

The Idaho Bedrock Flume Company was incorporated at Boise City the fore part of this month. The incorporation is for fifty years, and the capital is \$2,000,000. The company has a saw mill already in operation a short distance below Idaho City, and is arranging contracts for the construction of the flume and for a large quantity of timber. The size of the flume will be sixteen feet wide, five feet high and about a mile in length. Seven miles in length along More and Elk creeks and 600 feet wide is the amount of ground purchased and secured by deeds, which is enough to keep the flume constantly busy for the next fifty years or more. A large amount of the flume will be made between now and March, so as to take advantage of the large volume of water during the spring freshet. A run will be made then which will pay largely on the capital invested, although the cream of the creeks will not be reached until the following season. After the first year the clean-ups will be enormous. It has been calculated by the miners who worked the creeks that \$150,000,000 is within reach of the flume. This estimate is based on the production of gold from 1862 to the present time. In one year, from 1863 to 1864, the express companies shipped \$33,000,000 from the basin. The primitive methods used in those days were so crude that not more than half the gold was obtained from the gravel washed, notwithstanding the vast amount of ground that remained untouched. With living high, lumber \$100 per thousand, wages \$7.00 to \$8.00 for laborers and \$10.00 for mechanics only the best was worked, and thousands of acres of ground now covered with tailings are rich. The only way to reach it and produce the vast wealth is by the bedrock flume. Hydraulic chiefs of the latest pattern will be put in at San Francisco. This enterprise, says the *Idaho City World*, is the greatest of the kind on the Pacific coast, and is hailed with joy by the people of Southern Idaho.

The extensive beds of coal in Missoula county, Montana, are attracting considerable attention among speculators, railroad companies and business men throughout the east. As a mineral bearing region the belt north and west of us cannot be excelled in Montana or elsewhere. The largest deposits of coal that have yet been discovered are only forty miles from Demersville. One vein that has only a small amount of work done on it shows a twenty-eight-foot face of the best quality of coal ever discovered in Montana. The coal found here is said to be the true lignite, which in every respect equals the celebrated coal at Rock Springs, Wyoming. There is no doubt that the Flathead country can show more petroleum, more good saw timber, and far better agricultural land than any section in Montana or Washington. The coal found in this vicinity assays 15.00 water, 34.10 volatile matter, 43.60 fixed carbon and 7.00 per cent. ash. This coal has been found to coke splendidly and is pronounced by coal experts to be of superior quality.—*Demersville Inter-Lake*.

It was not many years ago that life insurance was looked upon by the public as a genteel swindle. That was when the business was not under very strict legal surveillance and irresponsible concerns flourished unquestioned. During the last few years a great change in public sentiment on this subject has been wrought, through the elevation in the financial tone of the companies under the restrictions of wholesome laws. This gave encouragement to legitimate business and now the life risks taken annually make an enormous aggregate. One of the most popular and entirely reliable institutions writing life insurance in Portland is the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, which is a home concern and so well grounded

financially as to be beyond question. It is doing a flourishing business and is an institution worthy the patronage of the whole northwest.

The *San Francisco Mining Review* gives the following rule for testing the richness of gold quartz without having it assayed: First, weigh the quartz dry. Then weigh in water, the quartz suspended by a thread. Next divide the dry weight by the difference between wet and dry (adding decimals if necessary). Subtract from this result the weight of quartz (usually 260 or 261 for free gold, but 265 to 270 if filled with sulphurets). Multiply this result by the weight of gold, viz: 128. Then multiply this result by the result of subtraction of wet from dry. The result will be, after pointing off all decimals that have been added, the exact weight in gold.

The Harris-Lloyd tunnel in Butte, Montana, is showing some very rich copper. It is estimated that 800,000 tons of ore worth \$23,200,000 are in sight, basing these figures on the present value of copper and silver. The price of the Harris-Lloyd four years ago was \$17,000. That was before any development work had been done. Now it is valued at \$2,000,000. A depth of 400 feet has been reached in the development work. The property belongs to the Boston & Montana company.

Near Thompson Falls, in Missoula county, Montana, there is an extensive deposit of fire clay of the very best quality. The Anaconda smelter has used some sixty car loads of the clay and ordered thirty more. It is said to make bricks equal to the European product. All smelters must use fire clay and it is a matter of economy to find it in a country where so much smelting is done. The deposit lies between two mountains and covers an area of between fifty and sixty acres.

*The Kindergarten* is the name of a monthly magazine published in Chicago in the interests of the disciples of Froebel. In these times when every trade and profession has its representative journal it is gratifying to see the cause of infant education so ably presented as is done in *The Kindergarten*. It is illustrated and costs \$2.00 a year.

Samples of ore from the newly discovered tin mines in the Cascade mountains above Green river, Washington, assay eight per cent tin. Thousands of tons of good ore are reported in sight. The discoverers thought a coal measure had been struck and it was only on close examination that it was found to be the richest tin ore in the world.

Lebanon, a village of Linn county, Oregon, has raised a bonus of \$5,000 for the erection of a paper mill at that point. Lebanon is on the south fork of the Santiam river and is connected with Albany by a branch of the Southern Pacific, and direct with Portland by the narrow gauge railway.

The yield of gold from the Cariboo district of British Columbia this year is between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Nearly all of this is from the placers, though the quartz lodes are beginning to be developed. One nugget weighing fourteen ounces and valued at \$250 was found.

The largest tannery in British Columbia is under construction at Nanaimo, on Vancouver island, and will be in operation early in the year. It will be supplied with the most improved machinery and every facility for turning out the very best of leather.