

# Big Butte



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**C. M. HATCHER & CO.,**  
262 WASHINGTON ST.,  
BOSTON.



Year in, year out, with worn and rusted pan,  
The ancient miner seeks the yellow gold.  
The whitened locks and furrowed cheeks of tan  
Bear silent proof of sufferings untold.

The sands of life, once strong, now feebly run ;  
Long since the golden values have been panned.  
But fortitude, when work at last is done,  
Will be rewarded by His gracious hand.

**G**OLD mining in California, even with all the attendant hardships to which the forty-niners were subjected, was not without its amusing incidents.

It seems almost coincident that one of the most interested owners of the "Big Butte Gold Mining Company" should be the son of a man who in 1849 faced the terrors of a six months' trip by ox-team across the prairies and eventually located on the banks of Feather River near by the present holdings of the Big Butte Company. In these days of rapid transit both of passengers and provisions, one finds it difficult to realize the conditions of those days. One dollar apiece for eggs was by no means an unusual price, while flour, caked in the barrel until it was necessary to use a hatchet to cut it out, was eagerly purchased for one dollar or more a pound. Despite these handicaps, a companion of the pioneer referred to above was rewarded by the acquisition of gold to the amount of \$80,000, the same being taken out in an incredibly brief period and from a space scarcely ten feet square. And now comes the feature which is to-day calculated to provoke amusement. Fearful lest there should be an over-production, resulting in the depreciation of the sale of the yellow metal, he hastened with his treasure to the nearest seaport and shipped without delay to the East, determined to dispose of his wealth before the market values would make its disposal unprofitable, it not impossible.

That, after a half-century has elapsed, the people of the East should have an opportunity for investment in this very territory seems little short of phenomenal. Not only has there been no over-production of gold, but the values which it was fearful would be exhausted within a few years not only show no signs of diminution, but from authentic statistics show material increase in each succeeding decade. It is possible that the evolution of mining has much to do with this steady increase in production, but the fact remains that, even with the modern appliances and ample transportation accommodations, the surface of California, so far as gold is concerned, has been barely scratched, and with succeeding years the output will steadily increase.

### THE PAN'S EVOLUTION.

There is no process of mining in the world so fascinating and at the same time so remunerative as hydraulic mining. It is a development of the antiquated panning process of the forty-niners. The early seekers for gold were content to fill their pan partially full of dirt, pour in water, and gently shake the dish until



THE HEAD WATERS.

Big Butte Company's source of supply — 6½ miles above the mine.

the gold values—in reality a very small portion—had sunk to the bottom of the dish by force of gravity.

Next came the cradle, which did not change the principal, but lessened the labor and increased the results. It was simply a box set on rockers with an inclined floor into which sand was shoveled, the miner rocking it back and forth with one hand while he poured water with the other.

This was followed by the “Long Tom,” which was a step so far in advance of the cradle that it was held as the acme of mining accessories, and when it is considered that this method could produce equally as great results as could ten miners with the cradles the importance of its invention may be appreciated. As a matter of fact, the “Long Tom” was in a crude manner the advent of sluicing.

It was a radical step from the “Long Tom” to the hydraulic giants, but it followed as a matter of course. It did not take long for American ingenuity to conceive the plan of constructing flumes and reservoirs, of piping the liquid into the ravines, and by the great force created by the fall of the water tearing down whole mountains in order to open up the yellow metal, which for centuries had lain hidden from human view. The combination of the hydraulic giants with the runways and sluice-boxes was really a huge exaggeration of the “Long Tom.”

Few people realize the important position which placer mining has occupied in the history of this country, or, so far as that is concerned, in the history of the world. Quartz mining is comparatively a new method so far as California is concerned, about thirty years having elapsed before California with all its wealth of gold opened its first shaft mine. While there are no official figures on the subject, it is safe to assume that of the \$197,000,000 in gold taken out in California in the past 40 years, over three-fourths, and probably a much larger percentage, has been secured by placer mining. This is a fact well worthy of your serious consideration.

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## BIG BUTTE.

