

party and also secured some of the marble and had an analysis made of it. It equals the celebrated Rutland (Vermont) marble in whiteness and purity, and, with the exception of the one named, it is the only purely white marble quarry discovered in the United States. For reasons apparent to all, the knowledge of its existence has been kept a secret until quite recently. As stated, it is now located, several of the locators, among whom is Colonel Donnelly, having just returned from there. It will, doubtless, in time, become the most valuable property in the entire northwest.

It is no exaggeration to say that Choteau county is underlain with coal. The fuel for an empire for ages is hidden beneath its surface. From Birch creek, on the west, to and through the Milk river valley, on the east, coal crops to the surface in hundreds of places. Though comparatively destitute of trees, an all-wise providence stored an abundance of fuel for the people of Choteau county, for all time to come, under their feet. Could a people ask more? With an area equalling in extent two or three of the New England states, and mineral grounds covering more territory than two counties the size of silver lode, did Choteau possess possibilities which will bring her to the front as one of the richest and most prosperous counties in the state. Put a pin there.—*Helena Journal*.

IDAHO'S GREAT COPPER DISTRICT.

Mr. Levi Allen made the following statement before the Boise City board of trade of the wonderful Seven Devils copper district, in Washington county, Idaho:

The are about 175 mines located in the Seven Devils district, and a great many more in surrounding camps, but I am only going to speak of the Seven Devils as this is the only camp that I am thoroughly posted on. I think only about 100 claims have been rounded. Only about fifteen claims in the camp have any work done on them of any note,—shafts and tunnels from twenty to 100 feet. All the work so far has fully come up to the expectations of the owners. I will give you a description of one or two of these mines, and that will do for the balance, as they all carry about the same grade of ore.

The Peacock copper mine is situated on the northeastern end of a group of mines. It is supposed to be from 140 to 150 feet wide. The work, consisting of two shafts and two open cuts, one shaft thirty-two feet, one forty-seven feet, one open cut forty-four feet long and sixty feet deep from apex of ledge, three other small shafts from ten to twenty feet deep. Now all this work is in solid ore. The surface of this mine has been ground down off for the free gold it contained; also the gulch below, for one-half mile, paying the mines from \$7.00 to \$25 to the ton. Taking this open cut forty-four feet wide, and by actual measurement we have 80,000 tons of ore in sight. There were about sixty assays made of this ore. The first was made in Lewiston, the next in Boise City United States assay office. About forty assays were made at the one time in Boise City and Helena United States assay office, I. I. Lewis, Ketchum, Melita, Montana, Van Wagner, Colorado and others, and the average assay was twenty-three per cent. copper, besides the gold and silver assays made for silver, which ran from twenty-two to 100 ounces. I think the average in gold was \$7.00. In opening up a cut last fall on the White Mountain lode, about sixteen feet wide, they found on the hanging wall sixteen inches of ore sparkling with gold, that would run \$2,500 to the ton. Altogether there have been about twenty-five carloads shipped.

The country rock is granite, slate, porphyry and lime. The wall rock is either lime or granite, with porphyry cutting the ledge. The Peacock carries three kinds of iron ore. All this

ore carries its own flux. The mines are mostly situated on the side of the mountain, and can be easily mined, having an immense dump, surrounded by two large creeks that would make a fine water power, and almost inexhaustible quantities of the best timber. We have a good wagon road from Weiser City to within three miles of the mines, and a fair road from there to the mines.

Besides these copper mines, we have mines that are worked for gold and silver, alone; ledges that are twenty-five feet wide that carry seventy ounces of silver. One ledge that produces gold ore was opened last year. They take the rock to the Heath district to have it reduced. I do not know the value of this ore, but I have seen some of it that shows up splendidly.

Now, this group of mines that I have spoken of, in my opinion, includes but a small amount of the mines that are in the Seven Devils mountain. This mountain is about forty-five miles long, and lies in the shape of a half moon, Snake river making the straight line and Big and Little Salmon rivers making nearly the circle. Copper has been found on the extreme ends, but very little prospecting has been done north of the present camp, and very little here, when it comes to that.

Parties may say, "Why don't you work your mines if they are so rich and extensive as you say they are?" The reason is this: All parties except one company are too poor to work these mines, but as it is, all would be worked if they had a railroad. There is, at the present time, a steamboat being built at Portland, Oregon, for this trade. It will be put together at Snake river bridge, below Weiser City. We expect that by the first of May the boat will be completed, but even then this will be a slow process of getting out the ore, as there is an immense amount in sight.

What is the matter with Boise City that they can not get capital to erect a smelter and build a road to these mines. Look at Spokane Falls, running railroads to every point on the compass, wherever there are mines; and think, this is the richest and largest copper camp in the world. I have no space to speak of our fine valleys, but will say right here that we don't lay down the plough for any part of Idaho in cereals or fruit, at any time.

THE NATCHEEZ COUNTRY.

The trail from Cleman's corral, running along for some six or seven miles, soon drops down into the basin or bottom of the Natcheez, forty-five miles above the city of North Yakima. As the prospector comes over the high peak on the trail, there bursts suddenly to his gaze the grandest view that it is possible to imagine. To the right looms up hill after hill and mountain after mountain, stretching away up the river into dim and blue perspective. To the left, abrupt and craggy, rises an immense wall of rock, interspersed and crowned with stately pines and fir. Far down into the bottom of the valley, like a thin ribbon of silver, whirls, frets and dashes the Natcheez. Some five miles up this open valley, at the head, stands the Edgar rock, grim, bare and erect, like a sentinel of time keeping watch and ward over the treasure that lies in this storehouse of nature. In this bottom are wide stretches of open ground, covered with luxuriant grass of the brightest green, surrounded by a jungle of brush, cottonwoods and pines, some of them old veterans, towering up for 150 feet or more, and six or seven feet through at the base. Here on the trail, only about a foot wide, one can look down into the narrow pass, that the river has broken through, some thousand feet below, which gives one a feeling of being suspended in mid air.

Standing in the bottom, where our camp has been pitched, we can look up on all sides and follow the dykes and fissure