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GENERAL MINING NEWS

Reports from the Bohemia district are to the effect that for the past month or more the weather has been exceptionally fine for outdoor work. Where usually there are many feet of snow at this season of the year but little if any is in evidence.

Many who do not usually return to the district until May or June are already at work upon their properties.

Had the mine owners been able to foretell the mild winter but little if any cessation of work would have occurred.

With an early start, there should and doubtless will be great developments in the district the coming season.

A MINE OR A PROSPECT.

DIFFERENT people have different impressions regarding a mine, and different ideas as to its value and productive ability. What some mining men would regard as a producing mine, others would look upon as nothing more than a prospect; and this difference of opinion accounts, very largely, for the many disappointments that are often met with in mining operations, and for the further fact that many people meet with losses in their mining ventures.

It is often the case that investments are made in mining propositions under the impression that the investor is buying into a mine, when, as a matter of fact, he has only acquired an interest in a prospect. There are many prospects that are producers that are not mines, and for the simple reason that a large amount of work must be performed in the development of a piece of mining property before it can be rated as a steady and heavy producer of the precious metals. Tunnels must be run, shafts must be sunk and the property must be so opened as to establish the permanency and continuity of the ore deposits, and the amount of available ore in sight must be of such magnitude as to be able to withstand an extraction of from one hundred to a thousand tons of ore daily, and for a number of years, before it can be rightfully classed as a mine; for a mine, to be entitled to this name, must be a producer, in order to fulfill the requirements entailed when a prospect is promoted to the dignity of a "bread-winner."

All mines were once prospects;

but all prospects can not be transformed into mines, even with the most exhaustive development and exploitation; and herein is where the trouble lies, as many people believe, when securing an interest in a prospect, that they are co-owners in a mine, and they begin at once to clamor for ore shipments, for dividend disbursements, little realizing the fact that the finest and most promising prospect, as a general thing, although there are a few isolated exceptions, require a large amount of money and time expended in their development before they can even consign a few tons of ore to the market.

Another feature connected with the development of a prospect is the fact that, under the most favorable circumstances, with ample means at hand for mine development and equipment, and with a property of undoubted merit and value to begin with, it often takes a period of from three to five years before the prospect can be classed as a productive and paying mine. This period is too long for the impatient ones, for those not familiar with mine practice and requirements, and the result is that they drop out of the venture disgruntled and at a loss, not being willing to give the management the time necessary to work the transformation required and which is necessary, when taking an undeveloped prospect with the view of turning it out, full-fledged, into a steady producer of imperishable mineral wealth. The buyer thought he had a mine; instead, he only had a hole in the ground. His patience or his pocketbook failing, he let his interest go, and now he has neither a mine nor a prospect; although, had he been well informed, he might today have had an interest in a producer and in a dividend payer.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

THE PROSPECTOR.

IN his search for valuable minerals the prospector often finds himself unable to comprehend what he observes in nature says: The Mining and Scientific Press. He has his conception of what certain rocks should look like, basing his judgment on what he may have learned in some district where he had fairly good facilities for information. If he had learned what he knows of rocks in a region of sediments which have been little altered he would not, perhaps, recognize rocks formerly familiar to him because of their alteration in a country where igneous rocks have been thrust into the sedimentaries, and where there has been more or less metamorphism. The familiar, comparatively soft sandstone has become dense, hard quartzite; the gray lime is now found altered to

white or blue marble, or perhaps to a fine grained quartz, or to a rock largely composed of garnet. The soft gray shales may be changed to hard, fine grained jasper, or to slates in which there is development of unfamiliar crystals. These and many other changes the prospector must learn to distinguish and understand in order that he may prosecute his search with intelligence. He must learn to distinguish faults and their relative age; to tell a recent fault from an older vein; to know the difference between a vein and a zone of mineralization; to notice and understand folds and unconformities in the rocks, and many other things, all of which apply directly to his trade as a prospector.

176 FEET THOUGH SOAPSTONE.

AFTER driving a crosscut 179 feet through a formation composed of soapstone the entire distance, W. H. Burchtorf, owner of the Big Bonanza claim, has come to the conclusion that he has one of the largest deposits of this nature in the world. The property is located about seven miles northwest of this place, not far from the Maiden's Dream group, in the Bald Mountain district. The color of the formation is light blue, but the material makes a white mark on a dark background, much the same as the material used by tailors in making cloth before cutting. It also possesses the ingredients of talcum powder and no doubt could be utilized for the same purpose. Strange as it may seem, Mr. Burchtorf claims that the formation carries mineral and has secured favorable assays from tests made.

WILL HAVE NEW MINE.

CHARLES Parks, manager of the Treasure mine, of this camp, has been in San Francisco for several days studying milling plants. As stated last fall, Mr. Parks intends to put a large milling plant on the Treasure this spring. He wants a mill with great capacity in handling a soft gangue, which is highly oxidized and yields values readily. Stamps that have triple or quadruple discharge batteries, light and capable of short, quick drops, seem to be in favor although the present visit to California will finally determine the question. Mr. Parks says that the mill he will erect this year will be in the nature of an experiment, and when he proves he has the right principle, he will put up one of the largest mills ever seen in Oregon, and may erect a plant of 300 or more tons capacity. Economic conditions are admissible for low cost operation.

