

CHAPTER XIX

OTHER MINING SECURITIES

JOSH was a prospector of the type so commonly seen in Arizona, the land of sand and sagebrush. He was a tall, slim creature of the soil with skin as tough as leather, but with a big bounding heart. Originally, Josh was a boss miner working at a fair salary in one of the well known mines; but as he became more prosperous he mixed with the temptations of Bisbee, Tuscon and other mining centers and, unfortunately, became addicted to drink, losing his good position. The rest of his life has been similar to that of the average prospector; work for a few months was only to be followed by dissipation for a month or six weeks, and then a period of repentance and discouragement. At the end of one of these periods, some good friend for whom he formerly worked, "grub-staked" him and sent him into the mountains to prospect.

Practically, this was simply a matter of charity because only one prospector in a hundred makes good. Josh returned from one of these prospecting excursions lasting a couple of months, with some samples of ore, claiming he had "almost struck it rich" (which is the common report returned by most prospectors as they come in). The ore was thrown into a box, and he was told that he had done first-rate. Josh, however, was not quieted