WORLD'S GREATEST SILVER-LEAD MINE

AND THE PEOPLE WHO OWN IT.

Proud Position Held by the Silver King—History of the Property—Is Just Going Upon a Dividend Basis of $900,000 a Year.

WHEN Thomas Kearns came to Utah in the spring of 1882, he brought with him the splendid outfit of the native ability, the energy and perseverance which was to give to the world its greatest silver mine. However the history of that wonderful property, the Silver King, may properly be written, it is the fact that must stand out most prominently in that this work was the direct force throughout its development.

The Silver King at Park City is undoubtedly the greatest silver-lead mine in the world today.

AN EMPIRE OF GROUND.

It has a frontage of not less than a [illegible] and fifty full patented claims, [illegible] with six or seven fractions, the most of its domain absolutely [illegible] in this any manner of litigation [illegible] to title.

This work was commenced on the [illegible] in October, 1881, it has made a [illegible] record. The vein was cut in March, 1882, and with the extraction [illegible] its sister affiliates in territory, the Park City Mining Company was [illegible] started, then the Union No. 2, [illegible] in Sept., then the Massachusetts [illegible] the Alliance. This second [illegible] is the aggregate $[illegible] and it has [illegible] paid for by the mine's output. [illegible] the profits built to the purchase [illegible] the incorporation, together with [illegible] the Ontario, which stands as [illegible] of Utah's mines and in the [illegible] of Marcus Daly, earthquake [illegible] Butte, a fact which stands as [illegible] for Utah's mining interests, has been [illegible] and only twice before that [illegible] $[illegible]. In addition to all [illegible] which is that the Ontario [illegible] is one taken out from the [illegible] aggregate of $[illegible] [illegible] of the Silver King is [illegible] a few years. This can really be [illegible] when it is stated that there [illegible] feet of ropes around on the [illegible] at the rate that has not yet [illegible] ended.

BILLIONS BLOCKED OUT.

[illegible] illustration of the unfathomed [illegible] in the Silver King is [illegible] actually in sight and [illegible] amounts to between [illegible] and [illegible] tons. Taking a less than average value for this ore, and deducting the cost of mining and smelting, it would leave a profit of $12,000,000 to eight, and it would also assuredly leave a great mine behind, this vast quantity of ore had been taken out.

MARKET VALUE OF STOCK.

Another illustration in the market value of the stock itself. The shares cannot be bought for less now, but on this basis, its value is worth $12,000,000. These illustrations might be continued, as profitable as the contrast, but one more will suffice. With the Silver King stock worth, the Silver King pays its shareholders $[illegible] monthly, which [illegible] at a dividend rate of $900,000 a year. It has been rumored of late that the dividend would be increased to $1,[illegible] a month, and the News is now in a position to announce authoritatively that this increase is to be made at once, commencing not later than the new year, which will put the corporation on a dividend basis of $900,000 annually.

WHAT HARD WORK HAS DONE.

The history of most great mines reads something like a romance, beginning usually with the "accidental find." There is little of romance connected with the Silver King. There is not even an accidental find to start with. It was simply carefully planned work, followed up with a persistence that nothing could daunt, that finally unlocked this mountain treasure vault. The men who accomplished it, besides Mr. Kearns, were David Keith, superintendent of the Ontario, A. D. Thorp, since deceased, John Judge, also deceased, and James Ivers.

OWNERS WERE POOR MEN.

At the time the first steps were taken, they were all comparatively poor men. Mr. Kearns came in with the Rio Grande Western when it was constructed to Salt Lake, and except the salaried successors before referred to, was without means. He went to Park City and was employed as the Ontario, then in its infancy, under that master miner, David Keith, who had served a long apprenticeship on the Comstock.

John Judge had charge of the work at the Daly under John Daly and had served his previous knowledge in the iron mines in New York State and all kinds of mines in Idaho. This middle-aged Irish, who was beloved by all who knew him, died just at the time when the Silver King commenced its career as a great producer.