**Location.** The property of the Big Butte Gold Mining Company is located in Butte County, California, and consists of 286 acres of land located along Butte Creek in section 22. Since the days of '49, which will ever remain famous in the minds of all persons interested in gold mining, this section has produced many millions of dollars in coarse gold. At this point the Company owns one mile of ancient river channel, which is recognized in hydraulic mining as containing the most valuable deposits of gold. The width of the channel varies from 150 to 200 feet, and in some places is even wider, while the depth of gravel where now exposed is at least 30 feet. At no time has the gravel



BUTTE CREEK.

All of this water is controlled by the Big Butte Mining Company.

extracted averaged to produce less than \$1.75 in gold to the cubic yard, and gravel paying over \$9.25 per cubic yard has been taken from this channel on the property of the Big Butte Company. One hydraulic giant will easily knock down at least 25 cubic yards of gravel an hour. Instead of \$1.75 to the cubic yard, which has been the average and which we believe is a conservative estimate, figure it at 80 cents. That would represent \$20 an hour, or \$480 for each 24 hours.

**A Bit of History.** About twenty-five years ago, or, to be exact, in 1878, an old resident of San Jose, with one associate, located the claims which form the nucleus of what is now the Big Butte Gold Mining Company's property. Since that time over 200 acres of adjoining land have been added, and are included in the property controlled by the corporation. In the two succeeding years, 1879 and 1880, the two men above mentioned took out something over \$45,000 in gold. In doing this they worked a channel some 168 feet long through the gravel or what had formerly been the bed of a river. It should be understood that this work was performed with the old-time implements. There is no question but what the gravel from which this really large quantity of gold was secured could, by more modern methods, have been made to quadruple the production.

In 1881 the Southern Pacific Railroad Company laid claim to this and other adjoining properties, and as a result all work was ceased.

**An Absolute Title.** It was seventeen years before the claim of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company was brought before the courts. In 1898 a test case was made of the claim now included in the property of the Big Butte Gold Mining Company, the case being tried before Judge Morrow. The court's decision that the land involved was mineral land, and that consequently the Southern Pacific Railroad had no claim upon it, excited the most intense interest in this, the test case. Immediately following the decision Messrs. Woodson and Garland re-located the claim, and soon after the property was secured by parties residing in San Jose, California. A company was formed October 11, 1900, for the purpose of developing this valuable property which had so long lain dormant as a result of the litigation.

**A Legitimate Investment.** We desire to emphasize the fact that the purchase of shares in this Company is a legitimate investment, and that the Company simply desires to secure the funds necessary for the development of the property, thus guaranteeing to stockholders the returns which mining experts agree should recur from the proper working of the mine.

When the proposition was first presented to us certain claims were made by the previous owners of the property regarding the producing capacity of the mine. These have been fully substantiated by mining experts whom we have had examine





BIG BUTTE FLUME.

Showing sufficient water going to waste to operate a dozen mines.



From the opening shown above over \$45,000 in gold was extracted, proving conclusively the richness of the property.

## BIG BUTTE.

An idea of the immense volume of water used in sluicing. Near the center of the picture is one of the four-inch nozzles which are used.

the same. In addition to the reports of these mining experts our superintendent has gone over the entire property, and at different points has taken out values which have been richer than the best reports which these mining experts claimed for it.

There is at the present time in plain view over 1,000 feet of gold-bearing gravel.

**Things  
We Know.**

It is a fact known to all mining experts that mining by the hydraulic method is by far the cheapest of the many systems by which gold is secured. This Company has an immense body of gold-bearing gravel on the property, but a few feet from the surface, and consequently the expense of taking out the gold will be comparatively little. One of the chief essentials of successful hydraulic mining is an abundance of water and sufficient pressure.

During the past two years every water right of consequence in Butte County has been claimed and recorded. The Big Butte Gold Mining Company controls the water right on the west side of Butte Creek, and this water can be carried by ditch and flume many miles south of the Company's property, as there is ample pressure, and can be used for mining or any other purpose which may be desired. One of the famous Cherokee ditches lies on the east side of Butte Creek, in plain view of the Big Butte mines, and was recently sold for \$250,000.

