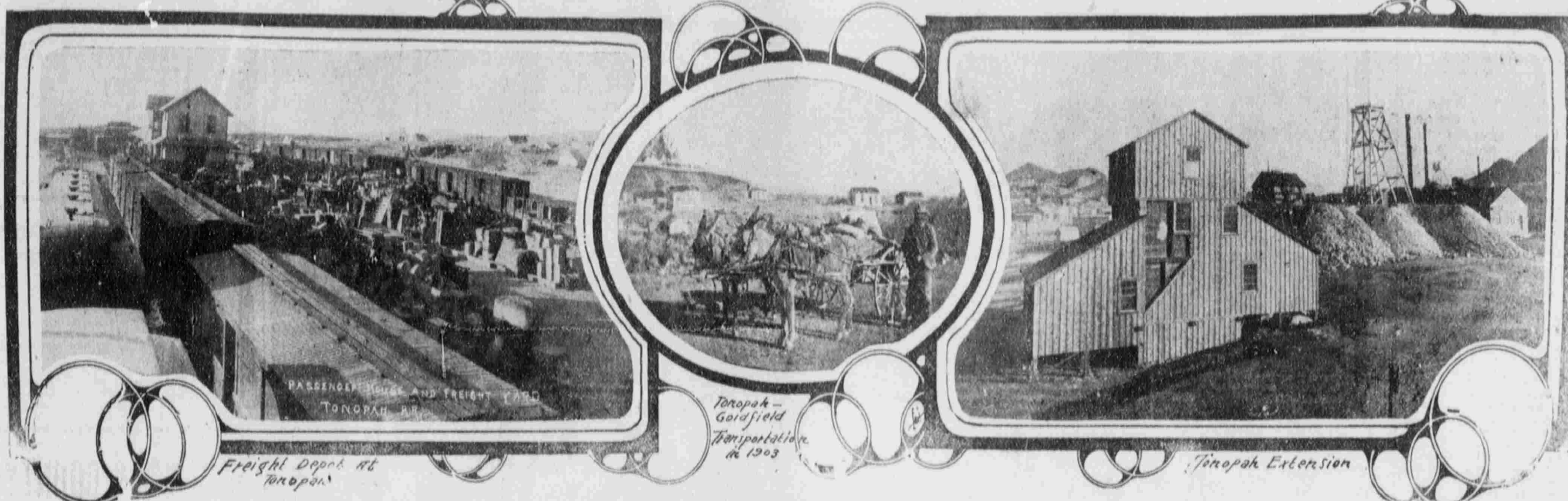


TONOPAH, ITS NEWEST MINES AND DEVELOPMENT WORK IN 1904.



THE story of Tonopah has been often told and yet the present sketch would be incomplete if a resume of its early history and growth were not given. In brief it is as follows:

The first discovery of Tonopah was made by James L. Butler, on the 15th day of May, 1900. Mr. Butler had for 15 years, kept these hills in mind, feeling confident that they were thoroughly mineralized, and on the 15th day of May, left Belmont to prospect them. He had a hard, rough trip, reaching what is now Tonopah on the afternoon of the 14th. On the following morning he started to climb Mt. Oddie, but had proceeded only a short distance when he discovered the outcroppings of a ledge. He secured several samples and took them to Klondike. Messrs. Higgs & Brounger, the assayers of that place, thought but little of them, and threw them aside as not worth assaying. Mr. Butler still had faith, however, and returned to his camp. Securing more samples, he took them to Austin. He arrived there on May 28, and after leaving instructions to have assays made, returned to Belmont to attend to business and harvest his crops. About this time Messrs. Higgs & Brounger, the Klondike assayers, concluded to test the samples they had thrown aside, and they were surprised at the results obtained, the best assay being 199 ounces of gold and 1,600 ounces of silver. The results from Austin were equally startling and Mr. Butler was notified. He arranged his business affairs and in company with his wife left Belmont on Aug. 23 for their destination on the 29th and on that day made the location covering the great Mizpah ledge. They remained six days, perfecting their locations and making trails. Their corner monuments were made of rich ore taken from the Mizpah ledge, for they had no stakes, and timber was conspicuous by its absence. Water was another scarce article, the nearest spring being three and a half miles distant. Mr. Butler's plucky wife, however, proved equal to the occasion, and driving the team over the rough hills every other day, hauled the water to the camp. She was a great help to her husband and he was proud of her. Concluding their location work, Mr. and Mrs. Butler returned to Belmont and consulted T. L. Oddie and Wilson Brounger, whom they took in as partners. More assays were made with the following results: The first, 540 ounces of silver and \$200 in gold; the second, 395 ounces of silver and \$151 in gold; the third, 640 ounces of silver and \$159 in gold. The next 15 assays averaged \$173, and 15 more went \$171.

