Drift Mining Operations.

We had a conversation this week with Mr. J. B. Sellier, of Placer county, who owns some drift mining property on the Forest Hill "Divide" The rich mines worked near Forest Hill gave to that place such importance that it imparted its name to the entire ridge between the North and Middle forks of the American river, commonly known as the "Forest Hill Divide," There are many old minion hamlets in this section, which has been yielding largely for many years, as along the rivers that bound the divide the mines have been the richest ever found in the State.

Of late this section has been looking up prosperously again, and many mines are being worked on the gravel channel, A French syndicate has possession of a large extent of ground from Indian Springs down, and only this week the engineers left for the divide to locate a tunnel and commence work. The undertaking is to be a very extensive one. The report on the region was made by O. F. Hoffmann and Rosa E. Browne, and these gentlemen have gone up to start the work.

In order that the reader may properly understand something about the region in question, we reproduce a small map which we gave about a year ago, with a general sketch of the divide.

Mr. Sellier informs us of a big strike in the Hazard mine. This mine is not shown on the map, but is on the main channel about 1 ½ miles from Michigan Bluff. They have a shaft 120 feet deep, and a 3000-foot tunnel from this. The new strike is at the end of the tunnel. They are on the same gravel channel as the well known Mayflower mine, which has proven so rich. This is the third time the Hazard has been worked. They have run out of means and then stopped, afterwards starting again, but this time they have struck it. The gravel will pay from $8 to $10 per carload. The Mayflower is also in rich pay—richer than ever. The mine is in the main channel shown in the map, between the words "Forest Hill" and "Ancient channel," about three miles in a direct line below

DRIFT MINING REGION OF THE FOREST HILL DIVIDE.
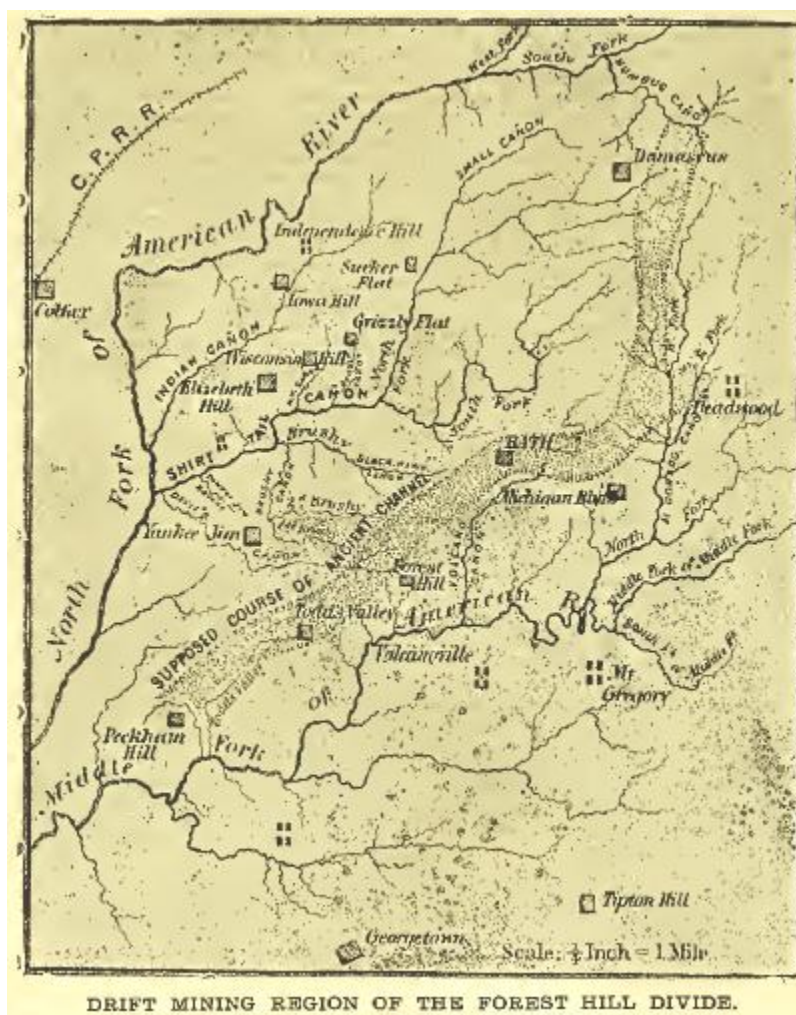
the Hazard. They crush the gravel from the Mayflower in a mill; the Hazard has no mill yet.

In the Dam claim, which is located about two miles above Sunny South, above the Hidden Treasure, lying east of the old Mountain Gate, Damascus, they have struck gravel worth $5 per carload recently and are doing well. The Dam claim is not shown on the map but is in the channel represented by the dotted lines, above Damascus and where Humbug canyon is shown. The claim has been worked a long time and pretty steadily. The tunnel is in a mile. They have no mill, though better results could be obtained by crushing the gravel. They work now by taking out the gravel, washing it, "slacking" the tailings and washing them again. The tailings in some places are left six months or more to "slack."

Mr. Sellier says there is still a big tract of country in this region which has never been worked. He is confident that many river claims will now be opened. The operations of the French company will do much to develop that part of the country and attract attention to it. From Turkey Hill, which is between Deadwood and Michigan Bluff, up to Damascus, the only work done on the channel has been in the character of prospecting. Mr. Sellier says that our map is perfectly correct in showing the course of the ancient channel in which the mines are being worked.

All these mines are worked by drifting, and work can be carried on all the year round. There is no trouble about tailings. In some places the tailings have been worked over three or four times and paid each time. There are many men now prospecting on this channel. From Indian Springs up to Canada Hill there is a big scope of country little prospected. It takes a great deal of money to open these claims, but there is plenty of money in them. A large piece of ground is needed; it will not pay to run a long tunnel to open a small claim. It is for this reason the French company has bonded a number of claims which can all be worked by the one tunnel.

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