



HIGH COMMISSION



Towering high above The Lure, the High Commission Mine was directly to the north of here just on the other side of the North Yuba River, on the ridge separating the North Yuba from the Downie River. Although little is known today about the High Commission, a few historical records indicate the mine was productive during a few different periods. However, speculation in the Gold Rush days was rampant, and considering the mine did not leave a legacy like the Ruby, White Bear or Telegraph, it is probable that the belt of black sulphurets – an indicator of a gold-bearing ancient river channel – that were found did not contain as much gold as speculators were hoping.

October 21, 1870 edition of the Mountain Messenger:

“Probably the richest discovery ever made in this County was made last week by Fred Wene and George Barton, old miners of this vicinity. The ledge is located between the South and East Forks of the North Yuba river (note: now known as the North Yuba and Downie River) about three miles from town. The owners are Messrs. F. Wehe, Geo. Barton, Dr. Cyrus D. Aikin, backed by capitalists from Milwaukee and Chicago. They have named the company the High Commission.

June 13, 1913 edition of the Morning Union:

John A. Reid has bonded his High Commission quartz property, on the South Fork about a mile east of Downieville to S.W. Van Syckel who has already put three men to work. Two men, Mr. Reid and James McCarty, are working in one of the tunnels on what is known as the High Commission vein, driving ahead to get under where a very rich bunch of arsenical sulphurets was taken out some months ago. It is supposed that they will have to run in the neighborhood of thirty feet to get under this shoot, but as it dips to the north the distance maybe greater. The third man, Jerome York, is driving a cross-cut on another ledge on the property. This ledge is said to be some twelve feet wide, and a good prospect can be obtained on both walls of the vein. The High Commission has produced some very rich sulphurets and ore in the past, altogether from shallow workings, and with the proper development the property has an excellent chance to become a producing mine.”

