

STOLE A MINE.

The Sterling Mining company is composed of Utah men, and owns valuable mining property in Southern Nevada. Hon. Orson Smith, of Logan, is president of the company, J. E. Langford, of this city, is superintendent, and Hugh Cannon, also of this city, is secretary. The three gentlemen named are now at the mines. One of the company's property is the Johnny mine, from which an \$8,000 gold brick was brought to this city recently. The Chispa is another of the company's mines, acquired a short time ago by purchase. This mine is the scene of trouble, which may culminate on the 13th, Friday next, on the arrival of the officers, who are acting in behalf of the Sterling company, which has law and right on its side, as opposed to a mob, of which the notorious Phil Foote, whose lawlessness is well known, and who recently escaped from the officers here is one. This mob headed by one McArthur, now has possession of the Chispa. One account of the affair comes from San Bernardino, Cal., under date of Sept. 6, as follows:

News has reached this city of a very serious state of affairs in the gold mines of Southern Nevada. A battle is believed to be imminent to decide who shall have possession of a rich mining claim in that portion of the Silver state. It has lately been operated by the Sterling Mining and Milling company.

A few days ago the men in the employ of the Sterling company were ousted and an armed body of miners put in possession. The men who were so suddenly discharged at once notified the officers of the company, who in turn dispatched an agent to Los Angeles with orders to secure two cases of rifles.

The guns were immediately shipped and passed through Blake on Thursday morning en route to Manvel, from which point they will be sent to the scene of the trouble as fast as they can be transferred.

The mine which is the cause of all this trouble is said to be very rich in high-grade ore, and has been the source of more or less trouble ever since its discovery. Some time in 1893 the Sterling company purchased the claim from A. McArthur. It is situated about twenty-five miles from Pahrump valley and nearly 100 miles from the mining camp of Vanderbilt.

After making the purchase the Sterling company employed a large force of men and did considerable work for a time. In the early part of 1894 the work was suspended and the men discharged. During 1894 the mine was comparatively deserted, no work being done, not even enough to constitute assessment work, as is required by law.

This reached the ears of McArthur, who thought he would like to again own the mine, and at once set about to relocate the old claim.

On investigation he discovered that there were five or six men in and about the camp, left there for the purpose of looking after the property of the company. But McArthur was not to be kept away by any such scheme and proceeded to move upon the mine.

He got together a body of about twenty or twenty-five men and, arming them with rifles, drove out the men

who were watching the property and away from the premises.

The men who are with McArthur are a determined set and, being led by a determined leader, a red-hot fight can be looked for as soon as the Sterling company's men return with their rifles. The McArthur contingent say they will keep the mine and work it for all it is worth, while the Sterling men say they will have possession if it takes a year's fighting to get it.

The country is said to be such that both sides can keep up a long fight with the chances of the outside parties being able to succeed in starving the inside men out.

Another account, and one to be relied upon, is that given by the president of the company in a letter to the stockholders in this city. It was written on Sept. 2, at Manvel, Cal., and says:

J. E. Langford and myself arrived here at 2 p.m. today—Monday—from the mine. We are having some difficulty there just now which I will explain. Mr. A. McArthur, a man who once ran the Pahrump ranch, has claimed a right to the Chispa mine, because of a location notice which he put on after about \$20,000 worth of work had been done by the Harding company, of whom we bought. His claim is invalid and we have talked with him about it many times and have paid him many bills owing to him from Montgomery and others whom we owed. Lately he has become quite vindictive. He has lost the Pahrump ranch, and now it is owned by some men from Chicago. He now tries to vent his spleen on us by going to Phil Foote, an outlaw from Salt Lake City, Billy Mayer, an ex-convict, and Jack Longstreet, a murderer. These have enlisted some five Indians, and altogether they went upon our dump and in the mill, in the night, armed with guns and pistols.

We were awakened last Wednesday morning by their firing in the air. We did not understand its meaning until our foreman went up to the mill, when they informed him that they were in possession and ordered him off, giving him a letter to Mr. Langford, which notified him to keep off the premises. About 7 a.m. our men went up to go to work, but were ordered off.

At 10 a.m. Hugh and myself went up and were told that if we crossed a certain line we would be killed. All this time we were covered with guns. I told them I desired to see Mr. Foote. He came out of the mill and we then learned that McArthur had engaged them to take possession and compel us to give them some money or the property. We returned to camp, i.e., our office, which is about 1,500 feet from the mill.

Just then the sheriff drove up to our place. He is assessor as well as sheriff, and was up on that business. He learned of the situation with apparent surprise, as it was all news to him. We are 250 miles from a justice of the peace, and could get no warrants for the arrest of the men, or we would have arrested them all. So the sheriff could not act. At least that was his excuse; so I drove him to Pahrump's ranch to see McArthur. I tried in every way to get him to draw off

without trouble; so did the sheriff, but without any good.

Thursday I returned to the mine with the sheriff and McArthur, who went up to his men and after a parley with them they came and made a demand on us for twelve thousand dollars in cash. McArthur said he would await our answer next day and would come up and see us and show us that it was due him. The sheriff stayed with us and pronounced it an outrage and said that with proper authority he would arrest them. After spending the night on Friday he assessed us and left for Belmont. McArthur never came to us although he was up and talked with his men. Langford and McArthur went to the mill Thursday and were ordered off. Mc said he did not want the property but wanted money.

After the sheriff left we decided to leave McArthur without excuse and so I am here on my way to Belmont for warrants for their arrest which I will put in the hands of the sheriff at once who will return to the mine as soon as possible. We will also have a deputy sheriff appointed and a justice of the peace.

Our engine had not arrived at the time of our leaving, but was within twenty miles and would arrive today. The sheriff will arrive at the mine about the 13th and it will be some time after that before we can hear the result. We have done everything we could to avoid trouble and bloodshed, as our men have been anxious to take them off and undoubtedly would have done so if not restrained.

One of our mills at the Johnnie gave us bother last week and did not run much, but is now at work nicely and the mine is looking well.

We have the sympathy of all reasonable-minded men in this place, including the sheriff, who says we are the only mills running in the county. I do not think that Mc. could have selected another set of men in the whole county, who would have done this for him; and I do not think it will be long before all will move smoothly again. We are noted for the most quiet camp in the country and we have been law abiding.

We are all well and trust that all will end well. ORSON SMITH.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 9.—Information has just been received here of a terrible fight in Nye county, Nevada, between miners and desperadoes, which resulted in the instant killing of the latter and the probably fatal shooting of a third. The names are Phil Foote, a gambler; Cheek Longstreet, a half breed, both killed and another half breed whose name is unknown was badly wounded. George and Bob Montgomery and their friends aid the shooting. The tragedy is the result of an attempt to jump a claim belonging to the Montgomerys. John McArthur, who has claimed the mine, employed Phil Foote, Billy Mayer, Cheek Longstreet and six others, well armed, to guard his interests. While seated at breakfast, a crowd of men headed by the Montgomery boys surprised them and poured a volley into the crowd before they could reach their weapons or escape. Foote and Longstreet were killed and one of the half breeds seriously wounded. Mayer succeeded in getting away.