**Water Rights.** During the spring and summer of 1901 the Big Butte Gold Mining Company constructed about two miles of ditch and flume connecting with 500 feet of 12-inch pipe, and leading down to the gravel at such a grade as to give a tremendous pressure. With this completed it was hoped that the Company would soon have the mine on a dividend-paying basis, but it was soon discovered that the water supply was insufficient, and that it would be necessary to extend the ditch four and one-half miles further, making a total of six and one-half miles, to Butte Creek, where the water supply would be ample day and night the entire year. For four months a force of twenty-five men were at work completing this valuable ditch and flume. All of the water rights are properly recorded, from the waters of the west branch of Butte Creek and its tributaries to the property of the Big Butte Gold Mining Company, and are controlled absolutely, no other company being able to use one drop of water, except through purchase from the Big Butte Company. The value of this work has been amply demonstrated, and, as a result, the property has been greatly enhanced.

**Values  
Demonstrated.**

The values contained in the sands of Butte County, and especially in that section occupied by the Big Butte Gold Mining Company, have been demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt. In proof of this statement it is only necessary to recite what has been done by companies occupying adjoining properties. Immediately to the east of the Big Butte property is the Portuguese Point, which has produced



BIG BUTTE FLUME.

Through which the water flows to the mine — a distance of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

\$2,500,000. On the west is the Best mine, which up to the present time has produced over \$150,000, while directly across the creek is the Little Emma mine, from which over \$1,000,000 in gold has been extracted, and values are still being produced. In the immediate vicinity is the Matherson, from which, in sixty days, by the aid of a small hydraulic giant, \$5,700 in gold was washed out. This section is world famed as having produced the largest nugget found in the United States, and the second largest in the world. This nugget weighed fifty-nine pounds, and contained \$10,690 in gold. The Megalia, near by, since being opened, has produced \$1,600,000. The Dix mine, with a record of \$600,000, is also among the active producers. These mines simply show the richness of the section in the immediate vicinity of the Big Butte property.

Every test which has been made at the Big Butte mine has strengthened the faith of those interested in it.