BEGINNING OF THE CITY.
As the assays proved the richness of the "find," it was decided to stake the claims and make the title to same absolutely perfect. With this end in view, Messrs. Butler, Oddie and Brounger started for the new camp on Oct. 8, with two teams loaded with provisions and supplies and 44 stakes. The three men went to work with a will and started the nucleus of what is today the great city of Tonopah. They sank a shaft a few feet and extracted two wagon loads of ore from the Mizpah. This they hauled to Belmont, and from there 100 miles to the railroad, from which point it was shipped to San Francisco. The returns from the two tons was \$800. With that money, miners were hired and active development work was commenced. From that time the mines paid for themselves without any outside financial assistance. Mr. Oddie was given the business management by Mr. Butler, and when the property was sold to the Tonopah Mining company he was made general manager. In addition to the original eight claims, Messrs. Butler, Brounger and Oddie located the rich Gold Hill group and the Camp-fire claim, which showed well defined ledges.

NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY.
News of the rich discovery had now reached the outside world, and there was a wild rush of fortune hunters to the new El Dorado. Most of them were "tenderfeet," who risked hunger and thirst, and even death, in their first efforts to reach the gold fields, for food and water were at that time

practically unobtainable on the desert. It was a genuine stampede and enough to make them comfortable for the balance of their lives.

By January, 1901, there were some 90 people in the embryo town, all happy and contented, as they continued to extract the rich ore from mother earth. The population continued to increase, and by June 3, 1901, the day on which the mines were sold, there were 300 people calling Tonopah their home.

MONEY ALL AROUND.
And the sale of the mines furnished an interesting bit of history. Mr. Butler and associates had repeatedly turned a deaf ear to tempting offers, but on June 3, a man named C. P. Turner, offered \$350,000 for the property and owners concluded to accept. It was agreed that a payment of \$50,000 should be made at once, and Turner having but little money of his own, drew on an intimate friend in Philadelphia, John W. Woodside, for the amount. He then repaired to the telegraph office and wired Woodside what he had done, at the same time coolly notifying him to be sure and honor the draft when it came along. The draft was paid and the "Tonopah Mining Company of Nevada" was formed with a capital of \$1,000,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of a par value of \$1. That stock is today selling for \$20 a share and is in great demand. The royalties that the new company received within 30 days of their purchasing, reimbursed them for the amount of the draft, and the other payments were likewise made from the proceeds of the mines, and thus the mines paid for themselves from development, something that was never known before in the history of the mining world.

The leases expired at midnight on Dec. 31, 1901, and at that hour, explosives of all kinds were set off on the mountain tops, on all sides of town. Everybody joined in the general jollification, which lasted all night, and some of the boys continued celebrating for a week. It was certainly a happy crowd, and everybody was in the best of humor.

MANY PEOPLE COME.
New Year's day, 1902, found 1,200 people calling Tonopah their home, though in less than 16 days this number was reduced to 350, owing to an epidemic of sickness which came upon the young, happy camp, like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. It lasted 30 days, and in that brief time 50 of Tonopah's sturdy pioneers went to their eternal rest. Great excitement prevailed and the people were panic-stricken. The hospitals were filled with the sick and dying; the outgoing stages were crowded; many walked out of town and those who could af-

ford it, bought teams and drove out. But there were ministering angels in the camp who refused to leave during those dark hours. These fair, brave women of Tonopah nursed and comforted the sick, and offered prayers for the dying. Many of those who passed to the great unknown beyond, were strangers in a strange land, but their every want was attended to while

connected with the old 50 H.P. boiler, and so arranged that both can be worked together or independently for hoisting from the shaft or driving the compressor. The compressor is known as the "New York Franklin," having duplex steam and compound air cylinders with separate free air inter-cooler, and having a capacity of 1,225 cubic feet per minute. This compressor will operate

main working shaft to the 700-foot point. The Valley View shaft, which is 350 feet south of the main (or Slobert) shaft is down 500 feet. Crosscuts have been run on the 340 and 440 levels, connecting the two shafts, and in these crosscuts three ledges from 3 to 8 feet wide were encountered. The 300 level in the Mizpah (main shaft) has been opened up for 1,750 feet east and west.

The Midway has three ledges, all of which produces a good grade of mill ore.

During the leasing period the mines at Tonopah produced about \$4,500,000. The amount produced since then and placed on the dumps is conservatively estimated at \$10,000,000.

It is impossible to give any trustworthy estimate of the amount received

from the smelters for shipments made since the leases closed down, for the reason that the companies will not give out any information on the subject.

The mines mentioned are the only ones that have important ore-bodies developed. A number of others, notably the Jim Butler, the North Star and the California, are working with most excellent prospects.

Conditions Favor Goldfield Bonanza
Among the new companies organized to develop Goldfield mining property, none have started out under more favorable circumstances than the Goldfield-Bonanza Mining company, which is controlled by a syndicate of Salt Lake's prominent mining men.

The company owns a group of 7 full-sized lode mining claims, upon which a vigorous campaign of development is now being prosecuted. A dozen or more ledges outcrop on the surface, assays of which have demonstrated the existence of encouraging gold values. On a claim immediately adjoining, containing the extension of the Bonanza ledges, ore is being taken running from \$46.30 to \$61.18 per ton, at a depth of only six feet. The correctness of the above assays has been verified by re-assaying in Salt Lake City.

