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PROSPECTING LOST PLACERS OF PITT LAKE

The lost placers of Pitt Lake are causing a good deal of speculation. Some three years ago an Indian came into Westminster on a pony, and unmounting, proceeded to the bank, where he exchanged gold dust for \$1600 in bills, which he proceeded to get rid of for winter supplies. Several months passed, and the same Indian made his appearance, this time with \$1800 in gold dust. He was asked where he got it, and he replied that was his secret. He again disappeared, and again returned, this time with \$1400. All attempts to follow the Indian proved unavailing. On the third visit he took sick, presumably from exposure, as he was alone in the mountains late in the year, when the snow was creeping down the foothills.

The doctor told him he was going to die. Then he was asked by an Indian relative the secret of his mysterious trip for gold. As the secret was of no use to him any longer, he told his relative that he had discovered a rich placer on Pitt Lake, and had easily washed the gold, which was very coarse, in a pan. He described the location of the placer with apparent exactness, telling the landmarks by which it could be traced, and tracing a crude map of the locality. He died, and the now possessor of the secret having no money sought the assistance of a white man who he said he would lead to the place in exchange for an outfit, the white man to have half of the spoils. They went early in the spring but were unable to trace the spot where the Indian said he had found the gold.

The secret has been told to several persons and there have been expeditions every year in an attempt to locate the mysterious placer, but without avail. Next year two more parties will outfit to search the lost Pitt Lake placer.

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