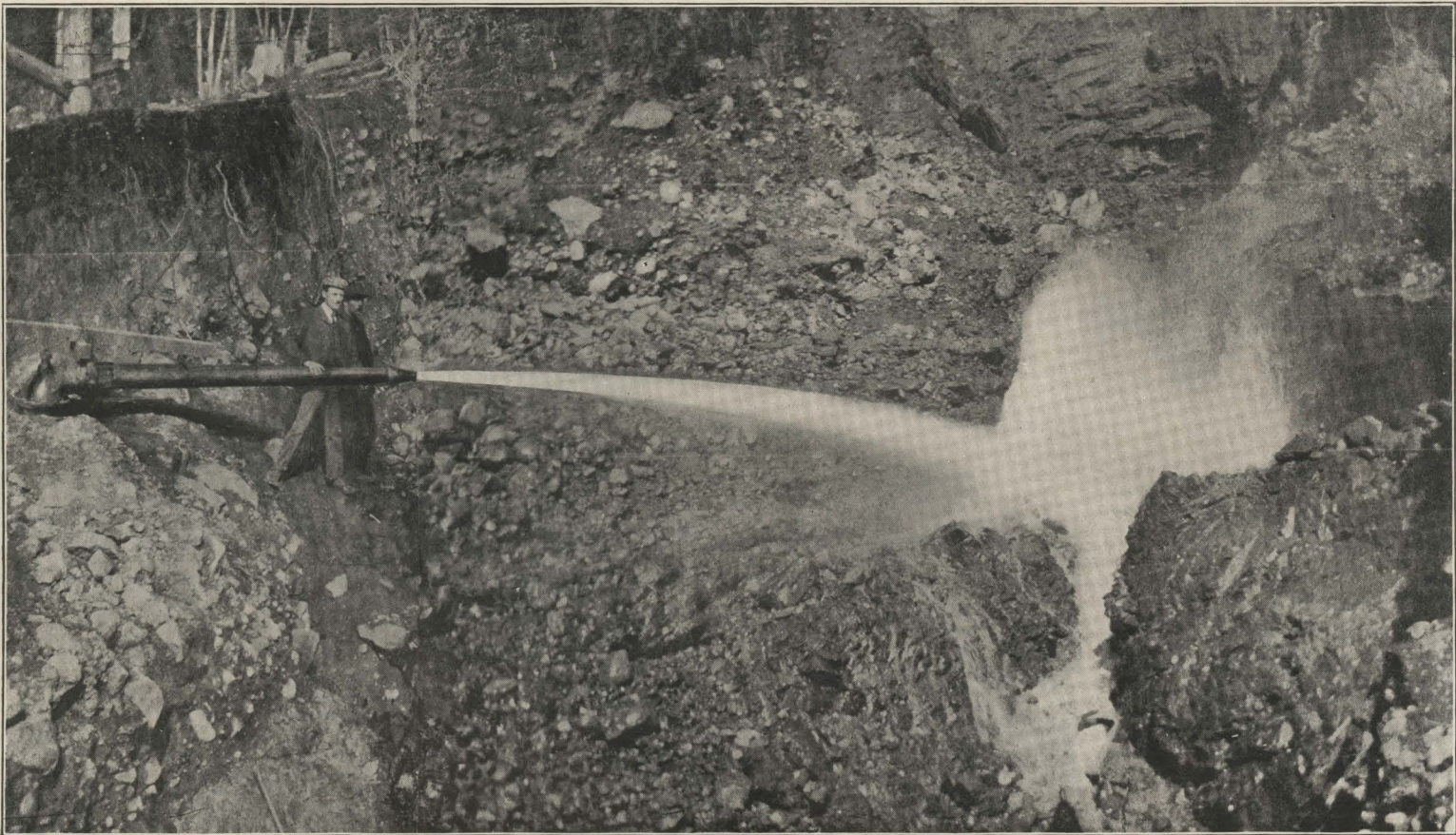
Seventeen square yards of dirt and gravel were taken from seventeen different places in the old channel, and run through a rough sluice-box with a small head of water from a neighboring spring, and produced \$12.75. One cubic yard from the bed-rock produced \$9.25. T. Hill Mansfield secured from off the bed-rock in a place less than three feet square \$29 in gold. An eight-hour run, with a small head of water, produced \$159.50.

With the proper appliances for the active working of the mine the values extracted will be extremely gratifying, and the reports of all persons who have inspected the property and examined the sands have fully substantiated this fact.

**Expert Opinions.** Several experts in placer mining have investigated the property of the Big Butte Company, and all agree as to the values contained therein. In every case practical demonstration was made, and the claim has been worked sufficiently to clearly demonstrate the earning capacity of the mine under the present management. E. E. Rogers, a mining expert of fourteen years' experience, who has devoted himself especially to hydraulic mining, is foreman. A. L. Kent, who has had diversified experience in similar work, and who is one of the directors of the Company, is also located permanently on the property. Among other well-known mining experts who have expressed favorable opinions of the Big Butte claim are W. H. Brown, who has had thirty-five years' experience along this line; F. A. Smith, of Canada; and W. J. Rogers, of California.

**Pertinent Points.** The United States Government always provides an open market for gold at a standard price.

One of the first essentials of a successful company is capable, conservative management. The officers of the Big Butte Gold Mining Company are men of integrity and recognized business ability, and for the



TEARING AWAY MOUNTAINS.  
Showing the tremendous force of the Big Butte hydraulic giants.

past two years have shown that they are capable of managing the mine, for during this period there have been no mistakes made in the expenditure of monies.

The superintendent has proven his ability to carry out the ideas of the management at the mines in a practical, economical, and successful manner.

The Company has agreed to offer a limited amount of stock to **To the Investor.** the general public at an especially low price per share. The funds thus obtained are to be expended in the further improvement of the property.

The Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia, and is capitalized for 600,000. There are 600,000 shares of stock, the par value of each being \$1.00. The Company has no bonds, no preferred stock, and no debts. Every stockholder is on an equal basis and cannot under any circumstances be held personally liable for any of the Company's debts.

