

# Diamondfield and the Stirring Career of its Discoverer

SOME men's lives are made up of comedy, while others experience nothing but tragedy from the cradle to the grave; occasionally, however, a man is found whose life is a mixture of both. It is not often, though, that one finds a character whose comedy and tragedy are so intermingled as in the case of that of Jack Davis, the subject of this sketch. All over the Intermountain region he is known by the sobriquet of "Diamondfield Jack," and his career has been a most sensational and dramatic one.

## HIS DRAMATIC CAREER.

Since his youth he has spent his years on the frontier as cow puncher and miner, and he attained the title of "Diamondfield" in the following manner: In 1893 there was quite an excitement in Owyhee county, Ida., the county in which the rich Silver City district is situated. The excitement was near Linker creek, but soon subsided because there were no diamonds to be found in paying quantities. At this time the San Juan country in southern Colorado was attracting much attention and Jack started for the excitement. While on the road he encountered a number of cowboys and strange as it may seem there was either one or two other Jack Davises in the crowd and upon asking him where he had come from and upon being told that it was from the diamond excitement, they concluded to dub him "Diamondfield," and the name has stuck to him ever since and always will as long as he lives.

## TRAGEDY MOST DIRK.

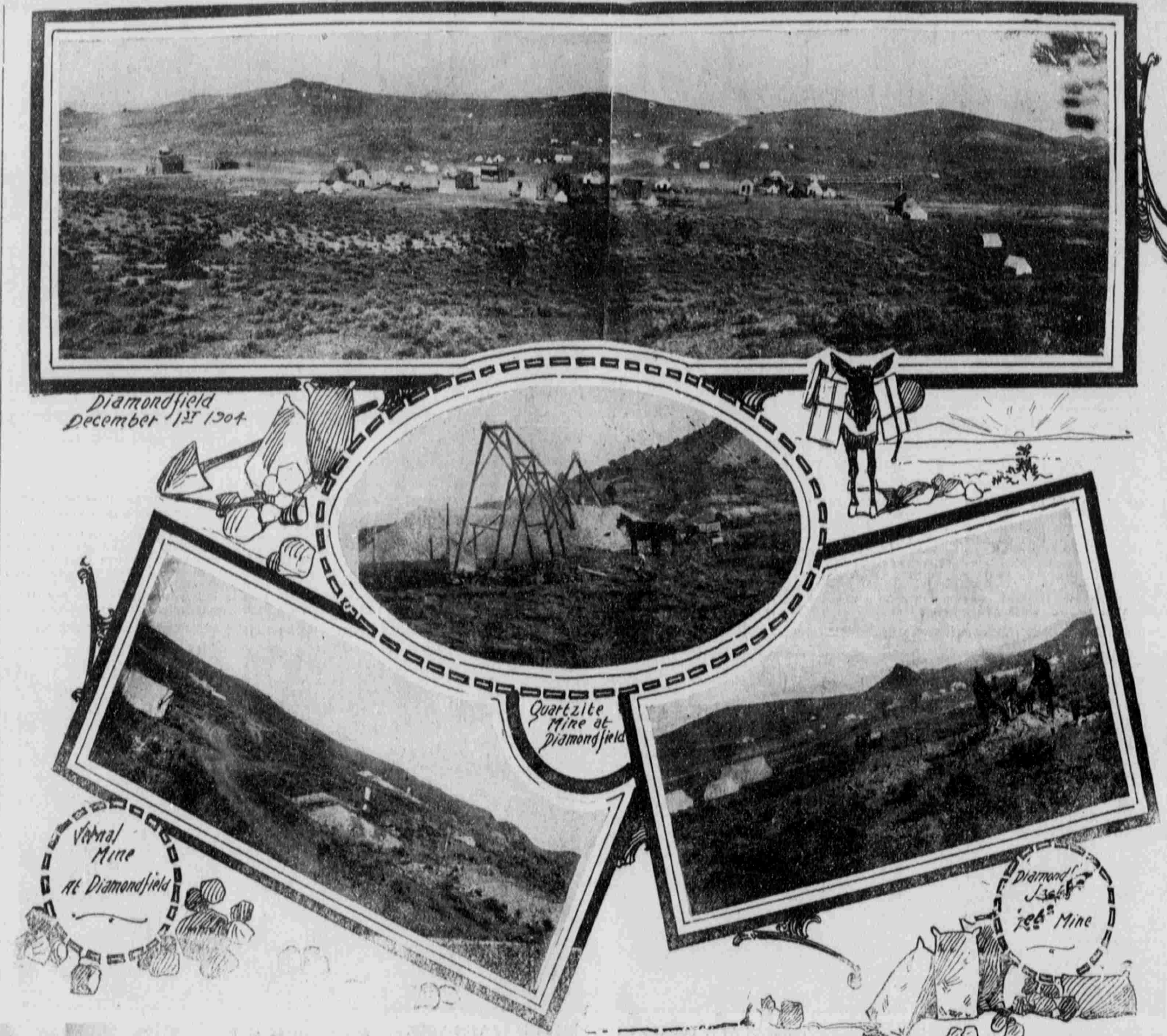
The spring of 1895 found him in the employ of Sparks & Herrall, in taking care of their thoroughbred stock in Cassia county, Ida. Gov. John Sparks of Nevada was the head of the firm named. It was shortly after this that an episode occurred in Davis' career upon which he does not like to dwell, and yet it was of such a character that unless it were told a sketch of his career would be incomplete. As is well known whenever cattle and sheep men meet, there is almost certain to be trouble, whether it be out on the range, or in town when each vies with the other as to how red he can paint it. Although an imaginary dividing line had been agreed on there had for 10 years previous been trouble and bad blood existing between two factions who were using Uncle Sam's domain free of charge. It was claimed that the sheepmen tried to invade the west side of the range in violation of the agreement before entered into and the result was that in February, 1896, two sheepmen were found out on the range dead. They had been killed by some one unknown and suspicion pointing to Jack Davis, he was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung.