A. D. Thorp was bookkeeper for the Daly Company, and was at once in charge of the Daly and Ontario, and James Ivers clerk, hence "Jim," was adjudge comparative repose after an [illegible] work at the Daly and Ontario by managing the Keith, Ivers & Judge livery stable.

They were those men situated when the chance came to them.

THE BEGINNING.

Mr. Kearns had taken a contract to run a tunnel in the Woodside and while carrying out the terms of his contract with which he calculated he might enter Mayflower ground. If there conditions were satisfactory, he would commence a stope on the vein in sight, and Mr. Kearns was tunneling on his own account. There was no sign of the Silver King in the close proximity to the Ontario, and the tunnel was in a place where it was supposed to be. Judge Mckinnon was there, and [illegible] "Kearns and Keith" [illegible] at the Ontario and then go to work for himself. That made two men to work, and it was enough for Kearns. Day after day I saw him, stripping the timbers from the bin down to his tunnel, and it's a fact that he cut and packed down all the timbers used in that tunnel. And I say," continued the ex-sheriff with emphasis, "that however much money was made in Park City, Kearns is equal to any two men who earned their shirts, and came working from bill through his stope and packing those timbers on his back."

MAYFLOWER LEASE.

When Mr. Kearns saw the finishing of the vein in the Mayflower ground, he consulted with Mr. Keith, and the result was that the parties entered a lease on the Mayflower. The stope was struck, all the ore taken coming to the surface. At 200 feet the vein was cut, and the Mayflower lease was abandoned in favor of the Silver King. The ground was afterwards bought, together with four installments of Kearns, Keith and Judge, and the Silver King was owned by Caldwell Bringhurst, John Fields, W. H. Dyer and Martin McGinnis. Dyer was then in Congress, a critical period for the partners. The owners of the Northwest, just across the divide, were trying to force them suddenly to sacrifice minerals for timber, but the men were cowards enough to resist. It was not only the most interesting case ever tried in this city, in which the counsel of Apex was in dangerous everything. It was tried before Judge Zane, and such able pleading resulted in a verdict which was upheld as well as experts from all over the country, and resulted in a victory for the Mayflower and sufficiently large to effectually terminate further litigation.

MONEY POURS IN.

With this hitching finally secured, the future was for a bonanza, and it came, and the Northwest took some to attach. The latter also was defeated by a verdict, and the Silver King became positive. Thomas Kearns was president, D. D. Enoch secretary, James Ivers and Mr. Keith were the happy men working the Park mines, director. They were organized in July, 1887. Mr. Judge had left the company, for one reason because he was already in. He was a rich man. After building the Ontario for Daly, and working the splendid bonanza of an unprofitable mine, he only received the dollar dropping in the sum of $[illegible] for his services, and he died a poor man.

THE SILVER KING POLICY.

The development of the property since then has been continued. A feature of the policy consistently adhered to from the first has been the extensive and systematic use of exploratory work. It is a little acting among people that the Silver King owners spent so much time of ore for every one taken out, and it is literally true. The company were very slightly, but it is certain sufficient to cut the handsome dividends stated, to purchase new ground, to add to the property and to carry on the equipment up to its earliest standard.

VALUE OF THE ORES.

The ore yields from 40 to 50 per cent lead and from 12 to 40 ounces silver. In 1891 gold was a by product of a quarter ounce proportion, yielding $5.[illegible] per ton.

Of the silver output about 75 per cent of the crude ore is shipped to the Pueblo smelter, and the balance to Salt Lake, and marketing about 25 per cent.

It may be remarked before coming to the subject matter, that only the Ontario, which is worked on the Comstock, has the substantial equipment that belongs to a property of the first class. The Ontario should be doubled to increase the value of the mine.

THE SILVER KING MILL.

Work of the phenomenal success of the Silver King as a match producer is due to that most valuable of adjuncts, a perfect mill. And the Silver King will so, in fact, stand as perfect as human ingenuity and the expenditure of money can make it.

