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PROFESSIONAL.

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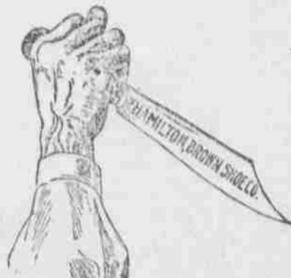
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CUSTOM SMELTER.

ONE SHOULD AND MUST BE BUILT IN BOHEMIA.

Another Article on that Subject From one who has Studied the Matter well and Speaks Knowingly.

The first cost of a small smelting plant would be very small compared to the great amount of benefit derived from a plant of that kind, for a custom smelter would give employment directly and indirectly, to at least 100 men, for there will be trails to build, roads to make and coal to burn, pack animals to feed, and many of the prospectors can employ from one to three men on their claims if furnished a market for their products.

Even if there was no money only expenses from their ore, for as it is he can only dump his ore down the mountain where it is gone forever. There are today more fair average values being thrown away in Bohemia than is being milled in the great Treadwell of Alaska, or at Deadwood, Dakota. The average in the year 1899, just closed, for the ore milled at the Treadwell mill was \$1.68 per ton while that of the Homestake ran below \$3.

I have before me assay certificates from 14 different claims representing all parts of Bohemia, which show an average of \$13.25. So anyone can plainly see we have much higher value to select from than many of the largest mining fields in the world. Even the great Transvaal gold fields only produced an average of \$7.00 per ton. But the secret of their success lies in the fact of their reduction works being the most modern scientific discoveries, operated by men of brains and capital.

It has been proven by experience in several instances that the free milling plants now in our camp are not a success only for a short time as the ores run from free on the surface to base below, thereby causing the free milling plant to be either hung up or enlarged for concentrating, entailing a big expense. Besides there is still the expense of shipping concentrates to Tacoma, causing an outlay of \$22 per ton before the owner gets anything.

If the money expended in mills in Bohemia had been put in one good custom smelter the camp could today be supporting 500 men on good pay, where, as it is, there is not over 20 men employed, a most disgraceful showing for such a camp. A mining man from the northern part of Idaho, who recently saw and passed his opinion on a lot of ore the writer sent him, said in his letter: "Your camp is a veritable treasure house and if we had even a small streak of such ore as the lead and copper samples you sent me we would spend thousands

of dollars following it."

So our plan is for the business men of Cottage Grove to take this matter in hand and organize a company for the purpose of erecting a smelter of, say about 20 tons capacity, in a central part of Bohemia to do custom work exclusive. Elect a competent board of directors and their officers from the business men of Cottage Grove. The Union Water Jacket Smelting Company will furnish plans, also a competent man to manage for a time till some of their own men can take hold and manage. The first cost is the most, as after the plant begins operation there will be a dividend declared quarterly that will equal 7 per cent quarterly where, as it is with mining, like many we have already in camp, there can be no dividend without some mode of reduction, and the man who invests in shares of that kind has no recourse only to eventually lose in the end. Besides if people here wait for some company to come in and build, they will not only make out of the ore handled but will buy from wholesalers and perhaps run a company store and compel employers to trade with the company, and perhaps move most of the town site to the mines. Such things have been done, even in Oregon, as is the case with Baker City and Sumpter. The writer was at that place when the people of Baker City were clamoring for a railroad to Sumpter, but when they got it a good sized town built up out there and their business now goes to Portland, where if the people of Baker would have improved their opportunity and completed the Guirean Reduction works at that place for one-half the money expended in finishing the Sumpter Valley railroad, they would have retained their immense wholesale trade with the mines, besides furnishing a market for the vast amount of concentrates produced in that district, and given employment to some 50 men in their own town.

While a few men in every camp make fortunes there could be more made just as much if given an opportunity. Take Lewiston, Idaho, for example. There are 11 men in that city who are worth over \$1,000,000 each, who have made their money from just such opportunities, and Lewiston is very little larger than Cottage Grove. Some say they have much richer and better mines closer home. But such is not the case. The writer has been at the famous Buffalo Hump and saw what they are working and making so much noise about and finds it does not equal the opportunities here at the gateway to Bohemia.

Next week the writer will give a list of some of the prospects in camp that show a fine grade of ore with the amount of feet of development work thereon. The properties here to be given are only prospects and not mines. The mines with mills are not quoted.

Ross.

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