

THE RED CLOUD MINE

"This is one of the best known mines in the State, by reason of its immense output, it being over a million and a half dollars. The rich ores that were taken out and the wholesale plundering of these rich deposits by the employees gave it this notoriety. Its history is replete with fabulously rich ore finds. Those who worked the mine were far from being mining men in character. The money that was squandered in a riotous manner, and the consequent advertisement that such actions bring, are part of the history connected with this mine that certainly has hung a crimson cloud over its auriferous record. The mine is unquestionably rich. Its strike is east, and the width of the vein is about three feet. There is a shaft 700 feet deep and 500 feet of drifts. There is a twelve-stamp mill on the mine. It is difficult to arrive at a correct estimate of values, as there are so many rich bunches that no regular average is derived. However, the entire ore shoot is free milling. There is no excuse for this property being idle."

The following statements with regard to the Red Cloud Mine for five years steady run are verified at public libraries in the bound volumes of the years 1883 to 1888.

Red Cloud Mine

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October 1883: Machinery is in place and crushing is to commence from the Red Cloud vein which is very rich.

March 1885: The Red Cloud Mine is panning out big.

April 1885: Strike in the Red Cloud Mine a bonanza.

June 1885: Struck a bonanza in the Red Cloud Mine.

The ore taken out is fabulously rich in gold.

May 1886: The Red Cloud Mine is showing up splendidly producing immensely rich ore.

April 10, 1886: The Red Cloud Mine for some time past has been running upon good ore averaging \$30 per ton. The lower level, which is 360 feet below the surface, shows two distinct chimneys nearly one hundred feet apart. The last chimney which was struck a short time back was exceedingly rich, and if there had ever been any lack of confidence in the mine it was at once restored. About ten tons of ore is crushed every 24 hours, which if the ore pays \$30 per ton, it must be considered a financial success to its owners. The prospect of the Red Cloud Mine is very very flattering at present and judging from the great body of ore in sight, it will be a source of profit to its stockholders for a long time to come.

November 1888: Red Cloud is doing well. Ore averages \$60 per ton. The following is part of a letter from C. L. Mast, Superintendent and mine owner. His opinions are well worth considering.

"Feb. 20th 1905

During the superintendency of Mr. Whitman, I went frequently thru the mine with him, and we studied the variation of the ground where he was then drifting, on the east side of the shaft, by following the hanging wall at the end of the 400 foot level. There was apparently coming in, from the footwall side from the shaft, a well defined quartz strata, which gave prospects, before this. We had noticed different places on the footwall side in going east from the pay chute [shoot] quartz strata running from the footwall. Although the question was debated at the time whether or not it would be wise to cross-cut, he then having his order to drift on ahead, the crosscutting was never done. At the time he had decided to drift back on the strata towards the shaft, he was prevented from doing so by receiving his preemptory order 'to close down.' Both of us felt satisfied that had that been done there would have opened out the rich pay chute [shoot] on the footwall. I have helped to pump out the shaft, and I have studied the contour of the mine very closely and I believe today, if crosscutting is done in the lower levels, on the footwall side, the rich ore chutes of the Red Cloud will be found there which added to large body of low grade ores known to exist in the west side of the shaft in the upper levels, the Red Cloud Mine will blossom and be a rich mine again."

(signed) C. L. Mast