When Mr. Keith left the Pioneering and charge as superintendent, and the chief proved a happy one. Mr. Pioneering had been contracting for the knowledge gained from long study and with experience, and the result was a mill which would then have satisfied most competition, was thoroughly complete and well equipped, and has stood from time to time as the experimental operations proceeded. A rigid system of checking centers on a general mine, and the mill is no exception, so that now the mill is confident with some accuracy what is the output of the mine, and, on the other hand, the mine workers can look at the mill output and see what is the result of their labors. The mill output continued to increase until the mill was capable of 1,000 tons, so that the mine could keep pace with it.

The mill is so easily built throughout that it is easily loaded to stand, and the mining is of such extent that it has a frontage of 184 feet, with the height from the floor to the top of the structure, which are in the usual terrace fashion, to get the benefit of gravity in handling the ore, is 134 feet. The gives nine working floors, and the ore is carefully protected by fire.

Of the equipment, there are, as might be expected, several Huntingdon, and three of the Allisses ground. So far the mill is not equipped to its full capacity, but since the mine has been demonstrated exactly what is wanted, the addition is being made, and the mill will be able to handle 200 tons daily with ease.

WHAT ONE MINE HAS DONE.

This entire has shown what one mine has done to benefit the owners. That mine has done more than that, it has, when compared with the influence it has exerted upon the whole Rich. In the Park City district, the Silver King added facilities employment for a small army of men and has had a wonderful stimulating effect upon the Park. In stirring the darkest hours of depression there, the Silver King stood like a rock, and it is no exaggeration to say that it has kept the Park in the face of prosperity. It has stood by the Park, and never failed to be the first to lend a helping hand. It has, in a sense, it has added to the development and prosperity of Utah. The wealth it has distributed has added materially in the development of other mines, such as the Grand Central and Ontario, and of Park City itself, it has enjoyed for their of herself. The stately James and Keith mansions on Prospect street, are but one of many handsome mansions, now being erected there and the fine residences on Park City street, are all evidence of the prosperity of the Silver King mine. It was from Silver King money that paid for the mines, it was Silver King money that built the Park, and Silver King money will maintain them.

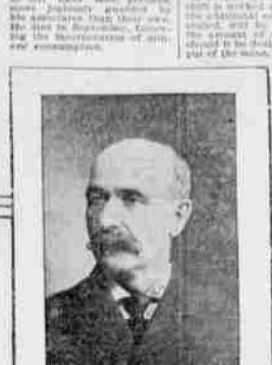
The men and women who have made the great fortunes from the Silver King property, keep those fortunes here, so that its benefit is a permanent one, and no one will grudge them their fortunes here before this interesting battle.

HON. THOS. KEARNS.

THE LATE JOHN JUDGE.

SUSAN B. EMERY-HOLMES.

The Great Silver King Mill.



HON. JAMES IVERS.

HON. DAVID KEITH.

A FLYING VISIT TO PORTUGAL

Various Routes from the United States—Our Correspondent Goes First to Oporto, Portugal, the Manchester of the Iberian Peninsula, where the Famous "Port" Wine is Made.

[illegible] Correspondence.

Oporto, Portugal, Oct. 21st.—In the [illegible] of some Eastern coast. "The [illegible] and sea by camel-shore and [illegible] a flavor." But let us suppose [illegible] for the personal pronoun, [illegible] the readers who have [illegible] to see the south and [illegible] of Spanish-America will accompany me on a flying visit to Spain, [illegible] for the year old northern country [illegible] to warm her bones.

Leaving the ports to Spain, there [illegible] are available for entering this [illegible] other two desert countries of Europe, [illegible] Germany, France and Portugal. [illegible] the three various routes [illegible] to make the journey [illegible] New York to Oporto, or Lisbon, [illegible] New York to Gibraltar, [illegible] and Gibraltar to Oporto, [illegible] of Spanish-America will accompany me on a flying visit to Spain, [illegible] for the year old northern country [illegible] to warm her bones.

Leaving the ports to Spain, there