Interested parties will be welcomed at the mines, and every opportunity will be given them to see for themselves the work which is being performed. There is no better way for a prospective investor to satisfy himself as to the affairs of the Company and its management than by personal inspection. If this is possible, there are various ways in which he can satisfy himself on these points, and the Big Butte Gold Mining Company invites every interested party to investigate before purchasing shares. Every share of the stock is fully paid and non-assessable.

### RECAPITULATION.

Below is given a brief resume of the properties owned by the Big Butte Gold Mining Company, and in which every shareholder has an interest, dependent upon the number of shares which he holds:

286 acres of mining land.

5,400 feet of channel.

Over 1,000 feet of gravel exposed.

Over six and one-half miles of ditch and flume.

Over 500 feet of 12-inch pipe.

One double-joint monitor of latest patent.

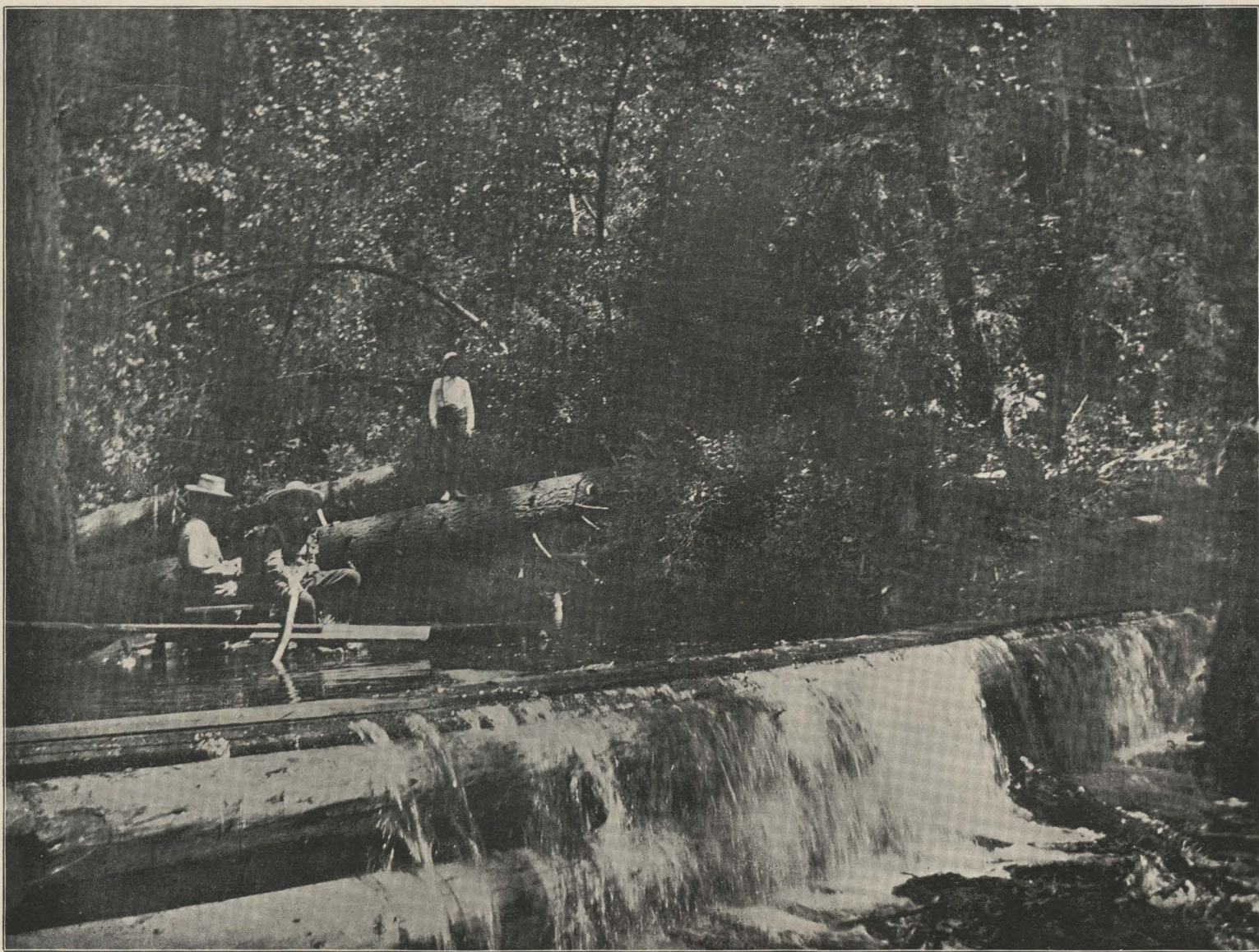
Has deeded rights-of-way for its ditch.