## CATTLEMEN ADMIT CRIME.

Right here it may be stated in justice to Mr. Davis that subsequently the cattlemen acknowledged the killing. Their names are given but withheld in this sketch. The evidence in the case was purely circumstantial and the case was hotly contested on both sides and it was appealed to the supreme court of the state of Idaho, then to the United States circuit court, the United States court of appeals and the supreme court at Washington. The question of state's rights came up and the court of last resort held that it had no jurisdiction. Locally the case became a political issue. Messrs. Hawley & Perkey of Boise defended Davis while the prosecution was aided by such eminent counsel as Hon. W. E. Borah of Boise and Judge O. W. Powers of Salt Lake.

## SEVEN 'DEATH DAYS.'

Seven times was the day for the execution set and stays were obtained from the courts. Finally the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life and it was at



this time that quite a dramatic incident took place. When it was learned that a reprieve would probably be granted, threats were made by the sheepmen to cut the wires in order that the execution which had been set for July 3, 1901, might take place.

## TWO YOUNG FRIENDS.

Davis numbered among his friends two young men named Charles Krise and Willis Sears. They carried the reprieve on horseback from Minidoka to Albion and reached there on the morning of the day set for the cutting short of "Diamondfield's" career. Subsequently circumstances were brought to light which had not been brought out on the trial and the judges of the supreme court who had heard the case recommended that a pardon issue and Judge Powers who had aided

in the prosecution and who had made the closing plea went to Boise at his own expense and made an argument in his behalf. Gov. Frank Hunt, on Dec. 17, 1902, issued a pardon and Davis became a free man. He went to Salt Lake for the purpose of expressing his thanks in person to Judge Powers. While in his office the judge asked Davis how he was "fixed," and upon being told that he was penniless the judge voluntarily loaned him \$20, with which he went to Reno.

