

The gold-bearing rocks of Louisa traverse the central portion of the county, in a southwesterly direction, in the form of a narrow but well-defined belt. Near the center of the county and in the gold belt, 2 to 5 miles northeast of Mineral, are the famous Louisa county pyrite mines described on pages 198-202 of this volume. These large bodies of pyrite are probably contemporaneous in origin with the gold veins. The ore lenses of pyrite and the quartz veins carrying gold observe similar strike, dip and pitch. Traces of gold are found in the pyrite and small gold-bearing quartz veins which, according to W. H. Adams, formerly manager of the Arminius mines, are gold-bearing to the extent of from \$4.00 to \$15.00 per ton, are reported encountered in the mines on the hanging- and foot-wall rocks.

The *Tinder Flat* placer deposits, located along and on both sides of North Contrary creek, at the north end of the pyrite mines, were perhaps the best known and most productive source of placer gold in the early days of Virginia gold-mining. These placer bottoms were tested again in 1895 with a view to putting in the necessary modern machinery for working them on a large scale. The silver content of the *Allah Cooper* mine, 2 miles northeast of the *Tinder Flats*, is reported to have been unusually large. A half-mile southwest of the Arminius pyrite mine and on the same line of strike is the *Walton* gold mine. According to Nitze and Wilkens this mine produced some very rich ore from a shoot or chimney developed to a depth of 150 feet. No recent mining has been done as the mine has been tied up for many years in litigation.

The *Walton* mine is located south 10° west about half a mile from the Arminius pyrite mine. Considerable pit prospecting has been done on the property and one shaft has been worked to a depth of 150 feet. The country rock is mica schist of the same character as that enclosing the pyrite lenses at the Arminius pyrite mines. This mine has not been operated for some years, but during the period of its operation, it is reliably reported to have been one of the best producers in the area. A most creditable exhibit of the ores from this mine was made at the Philadelphia Centennial.

The *Cooper* mine, located about a quarter of a mile south 10° west of the Arminius pyrite mines, is developed by a principal shaft about 100 feet deep sunk on an incline of 56° south 80° east. The property has been further prospected quite extensively by numerous open pits. The country-rock is the same as that at the Arminius pyrite mines. It contains thin quartz stringers which in turn contain some admixed calcite with pyrite, and a little chalcopryite. Work was suspended here in 1903.

The *Luce* gold mine is located about one mile south 25° east of Mineral and about a quarter of a mile south of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. The country-rock is a crinkled mica schist containing some garnets. The property has been developed by 2 shafts about 300 feet apart and aligned along a north 30° east direction. These shafts dip 60° and 70° nearly southeast. Numerous smaller openings are made over all parts of the property. A 20-stamp mill was operated at this mine, but from neglect it is rapidly going to wreck and ruin. Indications point to a period of considerable activity at this mine some years back. Much ore was mined and milled. It was probably the most extensive gold operation in the district.

The *Chick* mine, situated about 1.5 miles east of Mineral, is a recent development in the district. At the time of my visit in July, 1906, operations had been suspended and the development work comprised an open cut and tunnel about 50 feet long and 10 to 15 feet wide. This opening is made in a garnetiferous mica schist, the schistosity of which strikes north 15° east and dips nearly vertical. The vein where exposed consisted of thin stringers of quartz interleaved with the schist, the thickest one of which did not exceed 4 feet. A 2-stamp mill had been built and the total production was \$65.00.

Two miles east of and parallel to the pyrite ore-bodies, and about one mile east of Mineral, the veins known as the *Fisher lode* have been opened and developed by the *Harris*, *Luce*, *Slate Hill*, *Louisa*, and *Warren Hill* mines. The *Luce* and *Slate Hill* mines were operated as late as 1895. The *Luce* mine was developed to a depth of 200 feet with the total length of drifting on the vein more than 1,000 feet. Width of the vein is from 3 to 8 feet. A 20-stamp hand-feed mill was operated at the mines. The *Slate Hill* mine was first opened in 1850 and was extensively worked for a while. It joins the *Luce* mine on the southwest, of which it formed a part. Two veins were developed to a depth of 150 feet. According to a report made in 1853 the average value of the ore is given at \$4.00 per ton and the cost of mining and milling at \$1.40 per ton. In 1895, a Huntington mill had been erected and the mine was being developed in the lower levels.