

The State of Wyoming.  
Office of State Geologist,  
Cheyenne.

A REPORT  
ON  
THE HOME PLACERS.  
NEAR  
KEYSTONE, ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING.  
---2---  
SITUATION.

These placers are situated about fifty miles south-west of the City of Laramie, the County seat of Albany County, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific Railroad, and in the south-western corner of Albany County on Douglas and Beaver Creeks in the Douglas Creek Placer District.

The claims composing these placers lie about as shown on the accompanying sketch, compiled from maps of the properties, and cover portions of Sections 10, 15, 21, 22, 27 and 34 of Township 14 North, Range 79 West.

The property is reached by good wagon road from Laramie via the Laramie-Helms stage road through Centennial Valley, and leaving this road ~~at~~ at a point three miles east of Helms, where the Keystone road is taken up and leads directly to the property.

EXTENT.

The "HOME" Placers consist of three groups as follows:

The HOME PLACER, patented, 160 Acres.

The PAY PLACER, patented, 120 Acres.

The Minnehaha Placer, unpatented, 79 acres; Total 359 acres.

These three groups are all contiguous and cover the above named creeks for a total length of four and one-half miles, as per above sketch.

## OWNERSHIP.

These placers are owned by Men. Otto Gramm, of Laramie, Wyoming.

## THE HOME PLACER.

This is the principal claim of the group and extends down Douglas from the Mouth of Beaver Creek for a distance of a mile and one-half and up or north of Beaver Creek for three-quarters of a mile.

On this placer has been found the largest nugget yet discovered in Douglas Creek Placers, which weighed 68 dwts. and others nearly as large have been taken out during the various works performed here.

The principal work has been done at the lower end of a flat that lies south of Beaver Creek for nearly a mile and varies in width from 100 feet to 500 feet, ending in a narrow cañon.

This work has shown the gravel to be from six feet to ten feet in thickness and consists of a series of irregular layers of coarse gravelly sand and small rounded boulders, the largest being about twelve inches in diameter usually, with occasional large ones. The gravel is loose and free working and with very little clay noted.

Bed rock is usually the granite of the region, with some bands of gneiss, diorite and other dyke rock cutting across the course of the flat at a varying angle and frequently showing small quartz veins. At a depth of three or four inches the bedrock is soft and decomposed and is readily picked up by shovel or scoops.

During the season of 1905, a small steam shovel was installed at the lower end of the above flat and run until late in the fall making a very comprehensive test of this ground, under adverse conditions.

The management return the gold saved as an average of fifty cents per yard of gravel handled but with the equipment used, it was evident that not all the gold was net saved and that the actual value of the gravel was considerably higher.

Numerous panning tests have been made at various times on the gravel on this Placer but usually show values lower than those obtained by actual work and are not considered reliable as showing the real value of the gravel; no opinion should be given on this placer based entirely on panning tests, without due consideration of all conditions around and gravel.

Tests by the United States Geological Survey on the black sands of placers along Douglas Creek, show a considerable value (up to \$800 per ton of sand) in the sands and this fact should be given all due consideration in this and other placers along this and adjacent creeks. Proper arrangements to save all the black sand should be made, both in preliminary tests and in working plant, in order that all values may be determined and a thorough test made.

The estimate of actual number of yards of gravel included in this placer is now given but consideration of above general figures makes evident that it is a large proposition and the flat noted is but a portion of the actual placer available.

The portion of the Home Placer lying above Beaver Creek has been worked on a small scale and shown some remarkably rich values but at the present time is idle. At this point the gravel is coarser than in the placer just described and the larger boulders not covered by surface wash. The fall is greater and that channel narrower, so that different methods would have to be employed for this work but can be readily handled by a proper equipment of sluices, riffles and rock crane for the larger boulders.

A similar condition may be noted in the lower portion of the Home Placer on the flat just mentioned and similar methods of handling the gravel should be employed.

## THE FAY PLACER.

As indicated on the attached sketch, the FAY PLACER lies east of the central portion of the HOME PLACER and covers the lower portions of the bed of Florence Creek and including the wooded hill between. This placer shows similar conditions to those indicated for the lower portions of the Home placers and the work that has been done has shown much valuable placer gravel but the testing has never been done in a thorough or extensive manner and the full values of the gravel not yet ascertained. Bedrock has been found to lie at about from eight to twelve feet deep and the gravel is about the same as on the Home ground.

## THE MINNERAMA PLACER.

This ground lies north and west of the upper end of the Home Placer as shown on the attached sketch, and covers the bed of Douglas Creek for about three-quarters of a mile above the town of Keystone.

The canon at this point shows a series of small flats and narrow gulches but the placer ground has been but little worked and is practically new ground to be opened up.

At this point the gravel appears to be similar to that noted on the Home placer above Beaver Creek and evidently to be worked by the same methods.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply in main Douglas Creek is ample for all purposes. The best information obtainable shows that it varies from about ten to fifteen feet during the high water in the spring months to about five to six feet during the fall months. With a properly designed and constructed ditch system, there is no reason why this water should

net furnish ample facilities for handling the gravel on a commercial scale.

TIMBER.

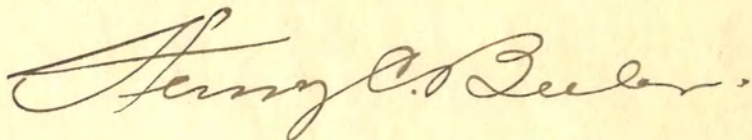
Portions of these placers are covered with valuable timber and this makes one of the problems of the works of easy solution as it extends for nearly the whole length of the property, is of easy access and is ample for all present needs.

-----9-----

The above described placers are considered to be first class working propositions, that the showings already made in these and other Douglas Placers indicate that the gold is present in these gravels in paying quantities and that the ground when properly worked on a commercial scale can be made to realize handsome profits on the investment required.

This amount will of necessity vary with the ground opened and the method required for handling the gravel in the most economical manner but with a properly managed and designed plant, there is no real reason why these placers should not be successfully operated.

Respectfully Submitted,



State Geologist.

Examined;

Sept. 2, 3. 1905.