## HOW DEED WAS REMEMBERED.

How well he remembered this kindness as well as the judge's in his behalf is shown by the fact that he not only paid the money back but a couple of weeks ago sent Judge Powers mining stocks of the value of \$10,000. Charlie Krise was taken care of in a

valuable lease on the "Quartzite" mine at Diamondfield and Willis Sears is his partner in the townsite company and in other interests. Both are in a fair way to competency.

The photographs accompanying this sketch are those of Mrs. Krise and Mrs. Davis.

## LANDED IN TONOPAH.

He landed in Tonopah Feb. 5, 1903, and prospected and made some locations which he sold for \$500. He also located a lot which he sold for \$1,500. He then went to Cloverdale on a grubstake furnished by George Wingfield and others of Tonopah. The money which he had realized he lost in prospects. On May 30, 1903, he came to where Diamondfield now is and located the Quartzite, Vernal and other properties and also the Diamondfield townsite

which he located on Oct. 25, 1903. On starting from Tonopah he borrowed a mule from J. L. Ford whom he gave a half interest in his find and which he soon after sold for \$21,000—a pretty good return for three days' use of a mule. He spent \$800 in developing the properties named before he got an assay to exceed \$3 per ton.

## BETTER DAYS NOW.

During the past year Mr. Davis has realized \$15,000 out of sales of property and has refused \$10,000 for his holdings. He was engaged to be married on May 10 of this year and depended upon a sale which he had pending with "Patsy" Clark of Spokane for \$40,000. The sale fell through and he found himself in an unfortunate predicament. In his dilemma he telegraphed Mr. George S. Nixon, the banker of Win-

nemucca, who will be Nevada's next United States senator, asking if his credit was good for \$1,500. The reply was also by telegraph and consisted of an order on Mr. Nixon's bank for \$1,500. He married the lady whose photograph is herewith shown, on the 15th day of May.

Here again he showed his appreciation of the favor shown by giving Mr. Nixon \$50,000 worth of stock in one of his companies, the stock of which is now selling at 40 cents per share and which is shipping ore.

## THE TOWN OF DIAMONDFIELD.

The town of Diamondfield is pretty situated four miles east of Goldfield and is surrounded by such mines as the Quartzite, Vernal, Black Butte, Daisy, Great Bend, Tonopah Club, all of which are paying properties today.

Diamondfield has not startled the world with any achievements in the way of new strikes recently, but its mining activities are not diminished, and the ore is coming out of its proved gold-bearing areas as fast as ever. Men have begun development work on a large scale and this is a good augury for the future.

The drift at the 100-foot level in the Quartzite was in 80 feet last Monday, and the superintendent was momentarily expecting to strike the main vein, which has been sought for a week or more. Cronin and Welch, lessors on their holdings and taking out milling ore of a high grade, Sullivan, Lewis and Lane keep two shifts busy on their lease on Vernal No. 1.

On the Black Butte lease the tunnel has cut the main ledge at 800 feet, and John P. Brazier has withdrawn from the lease on the Midnight and it is now being worked alone by Jack Welch. The Midnight lies close to the Black Butte.

W. D. Jones, representing the Rex Mining company, has set four men at work on the Bullion Brothers group, the company's property. These men will exploit the property thoroughly under Mr. Jones' direction before beginning to sink a shaft.

A fire department is proposed for the town as soon as water can be arranged for. A hose cart of the modern type will be purchased by the citizens, and in the matter of fire protection Diamondfield will be ahead of Goldfield and Columbia. Water sufficient to doze any sort of a blaze will be at hand as soon as the tank and pipe line can be built. The supply will be drawn from the Spokane mine and wells that are to be dug.