All over the Bonanza claims there is scattered a kind of iron float, which has not been considered worthy of attention. A piece was picked up at random by one of the directors and out of curiosity, assayed. The certificate shows 1.5 ounces silver and \$5.27 in gold, which proved conclusively that nothing should be despised in Goldfield, until proven worthless, and it also indicates that there is gold on and in the Bonanza claims.

Close to the Bonanza group are the properties of the Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia companies, both of which are in the clearly defined mineral area, and with arrangements already perfected for immediate development.

Several of Goldfield's now famous mines started out with much less favorable showing than this one, with development it would not be surprising to see it grow into a producer of great proportions.

As a speculative stock the Goldfield-Bonanza presents some attractive features. William H. Tibbels, 309 Dooly block, Salt Lake City, is the fiscal agent of the company.

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R. S. Robertson has had a small force at work throughout the year on the Victoria Mining company's property, which lies about three miles north of Eureka. A great many thousands of dollars have been spent in prospecting this ground during the past few years and on account of the splendid showing and excellent prospects for opening up a mine Mr. Robertson's work is being watched with considerable interest. Associated with him in the Victoria Mining company are several prominent capitalists of Ohio, some of whom paid a visit to the property during the year. Just as soon as it is demonstrated that the ore bodies of Tintic extend into the north Tintic, the district will experience one of the greatest booms in its history and work will be started upon scores of properties which are idle at this time.

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TONOPAH AS IT LOOKED ON DECEMBER 10 OF THIS YEAR.
Photographed for the Christmas News.

10 three-inch piston drills at this altitude, two drills are now at work and the remainder will be added as soon as received. The drills used are the Rix type of torpedo drill, having the latest invented reciprocating piston and mechanically operated valve, which ensures great economy in the use of air, and those now in use are drilling ten feet per hour in the hard quartz. The plant includes a special device for economy in the use of water. The complete plant except the 50 H. P. boiler has been manufactured and supplied by the Chicago Pneumatic Tool company of

and is in ore all the way, the ledge being from 5 to 16 feet wide and giving average assays close to \$100. The 340 level in the Valley View is opened up for 500 feet east and west, following the hanging wall of a ledge which is from 40 to 60 feet wide and will mill close to \$50 a ton. Altogether there are more than 20,000 feet of workings in the property a fine Tonopah company, and fully 15,000 feet of these workings is in ore. Mr. Hammond has reported that there is \$3,000,000 in sight. Other competent authorities, who are less conservative, assert that the amount of ore

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The Emerald mine at Mammoth has come in for a great deal of development work this year, and when one of the stockholders was asked recently how the property was looking, he remarked that at no time have the company's prospects been more encouraging. The drift on one of the lower levels vigorously prosecuted in the hopes of tapping one of the huge ore bodies, which have made the mines of the "Mammoth Hollow" famous, is now pushing through a character of rock which makes those in charge sanguine of the ultimate success of the undertaking.

Activity in North Tintic District
During the past year considerable development work has been done throughout the North Tintic district. During recent months the owners of unpatented ground in this section have been particularly active in doing their annual assessment work. The mineral ground of Tintic is owned by a class of people who believe in complying with the laws regulating the amount of work to be performed each year and the old custom of relocating and jumping ground on the first of the year is becoming obsolete.

The usual amount of development work is being done by the Northwest Mining company, which owns a valuable group of claims just northwest of Eureka. The mine is equipped with a splendid hoist and a great many feet of drifting has been done during the past few months. A highly mineralized character of rock was recently encountered and those who are familiar with the underground workings believe the search for ore will be rewarded. George Adams, a Eureka business man, is superintending the work.

R. S. Robertson has had a small force at work throughout the year on the Victoria Mining company's property, which lies about three miles north of Eureka. A great many thousands of dollars have been spent in prospecting this ground during the past few years and on account of the splendid showing and excellent prospects for opening up a mine Mr. Robertson's work is being watched with considerable interest. Associated with him in the Victoria Mining company are several prominent capitalists of Ohio, some of whom paid a visit to the property during the year. Just as soon as it is demonstrated that the ore bodies of Tintic extend into the north Tintic, the district will experience one of the greatest booms in its history and work will be started upon scores of properties which are idle at this time.

The Brooklyn-Eureka group of claims, adjoining Mr. Robertson's ground, was worked by Hudson Smith of Salt Lake City until a short time ago when the work was suspended. Mr. Smith hopes to be able to take up the work again in the early spring.

The Sweetwater Mining company, another North Tintic corporation, recently leveled an assessment for the purpose of continuing the work started some time ago. The Harrington ground in the same vicinity as well as the claims owned by Capt. Hugo Deprezin have come in for their share of work during the year, but it is hardly likely that anything will be done upon them during the winter months.

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