



Good Hope Mine, Circa 1900

About four and a half miles southwest of the village of Perris, in Riverside County, California, is situated the Good Hope gold mine. It was discovered many years ago by Mexicans and worked in a superficial manner, the ore being crushed in arrastras. Later it came into American ownership. This is the most important mine in the Pinnacate district. It has been worked to a depth of about 500 feet, with several levels about 100 feet apart, from 250 feet downward, the upper portion having been completely worked out years ago.

The first levels, at 250 feet and 350 feet, are each nearly 1,000 feet in length. The 450 foot level does not extend the length of the others.

The formation in which the ore occurs is a fine, even-grained granodiorite. At the surface are several veins at distances varying from three to twenty feet. At greater depth, these several branching fissures have united to form an irregular vein, having a tendency to send off shoots into the country rock, chiefly into the foot-wall side.

The foot-wall streak often contains high grade ore. The auriferous iron sulfide is finely

disseminated through the quartz. The ore was generally considered free milling, but the tailings carried sufficient value to make them profitable to cyanide operators who subsequently worked them. One cause for this was the desire to run a large volume of ore through the mill, regardless of the cost. The ore is one requiring fine crushing and very careful amalgamation and concentration. If these details had been given proper attention there would, in all probability, have remained little profit for the cyanide man.

At one time twenty stamps were dropping when water supplies were insufficient to supply the batteries with the necessary water. The four concentrating machines were also in operation with a very poor separation of sulfides. Under such conditions, it would have been better to have run ten stamps, which would have allowed greater extraction and increased net profit.

The accompanying photograph was taken near the main shaft, and shows a somewhat unusual headframe, with tramways leading to the mill and to the waste dump.