## DAVIS DINNER.

The biggest social function ever given in Diamondfield was the dinner party tendered on Thanksgiving night by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis. Almost the entire population was there, and the guests sat down to such a feast as was never before set in the middle of a desert. The table represented all the wineries and markets in the world, the guests said. As mayor of Diamondfield and host, Mr. Davis exercised his prerogative and acted as toastmaster. His address was the hit of the dinner. In it he related how hunger drove him into Goldfield last Thanksgiving to buy a \$5 dinner with only \$1.50, how he borrowed \$1 and won \$6 more, so that he could square himself. Now, he said, the wheel of fortune has turned him out a modest bank account, and he can afford to treat his friends.

He told the writer that it was easier for him to borrow \$10,000 today than it was to borrow \$10 one year ago. In this respect he is like many another in this neck of the woods.

## A HEALTHFUL TOWN.

Diamondfield can tell a very good story of its health so far. There has been remarkably little sickness and no deaths at all. The town is so situated that the drains are carried off, leaving little chance for typhoid or smaller germs to thrive. The only pneumonia patient the town has had was O. S. Skinner, who was treated by Dr. A. A. Sanford, a physician of ability, who has recently arrived from El Paso, Tex. In view of the promising mines surrounding the town, there can be no doubt of the permanency of Diamondfield. Among the interests which Mr. Davis has are those in the townsite company; the Diamondfield Gold Mining company, of which the Quartzite claim is herewith shown, the Skyrocket company; the Goldfield-Hibberia company; the Goldfield-Aurora company; the Goldfield-Belmont company and the Goldfield-Eureka company. He is also interested in Bullfrog and other outlying districts.

"Diamondfield Jack," by his exemplary conduct and his open-handed generosity has won for himself the respect of the community in which he lives, and unless all signs fail, so far as material wealth is concerned, his future lies in pleasant places.

## SIERRA MADRE, UTAH, ONE OF THE GREAT CAMPS OF THE FUTURE.

THE most important features of work in the Sierra Madre mining district, northern Utah, during the year 1904, is the consolidation, incorporation and preliminary development and exploration of the Santa Maria group of gold and copper mines. For more than ten years the merit of this property was known to a few persons, but owing to the conflict over interests no steps were taken by either party of owners to open the magnificent copper and gold bearing veins.

## GROUPS CONSOLIDATED.

During the summer of 1904 the present management succeeded in uniting the three groups known as the New York group, the Vulture group, and the Santa Maria group, and this consolidation leaves within the area now contained in this property the lodes known as the South Eldorado silver lead vein, the Santa Maria gold and copper bearing fissure vein, the New York copper lode, the upper contact lode, and the Charles cross fissure. These are all strong veins in width, from 10 to 50 feet, and with values in gold sufficiently high to give excellent returns for working. The rock formation of the district consists of gneiss at the base of the mountain and reaching midway to the summit; resting upon this, we have 1,400 feet of Cambrian quartzite upon which rests in turn 1,500 feet of Silurian lime stone, and capping this, on the summit of the mountain, we find a measure 500 feet in thickness of Weber quartzite. The entire four measures are faulted, in many places, by dykes of igneous rock and the mineral veins exist as fissures, bedded veins and contacts. The silver lead veins are wholly in the limestone, and in the upper and lower quartzite, while the gold and copper values abound in each of the formations that succeed each other from base to summit of the mountain.

## IN THE SANTA MARIA.

In the Santa Maria group, the strongest examples of the vein system of the district are found. Here all of the fissure veins save the Eldorado silver vein, cross the gneiss and at their east and west ends the great contact between the gneiss and the Cambrian quartzite. The mineralization of the above system of lodes or veins shows gold, silver, lead, and copper in the Eldorado lode, gold, silver and copper in the Santa Maria, New York, Charles and contact veins. The above five mineral lodes of this property a united length of 12,000 feet, with assay values on the surface and in the workings already opened in copper, varying from 3 to 30 per cent, gold from \$2 to \$10, and silver from 5 to 20 ounces per ton. And in the Eldorado vein lead shows assays of from 5 to 70 per cent, associated with other metals, gold and silver being present in paying quantities.

