

Gold-Lined Towers.

WEALTH IN CHIMNEYS WHERE THE BONANZA ORES WERE REFINED.

For nearly a quarter of a century two tall towers have stood at the foot of Hyde street, near Leavenworth, almost on the edge of the beach. One rises to a height of 110 feet, and the other reaches more than 50 feet in the air. They are both very broad and thick, and they have brick enough in them to construct several buildings.

They are relics of the flush old days of the Comstock mining era, when Flood, O'Brien, Fair, and others banded together and erected the famous Selby Smelting and Refining Works. There from the bonanza days of 1868 to as late as 1885 the great chimneys belched forth fire and smoke. They never stopped. Wreathes of flame and volumes of soot circled in the air over the domes at night time, while hundreds of men toiled in and about the works, carting and shovelling ore and slag, moulding bars of button and refining it to pure silver, gold, lead and copper.

In 1885 the Selby Company concluded to move its works. It was known that the old underground flue that connected the furnaces with the chimneys, as well as considerable of the ground all about, was permeated with gold and silver settlements and solid metal. On the advice of a skilled European expert the company dug up the ruins, as well as a large amount of soil, to the depth of five or six feet, and transferred it by tons to the new works at Port Costa. There the stuff was run through the works, and, it is said, realized not less than \$500,000. Selby & Co. did not dream that in the towers which were left standing and in the million tons of slag and mineral-permeated soil much wealth remained. They accordingly abandoned the place. The ground was sold, and nothing was thought about it for a long time.

Some time ago W. B. Cluff, the well-known merchant and politician of this city, acquired the ground on which the old works and the present slag pile and chimneys remain. It consists of five fifty-acre lots, or two and a quarter acres. Meantime he had several experts make examination of the brick towers and the surroundings. They reported that the metal and black dust of the towers was a veritable mine of wealth, and that the grimy matter that filled the interstices and in one form or another permeated the brick reeked with valuable minerals. Also that the grey slag which had been carried away from the blazing furnaces in primitive days contained large quantities of gold and silver, and should be worked over. Promptly thereupon Mr. Cluff secured the silver and gold lined towers and the debris. He is said to have paid \$40,000 for the chimneys alone. His object is to work them up and get the money out of them.

"I do not think I will have any trouble in getting the gold, silver and other minerals out," he said yesterday. "It was on the advice of an English expert that Selby & Co. took a lot of the debris to Port Costa, and I am informed that they got over \$500,000 out of that. Several skilled mining men have come to me lately and offered to buy me out or work the chimneys, slag, and soil on a percentage. I have no objection with anybody, and do not ask I shall. There is an immense amount of slag there. In some places it is 200 feet deep. It all contains gold, silver, and lead, with some copper. I have had the ground assayed around there, too, and it all shows up well. In some places it is very rich."

Mr. Cluff's intention is to tear down the great towers, which have so long been landmarks in the history of the city, and can be seen from miles out at sea and in other directions, and wrest from them their gold and silver lining. —San Francisco Examiner.

An expedition for the relief of Lieut. Peary, now in the Arctic region, will be fitted out early in the spring at Philadelphia.

A curious romance of war comes from Stealing (Alabama). Major James Morrison was shot in the leg at the battle of Bull Run, and has only just had the projectile extracted, which instead of being a bullet proves to be a gold button, a love token, marked E to R. Miss. The gallant Major, who has guarded the token for 31 years, is now anxious to restore it to its owner.

Lord Aberdeen has purchased a block of 13,000 acres of land in British Columbia, for a quarter of a million dollars, and he proposes to turn the place into one huge orchard without delay. The spot selected is in the neighborhood of the Okanagan Mission, and the idea is to give the mission Indians employment in the fruit growing and fruit-canning industries. It seems likely enough that Lord Aberdeen may settle down on the Pacific slope with his family. His lordship does not like to abandon Mr. Gladstone openly, so he may prefer to become a fruit-canner rather than a Liberal.

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3. For a cow worth \$30 killed by lightning the Royal Canadian pays \$30. The London Mutual pays only \$20. For other animals the Royal Canadian pays the full value. The London Mutual pays not more than \$5, no matter how valuable the animal may be.

4. In the Royal Canadian animals are insured against lightning while at pasture anywhere. In the London Mutual they are insured while pasturing on the premises of the insured only.

5. When articles are insured specifically such as musical instruments, the Royal Canadian is obliged to pay the full amount insured up to the cash value of the article. The London Mutual pays only two-thirds of the cash value, no matter what the insurance may be.

6. When "ordinary contents" of out buildings are insured by the Royal Canadian all implements are included. In the London Mutual only one reaper and one mower are included, no matter how good others may be.

7. When the outbuildings are not joined to each other the Royal Canadian insures under one sum the "ordinary contents" of all buildings not cut off by a distance greater than 40 ft., the same as if the contents were all under one roof. The London Mutual requires a separate sum on the contents of each building, if the distance is more than 12 ft. This is a very important difference in many cases.

8. In the Royal Canadian it is a part of the contract that standard STEAM THRESHERS may be used without a special permit and without any restriction as to the distance from stacks or buildings, caretakers, pails of water, kind of fuel or direction of the wind. Many of the policy holders in the London Mutual were obliged to run their own risk while threshing last season, because it was found to be impossible to comply with the conditions of their permit. When a farmer pays for insurance he should secure a policy which will hold him safe when it is most required.

9. The Royal Canadian is obliged to pay its losses within sixty days and usually takes much less. The London Mutual need not pay for ninety days, and since it has become so hard up as to be obliged to borrow money largely, it usually takes about the full time allowed.

10. The Royal Canadian policy is subject to the statutory conditions only. It has none of the numerous variations against the policy-holder printed in red ink on the back of the London Mutual policy.

11. As to security, the inspector of insurance reports that the Royal Canadian has \$202,758, the amount he estimates to be necessary to enable the company to carry out all its engagements with its policy holders. Beside this he reports that it has to the good the \$100,000 capital paid in cash by the shareholders, and a net surplus of \$117,647 making in all a total cash surplus of \$517,607 to protect its policy-holder against unexpected contingencies. In addition to these cash items it has a subscribed capital of \$100,000 not called up. Regarding the security of the London Mutual the inspector reports that the amount of unearned premium it should have on hand is \$290,309. To make up this amount in cash a second call would have to be made on the premium notes for a large amount, leaving a surplus of only \$74,218, even if there were no bad debts, and this surplus is made up wholly of the unpaid balance of premium notes already heavily assessed. The company reports the losses adjusted but unpaid at the close of the year at \$6,387, but the Inspector of Insurance finds that the liability for unpaid losses at the end of the year was \$20,286. The cash on hand to pay these losses only amounted to \$13,911.

In view of the foregoing facts farmers will have no difficulty in deciding as to the company in which they should be insured.

For insurance apply to **S. CORNELL,** Agent, Lindsay.

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