

Rike and the Robbers.

Rosee Eades—whom his fellows commonly called "Rike" was a "nozzle boy" of a water gun. "At Hyde's Gulch in Tuolumne County, California..."

The rest of the robbers scattered apart from the man around to the left side, to get behind me. "I turned the water a little too quick for him and caught him on the fly with an awful stiff jet. How he yelled when it struck him in the face!"

Boys who have studied natural philosophy know that water stands at a great height either in reservoirs or pipes, it will rush with force at the bottom, with prodigious force and velocity.

The mining engineers of California take advantage of this fact to throw strong jets of water upon the water placers of hard, blue gravel, that contain gold. This is done to dissolve it, and wash it down through spouts made of deal plank.

The huge pipe that brings the water from the mountains to the placer below, has at the end a knuckle joint, and to that is attached a huge nozzle, something like those used at the end of the hose of fire-engines, by which the fireman directs the water upon the coal.

When the valve is opened, the water squirts from the nozzle with a force which is truly amazing, a force which can hardly be understood.

The jet of water from an eight inch nozzle is projected to a distance of two hundred feet, in an almost straight line. To the eye it presents all the rigidity of an eight inch bar of gray iron.

Before this powerful jet, the hardened blue gravel of the placer is loosened as quickly as it were porous earth, and is washed away into the ditches and spouts. Enormous quantities of gravel are thus daily disintegrated, and a large amount of gold taken every evening from the reefs and grooves, to which it sinks by reason of its great specific gravity.

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