The physical conditions controlling in the San Maria are these:

## REGION IS ROUGH.

The region, although within two

miles of a railroad station, is naturally very rough and difficult of approach, but the mineral lodes are much favored by almost vertical position of much of their exposure, thus allowing their development to be carried forward by tunneling and gaining great depth, while being carried forward on the vein, and at the same time allow perfect drainage of all waters so tapped in the workings. The ores of the Santa Maria group show almost entirely as sulphides, the chief being chalcocite, bornite, chalcocite, and black copper. Copper silicates abound near the surface, where the ore has been altered by moisture.

## A GREAT COPPER ZONE.

The discoveries made within this area of mining territory during the year 1904 goes to prove that a great unknown copper zone of great extent and richness exists in this hitherto but little explored region. As at Butte, Mont; Verde, Arizona; and also at Bingham canyon, Utah, an extensive series of copper bearing lodes exist at the Santa Maria. Their situation renders their working and development by tunnels easy. The exploration and development of these mammoth copper veins opens first chapter in what promises to become one of the most interesting problems ever solved in Utah as also one of the most profitable to those undertaking the work inasmuch as a tremendous tonnage is presented in a locality similar to those from which many millions of dollars have been taken at Butte, Bingham, Morency and at Keswick in California.

As at most of the above mines, the Santa Maria lodes arise at a contact and breaking through the older rocks for a great distance, forming immense bonanzas of copper sulphides, the most ideal in the world for concentration.

## PECULIAR FORMATIONS.

There are peculiar rock formations abounding at the Santa Maria mines, as wherever extensive bodies of copper exist in other parts of the world, so likewise, in Sierra Madre district do we find those features that seem to be inseparable from lodes of copper; there is an abundance of epidote, garnet and amphibole in veins parallel to the copper veins, and faulting these are dykes of diorite and phonolite. Igneous and aqueous forces in the early periods were active here, and the resultant deposits of copper, gold, and silver, along these veins are phenomenal in quantity of mineralized vein matter that lies between the walls of the lodes of this property and the consolidation of the Vulture, New York and the Santa Maria groups of mines present one of the most extensive development propositions ever undertaken in Utah.

The locality is virgin ground and the roads now into this basin enabling the present company to go forward with development work.

## WILL OPEN THE ORE BODIES.

The entire year 1905 will be given to the opening, for removal, the ore bodies that are already well defined and partly opened at many points. Ideal fissure veins are rarely found exposed

so as to show continuously from where they may rise at a contact, and, running for a great distance through one or more measures of country rock and at the same time showing points distinctly where they are faulted by one or more dykes. Yet, this is what we find here in the Santa Maria group and associated with these fissures in the gneiss rising at a contact with the Cambrian quartzite. There is, also in

the limestone, capping the latter formation, a continuation of the Eldorado silver lead vein for a distance of 3,000 feet, and, at the lower contact, where the fissure rises, a contact vein carries along for a distance of 3,500 feet through this group of claims. Here, as in the Santa Maria fissure, gold and silver bearing copper sulphides are opened at a depth of less than 40 feet below the surface.

Of course, it must be remembered that the tremendous tonnage of these veins is not a straight smelting product. Concentration will be resorted to for the treatment of a large part of the annual output. Such lenses of high grade bornite, chalcocite, and chalcocite are encountered from time to time, will be removed directly to the smelters; but it is now estimated that, from the 50 to 70 per cent of these

great veins will have to be passed through the concentrator.

## GREAT TONNAGE IN SIGHT.

As to tonnage of ore in sight, an estimate that is very conservative places the volume of ore in these mines above tunnel level No. 2 in the Santa Maria vein alone as being sufficient to afford a tonnage of 500 tons per day for a period of ten years, this is so far out of the ordinary, that persons reading this statement may be startled to think that such properties should lie thus unnoticed so long within less than three miles of a railroad station, and within 50 miles of the smelters at Salt Lake for so many years without being brought to the notice of the mining world.

