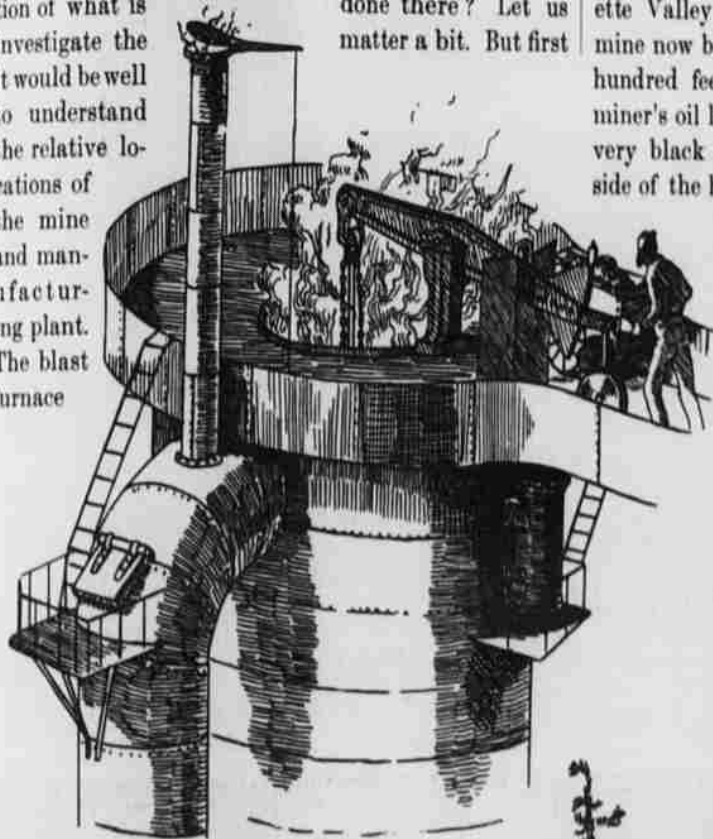


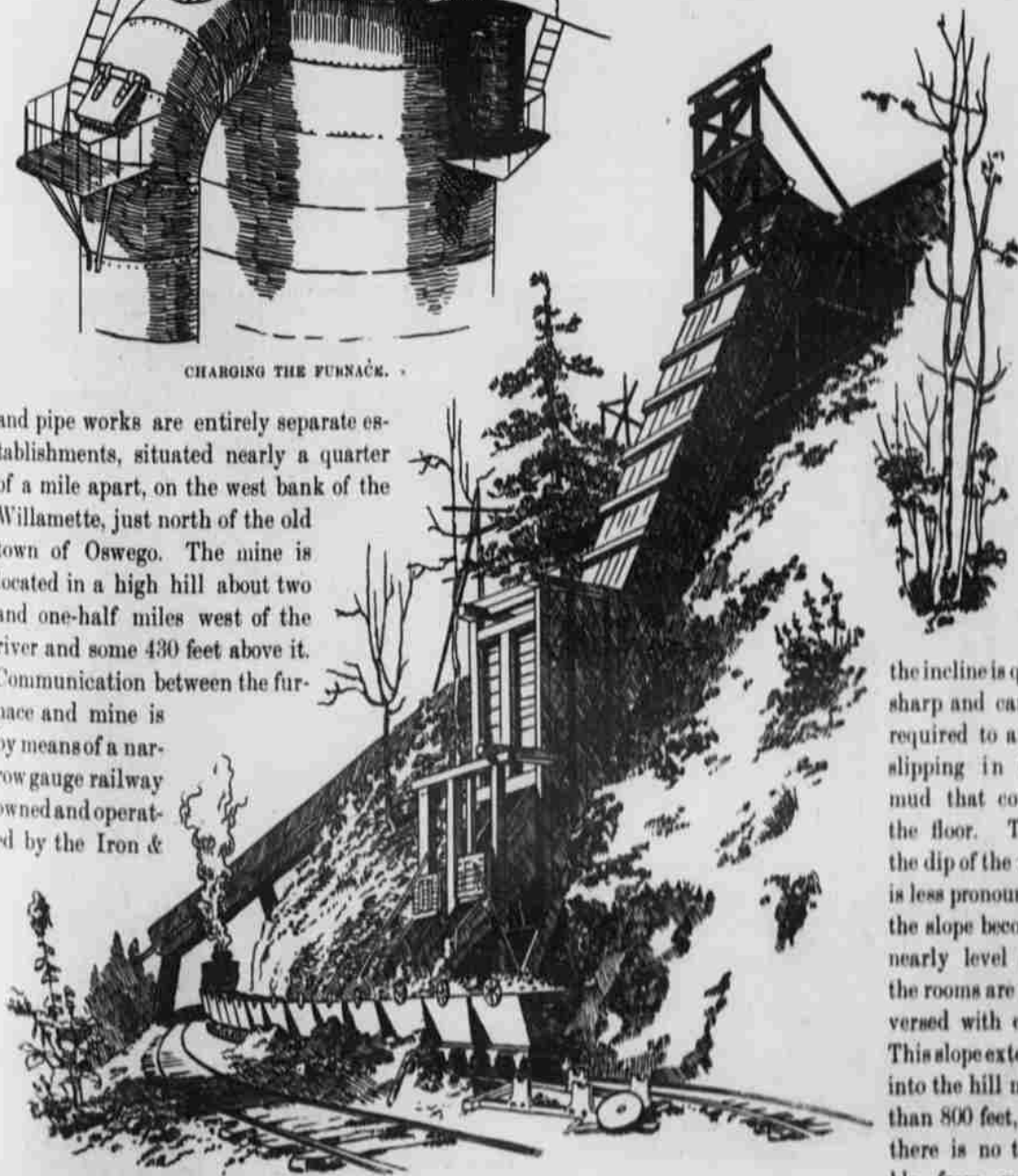
Of course, everybody, at least everybody in Portland, and most people throughout the northwest, has heard of the Oswego iron mines and reduction and casting works, but how many have any just conception of what is done there? Let us investigate the it would be well to understand the relative locations of the mine and manufacturing plant. The blast furnace



CHARGING THE FURNACE.

and pipe works are entirely separate establishments, situated nearly a quarter of a mile apart, on the west bank of the Willamette, just north of the old town of Oswego. The mine is located in a high hill about two and one-half miles west of the river and some 430 feet above it. Communication between the furnace and mine is by means of a narrow gauge railway owned and operated by the Iron &

Steel company. To inspect the mine one (having previously obtained the proper passports, of course) had best board an ore train at Oswego station, which is reached from Portland by the Portland & Willamette Valley road. Landing at the ore bunkers the mine now being worked is reached by a walk of a few hundred feet. Having been provided with a small miner's oil lamp the explorer is prepared to enter the very black and very forbidding looking hole in the side of the hill from which a car of ore shoots every few minutes. Instead of being sent down a deep shaft in an iron cage, one simply walks into the slope, taking care to avoid contact with the ore car as it is drawn out or drops back down the slope with great velocity. For a distance of 200 or 300 feet from the entrance to the slope



THE ORE BUNKERS.

the incline is quite sharp and care is required to avoid slipping in the mud that covers the floor. Then the dip of the vein is less pronounced the slope becomes nearly level and the rooms are traversed with ease. This slope extends into the hill more than 800 feet, but there is no trouble from water,