josephine have aggregated a very large sum. The mines of this county are by no means confined to the limits of the grant; and the popular belief that such is the case, has, doubtless, exerted a depressing influence on the mines and mining interests of that section.

A few of the more prominent mines northwards, are the Raw Hide, Soulsby, App, Golden Rule, etc., of Tuolumne; the Carson Hill mines, and those of Angel's Camp, in Calaveras—the former of which are celebrated for their once fabulously rich pockets; the Hayward, Bigelow, Oneida, Keystone, Seaton, etc., of Amador; the Sierra Buttes, in Sierra County; the Indian Valley mines, of Plumas; the Placer-ville and Georgetown mines, of El Dorado. At the Woodside mine, near the last mentioned town, there is reported the discovery of a mass of gold weighing one hundred pounds and upwards; and last and most prominent, the Nevada County mines at Grass Valley and Nevada City.

The average width of the veins of Nevada County is probably less than that of the lodes in the other quartz mining counties, but they fully make up for their diminished size by an enlarged average yield. The country rock is chiefly hard and compact greenstone and granite, which, combined with the narrowness of the veins, increases the expense of extraction over the large veins in the softer slates. The mine which has of late attracted the most attention in Nevada, is the Eureka of Grass Valley. This mine is in greenstone; and is interesting not only by reason of its high yield, but also, being an east and west vein, as disproving the theory that the best ore deposits are found in lodes whose course approaches, more or less nearly, the magnetic meridian. The Eureka is located about one and a half miles northeast of the town of Grass Valley; it has attained a depth of somewhat over three hundred feet, and has drifts of about eight hundred feet. The dip is nearly vertical. It has two engines: the one for hoisting ore, and the other for pumping. The mill has twenty-four stamps. Amalgamation in the battery is not practiced at this mill; but, instead, the pulp from the stamps passes over blankets, the washings from which are treated in Atwood's Amalgamators. These consist of covered boxes, in the bottoms of which two semi-cylindrical cavities have been scooped out and partially filled with quicksilver; a stream of water washes the blanket concentrations, little by little, into the amalgamators, where they are kept in motion by the iron spikes of a roller, the points of which dip slightly into the quicksilver. There is a large per centage of sulphurets in this vein, which are reduced by the chlorination process. They are valued at from \$200 to \$300 per ton. This mine was sold towards the end of 1865 for the sum of \$400,000 in gold. During the last year, ending September 30th, 1866, there were extracted from the mine 11,375½ tons of ore, averaging \$47.15 per ton, and yielding in the aggregate \$526,431.41—\$368,042.18 of which was profit. The report of the Assessor, for the year 1866, giving the product of the year 1865, gives some very interesting facts in regard to this county. He places the number of mines, both quartz and cement, at one hundred and sixteen, the greater portion of which are, as yet, merely prospective. Of the seventy-one mills, fifty-one are devoted to crushing quartz, and twenty to cement. The yield of nineteen mines fully reported, of which the Eureka above mentioned is one, was \$2,227,000, giving an annual average per mill of \$111,947 from quartz alone. From twenty-three mills the amount crushed is reported at 70,760 tons, being an average of 3,076 tons to each mill.

The most successful mining, taken as a whole, must be credited to the county of Nevada, and no county in the State has, within the past year, attracted so large a share of attention. Its total yield in gold has not been, by the most moderate estimate, less than from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000. The mines of Massachusetts Hill, Gold Hill, New York Hill, and Allison Ranch, have yielded each from two and a half to five millions of dollars, while many others have yielded very high returns of interest on the amount of money invested. It must not be supposed that all the largely paying mines have been confined to this region in the northern tier of quartz counties.