In the first place the region has been the most inaccessible in Utah if not in any state of the American Union. Deep gorges and inaccessible cliffs abound here as nowhere else.

## AT CIVILIZATION'S DOOR.

Sierra Madre mountain is the only one spot where within sight of the chief cities of Utah the big horn or mountain sheep yet lives, and until five years ago not a single trail marked the side of this wild, desolate and forbidding monument of granite, quartzite and limestone. Most of its area was yet untouched by the foot of civilized man, and although one standing upon its summit could look down upon most of the other mining camps of Utah.

## AMONG THE LARGEST.

Yet no one knew of the existence here of mineral lodes among the most extensive in the world. Conditions as existing at this date, with even only a limited amount of development work done on Sierra Madre mountain, would proclaim this district as destined to become the fifth great copper producing region of our country, when properly opened for ore removal from the various mines now owned by the companies engaged in the district. At the Santa Maria the work planned for the future is the opening by tunnels of the Santa Maria, New York, Charles and contact veins; this will require about 2,000 feet of tunnel work, with upraises and winzes added, the construction of a 300 ton concentrator, a tramway to the foot of the mountain and a more perfect wagon road to join with the O. S. L. railroad at Utah Hot Springs, from which point crude ore and concentrates can be shipped to the smelters at Salt Lake for a freight charge of \$1.50 per ton.

## OTHER PROPERTIES.

The other properties of importance at the present being worked on Sierra Madre Mountain are the Eldorado, Prince of India, Napoleon and Maghera, Midland, Southern Pacific, Great Northern, Boller Maker, Casings, Wisconsin and the Chicago, and also the Royal Mining company, which owns an extensive tract of mineral land on Sierra Madre mountain on which little has yet been done, but on which most promising lodes exist.

It is, however, to the Santa Maria that the most attention is now being turned, and it is upon this wonderful group or cluster of mineral lodes that the year 1905 will see the most development work done. Those interested in its opening have displayed courage



## UTAH'S FIRST BULLION.

It Was Produced by the Woodhull Brothers Thirty-Two Years Ago.

To those who resided in Utah in the year 1872 the accompanying illustration will no doubt bring forth some very pleasant reminiscences. The occasion was the celebration of the event of the landing of the first gold, silver and lead bullion produced from the Woodhull Brothers' smelter, built at Gordon's, near the mouth of Big Cottonwood canyon, southeast of Salt Lake City. The Woodhulls were the first to undertake to smelt ores in Salt Lake county, and the arrival of this shipment really marked the beginning of the smelting industry in this region, although the first trial, with the crude equipment of those days, did not prove successful in a financial way. The ore from which the bullion was made came from the famous old Emma mine at Alta, in the Little Cottonwood district. The product was piled up, as shown by the illustration, on East Temple street, near Second South, and in front of what is now known as the Smith Drug company's corner.

The original picture was shown to Matthew H. Walker by a representative of the "News," and the former said he remembered the event very well, and at once recognized the placard hoisted above the pile of metal bars as being of his own handwork. "Yes," said he, "I painted that sign myself. Let me see, it's now over 32 years ago." Mr. Walker was able to pick out some of the familiar faces and identify them as those of old acquaintances. The elderly gentleman, with his shirt sleeves rolled up, Mr. Walker recognized as being his uncle, Joseph Walker, who lived to be 82 years of age. The figures on either side of the bullion pile are the Woodhull brothers, while the gentleman with the x mark on his hat is the late John Cunningham. There was much rejoicing in Salt Lake City on the day of the arrival of this bullion from the smelter. Headed by the gaily decorated wagons containing the bullion, a procession was formed and paraded the streets. It was indeed a happy occasion for the miners of Utah, for it marked the beginning of a new era in this country, the birth of industry in the commonwealth which has increased the wealth of the world by the hundreds of millions.

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