A well-constructed roadway to the mine.

An abundance of timber on the property.

A substantial house, mining tools, derricks, and all other equipment necessary for the successful and economical working of the property.

We have endeavored in this prospectus to give a concise, straightforward statement of the conditions existing at the mine and of the standing of the Company. All inquiries from interested parties will be promptly answered.



BIG BUTTE DAM.

An inexhaustible supply of water controlled by the Big Butte Company.



## SATISFY YOURSELF

In buying shares of the Big Butte Gold Mining Company or any other company on the following points:

Non-assessability of shares, that you may not be liable to further indebtedness.

Reasonable capitalization, that your proportionate share of the earnings may be greater.

Honest officers, to insure the conduct of the business in a businesslike manner.

Proven property, that there may not be any of the uncertainties of a "prospect."

Promotion stock.— *We will not invest one cent in a company that has promotion stock.* The reasons are obvious.

Dividend-Earning Ability.— Previous production should demonstrate conclusively a company's ability to pay dividends before one share is offered to the public.

Surroundings.— Large producing companies immediately adjoining may be given reasonable weight in demonstrating what may be expected of a property.

Land Ownership.— Be sure of the absolute titles of the property.

Salaried Officers.— Assure yourself that there are no large salaried officers connected with the company.

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A short synopsis of our past record may be interesting.

In December, 1902, we issued a prospectus of the Norwegian Consolidated (Gold) Mining Company of Tuolumne County, California, and in that prospectus we laid particular stress upon the fact that "we never made a promise which we did not fulfil." We added another to our list of promises, and stated that the Norwegian Company would pay dividends early in 1903. The work at this mine has progressed in a highly satisfactory manner, and we have every assurance, at the time this publication goes to press, that this last previous pledge will be kept.

The New Franklin Oil and Refining Company of Los Angeles continues to pay its regular monthly dividends of 1 per cent. on the par value, which it has done for the past year.

The Peerless Oil Company, the very first which we handled, has continued its remarkable progress, and in March, 1903, shares were sold on the Board in San Francisco for \$16.50. Our original selling price was 50 cents.

We take the liberty of reciting facts like the above simply to demonstrate that the companies we have handled have been all that we claimed for them.

C. M. HATCHER & CO.,  
BOSTON.

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1903



HYDRAULIC MINING.

One of the giants in operation on the Big Butte property.

**BIG BUTTE  
GOLD MINING COMPANY,  
SAN JOSE, CAL.**

**CAPITAL STOCK, \$600,000.**

**PAR VALUE OF SHARES, \$1.00 EACH. FULLY PAID AND NON-ASSESSABLE.**

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:**

**PRESIDENT,**

**LEWIS A. SPITZER,**

*For 20 years county assessor for the County of Santa Clara, California.*

**VICE-PRESIDENT,**

**DR. CHARLES H. WALTERS, OF SAN JOSE.**

*A prominent physician and surgeon.*

**TREASURER,**

**J. F. O'KEEFE,**

*Superintendent of the Oak Hill Cemetery Co. of Santa Clara County, California.*

**SECRETARY,**

**M. I. JORDAN, SAN JOSE.**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON JAMES,**

*Wholesale grocer of San Jose.*

**PARK C. MABURY,**

*Capitalist.*

**ALBERT L. KENT.**

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