

as Fleeser mountain, in one of the roughest portions of the main range of the rocky mountains. While going up the north side of Fleeser creek, a stream of about 2,000 inches, copper float was found and followed up the steep hillside for 300 feet until a mound, evidently an old ore dump, was found, immediately above which was a deep depression in the hillside.

The depression, or mouth of the old workings, as it proved to be, was ten feet deep and about ten feet wide by fifteen feet long, in the center of which was a scrub pine tree twenty five inches in diameter and evidently a hundred or more years old. The depression was covered with sagebrush and other vegetation, and would never have been recognized as the work of human hands were it not for the excavations which followed. Finding that the quartz float which they were following went no farther up the hill and discovering considerable in the vicinity of the old dump an open cut was started in the bottom of the depression running into the hill, with the result that after going about six feet under the surface a large slab of rock was discovered closing the entrance to an ancient tunnel. Removing the slab and clearing away the debris of ages the prospectors found an opening five and a half feet high by four feet wide, supported on either side by stone pillars and covered by slabs of stone.

The tunnel was followed twenty-three feet into the hill and about fifty feet under the surface, until a cave of earth and stone was encountered, which Messrs. Clark and Howard worked on for a day, but were unable to remove, and they came to Butte to secure tools and facilities for further investigation.

Judging from the size of the dump at the entrance Mr. Clark is of the opinion that the tunnel extends at least 400 feet further into the hill, and a force of men have been sent from this city for the purpose of removing the accumulated dirt and fully investigating the find. The pillars in the tunnel are 12x18 inches, 5½ feet high, and made by placing stones upon each other and wedged up tight with smaller stones, no cement of any kind being used. The pillars are placed three feet apart, and reaching across from pillar to pillar is a stone slab six feet long, twelve inches wide and eight inches deep; upon the top of these are laid other and smaller slabs of stone reaching on to the next cross slab, and completely covering the top of the tunnel. The bottom of the tunnel is hollowed out as if the ore and dirt which was taken out had been dragged over it, probably in cowhides or by other primitive means. On the projecting rocks of the masonry signs of birds are found very plentiful, indicating that the mine was probably abandoned some time before the only opening was closed.

The masonry of the tunnel throughout is very crude, and there are no marks of any tools, other than hammers or other blunt instruments. No cement being used small stones are inserted into every opening, until the whole is as solid as can be made. The small stones, or keys, are much battered and bear evidence of having been hammered a great deal. The only implements found so far are two stone shovels, which bear evidence of having been much used. They are about twelve inches across the broad part, or blade, and have small stone handles eight inches long, to which a

longer handle was evidently fastened. Along each side of the tunnel and on the dump in front ore was found scattered in abundance, although no trace of a lead appears upon the surface, it having evidently been covered by the accumulated dirt of ages. The ore found is not native copper, nor in any way similar to that found in the ancient excavations which have been brought to light in the other parts of the country. It is a very bright pyrites of iron and copper, smelting very easily, and is very rich, the samples found and brought to Butte assaying forty-five per cent copper. No trails or other evidence of how or where the ores were worked have so far been brought to light, but a complete investigation will be made.

The canyon in which the ancient mine lies is very narrow and precipitous, and can only be reached on foot, there not being room for a wagon in the canyon, or even room enough to build a wagon-road. The nearest place where human beings could live, and where, undoubtedly, the prehistoric miners of Fleeser creek had their abodes, is the Big Hole basin, four miles distant, where the famous Big Hole battlefield is located, and where General Gibbons gave the Nes Perces Indians battle in the early days of Montana. Numerous implements of stone and flint have been picked up in that vicinity heretofore, but were supposed to have belonged to some of the Indian tribes which roamed there in early days, and no particular attention was paid to them.

The country rock where the discovery was made is lime and granite, and the lead is what is known as a "contact" vein. The tunnel was evidently started on the lead, and follows it into the hill. All about lie granite boulders weighing hundreds of tons, and above rise cliffs of granite and limestone hundreds of feet in height. Fleeser mountain, in whose towering shadow lies the work of a past and forgotten race of men, is one of the highest peaks in the range of the Rockies, and its hoary head reaching above the clouds is covered with perpetual snow. That the workings were ever discovered was the merest chance, and may lead to still greater discoveries in the archaeological world. Within the past few years considerable prospecting has been done in the vicinity of the Big Hole basin and some very promising prospects have been discovered, some of them going phenomenally high in copper for surface showings. The men of old who worked the Fleeser mountain copper mines undoubtedly had some crude method of extracting the copper, which may be discovered later.

As an instance of how easily the ores in that district may be smelted, a number of years ago an old prospector at Divie, near Fleeser mountain, erected a rough stone furnace and smelted a large amount of copper from some ores which he found, with scarcely any help other than a fire of laurelwood. About five years ago an old prospector on soap gulch, about thirty miles northwest of the present discovery, found a tunnel fifty feet under ground while working upon one of his quartz claims, but as he was very uncommunicative but little attention was paid to it, and no one knows anything of it other than that the tunnel was discovered. As the prospector referred to has lived for thirty years upon the ground mentioned and no one else has ever done any work up-

on it since his residence there, it is almost certain that the workings discovered by him were by people who lived in Montana during times now forgotten.

The discovery of Messrs. Clark and Howard has created considerable excitement among mining and scientific men in this vicinity, and the result of their researches is awaited with great interest. Only two days' work upon the discovery was done by them when they came to Butte and had it recorded under the name of the Catalpa. Mr. Clark and Mr. Howard are well known and highly respected in Butte, having lived here for many years and enjoyed many honors at the hands of their fellow-citizens. Both gentlemen were on the Legislative ticket in Silver Bow county last fall and both are men whose honesty and veracity have never been called into question.

The clearing out of the tunnel and going through the cave, which has fallen in, will probably take several weeks. At the end of that time developments may be looked for of such a nature as will startle the entire scientific world and throw the Mississippi mound-builders far in the rear of the archaeological procession.

A HISTORIC VILLAGE.

In Saturday's News was an announcement of the return home of Mr. B. F. Cummings Jr., of this city, from an extended tour in the east, and he has furnished the following account of a visit made by him to the village of Mendon, Monroe county, New York, which has been made famous by the achievements of two men whom it claims as its sons, and who, at least in a sense, began their illustrious careers within its precincts. Though Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball were not natives of that village, they were living in it when they entered upon that ministry which resulted in giving them a world wide fame.

The village contains a population of about 700, and is a sober, quiet and thriving place. It is about twelve miles south of the city of Rochester, and is not reached directly by a railroad, the nearest depot being some three miles distant. This fact adds to its rural character. Living in the village on a farm about a mile from its center, is Mr. Homer S. Kimball, a son of Solomon F. Kimball, who was a brother of Heber C. Kimball. Mr. Cummings called upon him and was received with the greatest kindness and hospitality. Mr. Kimball is a farmer in comfortable circumstances, is 59 years of age, is of active, temperate and industrious habits, simple and cordial in his manner, of a somewhat religious turn of mind, and an attendant at services in a Presbyterian church, though his parents were Baptists, in which faith he was raised. His wife is a woman of quiet, unassuming ways, but a slight acquaintance indicates her to be a woman of marked amiability of character. They have three children, only one of whom, a young lady, was at home.

Mr. Kimball spoke with affectionate reverence of his "Uncle Heber," and declared that the latter was always held in high regard by his brother Solomon F., though the two differed radically in their religious views. Mr. Kimball also spoke very kindly and