

The Placerites district is in the low hills on the east slope of Kamma Mountains about 8 miles south of Scossa and 47 miles north of Lovelock. The first placer mining in the district was done in the early seventies by four men who are reported to have recovered \$30,000 in placer gold by hand methods. In the nineties some placer mining was done, the gravel being hauled to Rabbit Hole Springs and worked in rockers. In 1928 C. J. and E. J. Stratton worked 8 months and recovered \$5,000.

In 1929 a stock company called the Nevmont Placer Mining Co. acquired control of 4,000 acres of potential placer ground. Equipment was installed to work the placers on a large scale. The gravel was mined by dragline scraper and screened in a trommel; the undersize was sluiced. The quantity of water available in a reservoir excavated in the alluvium near the foot of the hills was inadequate, and in 1932 a 5-inch gravity pipe line was laid from Cow Springs to the ground, a distance of 8 miles. The dragline scraper was replaced by a gasoline-power shovel, but owing to the inadequate supply of water and other factors the venture was commercially unsuccessful.

At least five gulches in the district carry gold values. The depth of the gravel worked by small-scale methods ranges from 18 inches to 6 feet. The bedrock is composed mainly of sedimentary formations, principally slate and shale. Most of the gravel is small, but some boulders are present. The gold averages about 800 fine. A nugget which was found some years ago is said to have had a value of \$212. Much black sand is concentrated with the gold in working with dry washers.

In March 1936 the Nevmont property was under lease to James A. Miller Co. of Tulsa, Okla. Seattle interests were planning to work the property under a sub-lease agreement. In 1935, \$600 was recovered by the Seattle group in sampling the ground with a Goehring dry washer driven by a 2-hp. gasoline engine.

In March 1936 a patented dry-washer machine invented by L. C. Lester of Seattle was on the property, and preparations were under way to work the deposits. This placer machine is mounted on a Republic truck. The gravel is elevated from a hopper at the front end of the machine to a disintegrator 6 feet in length and 3 feet in diameter. After the material is disintegrated it is dropped on three horizontal shaking screens having 3/4-inch, 1/4-inch, and 12-mesh openings, respectively. The plus-3/4-inch product is discarded, and the other screen products are treated in five dry-washing machines of the continuous-blower type. The air currents of the blowers are regulated by varying the size of the air intake openings. The placer equipment is operated by a Star automobile engine. The material is to be mined by power shovel.

In recent years a few individuals have conducted dry-washing operations in the district under royalty agreement.

#### Rabbit Hole District

The Rabbit Hole district is 3 miles northeast of Rabbit Hole Springs and 8 miles northwest of Scossa. According to E. J. Quirk of Rosebud a placer location was made in the district in 1900, but no placer mining was done until 1916 when the Wogan brothers located several claims and took out \$3,000 in placer gold. Quirk worked several summers after 1916 and recovered \$600 by panning. In 1935 this was one of the most active placer areas in the State. In March 1936, 60 men were working in Coarse Gold, Red, and Long Gulches, tributary to Rosebud Canyon, and 40 dry washers were in use. The average returns from this work are said to net the operators wages.

The depth of the gravel worked ranges from 2 to 12 feet, averaging 4 feet. The pay gravel lies above a false bedrock of clay. Several shafts have been sunk below the stratum of clay, but little gold was found. The surface gravel is rough and angular and consists principally of minus-1-inch material. Few boulders are