TAKES THE POISON ROUTE

Eva Davenport Ends Life Last Friday Morning With Strychnine.

At about three o'clock last Friday morning, Eva Davenport who kept a house of ill fame, was found by Lee Minert who heard groans issuing from the house, lying on the floor in what soon proved to be a dying condition.

Assistance and Doctor Kime were hastily summoned but in a short time afterward she expired without so far as the evidence adduced showed, making any explanation as to the cause of her death.

Doctor Kime stated that all the symptoms pointed to strychnine poisoning, and the fact that she had the night before purchased strychnine at the Modern Pharmacy tended to the belief that she had taken her life in that manner.

On the top of her head was a cut which had bled profusely, which troubled the jury to decide how it was caused. The theory was advanced that in falling she had struck her head against some sharp substance, but no trace of blood or hair was found to indicate where it could have occurred.

Justice Vaughn, instructed constable Atkins to secure six jurors and when impaneled they began an investigation which consumed the greater part of the day.

While the jury returned a verdict of poisoning by her own hand, at least a number of them were not satisfied with the verdict, as they felt there was something in connection with the case yet untold but so far as the evidence produced it was the only one they could render.

When the two o'clock train passed to the north an effort was made to have prosecuting attorney Brown stop over to assist in the investigation but he decided he could not do so. After the jury had examined the body and surroundings the taking of evidence began.

Dr. Kime was the first witness called and stated: He received a summons by telephone and reached the bedside of the deceased at about 3:15 and in a few minutes she died, examined the cut on the head but found the skull unfractured; could only conjecture how the cut was made; had learned she had purchased strychnine and in his opinion she had died from the effects of that poison as the symptoms were of that nature.

John Witte, clerk at Modern

Pharmacy, testified he had sold deceased one dram of strychnine at 8 o'clock the night before.

Lee Minert testified. That while at the rear of his saloon about three o'clock Friday morning he heard groans which upon investigation he found came from the house occupied by Eva Davenport, finding the door locked broke in the door and found Miss Davenport lying on the floor, attempted to raise her up; asked what was the matter, she did not tell, but said she was dying and asked me to have her body sent to her home in Minn. After Flossie Harris and Herb Leonard arrived we placed her on the bed, Dr. Kime arrived soon after; she died in a very few minutes. He stated further that he had no knowledge of her having any money in her possession and never knew of being afraid of anyone injuring her. The testimony of Flossie Harris, Herb Leonard and Ben Curry was substantially the same and the jury returned the following verdict:

CORONER'S JURY VERDICT

We the coroner's jury impaneled to enquire into the death of Eva Davenport would submit the following verdict:

We find from the evidence that deceased came to her death by strychnine poisoning administered by her own hands with suicidal intent.

W. S. CHRISMAN, Foreman
OLIVER VEATCH
J. S. OSMUND
H. WYNN
W. H. MARTIN
H. O. LINCOLN

There was considerable dissatisfaction expressed at the verdict as returned by the jury and a feeling existed, that the woman had been foully dealt with.

In consequence Dr. Day, coroner of the county, Dr. Castleton of Eugene, and Dr. Kime of Cottage Grove held an autopsy upon the body.

They found the conditions pointed strongly to strychnine poison. It was also found the skull had not been fractured and the brain was in a perfectly normal condition, the wound was about an inch long and was a scalp wound only.

The stomach was removed for further investigation should the county authorities see fit to order one.

On receipt of a telegram from her father, the interment of the body took place here Sunday afternoon.

There were several carriages in the procession, occupied by those selected as pall bearers and her friends.

The Reverend Billington of the Christian Church preached a short but impressive service at the grave.

NEW PARTIES IN FIELD

Evidently Looking Out Routes for New Lines of Railroads.

Delay of the Willamette Valley Electric Railroad company, which however, is still in the field, so we are informed, has a tendency to open the way for other big enterprises to step in and take a look at the opportunities this county affords for electric lines.

Recent absorption of the Salem Light & Traction company by eastern capital has received the Portland-Salem electric railroad talk that is more sanguine now than ever and Eugene is already figured in on the operations of that big company.

In yesterday's issue of the Register in speaking of the Oregon Securities company being incorporated for five million dollars and that 18 miles of electric road would be built from Bohemia mines to connect with the Oregon & Southeastern railroad running out from Cottage Grove we said:

This company is now negotiating with Cottage Grove parties for land adjoining the city terminal grounds and it is further apparent that the company is looking with favor upon a plan of building an electric line to Siuslaw and down the coast to Coos Bay.

The arrival in Eugene yesterday of G. B. Heegen, president of the O. & S. E., together with A. B. Wood, sec. and treas., of the road and their departure on the same day for the Siuslaw in company with H. C. Diers, chief engineer of the W. V. E. R. R. Co., and their intention to go on down the coast to Coos Bay seems to be a verification of the Register's forecast in Friday's paper.

It is plainly evident that all kinds of capital will soon be scrapping over this ideal field for railroad construction and the valley is looking forward to the day when the right wheel is turned and the work of electric or steam railroad building begins in dead earnest.

There is indication of developments ahead that will before long, make interesting reading.—Eugene Register.

Construction upon the California building at the Lewis and Clarke Exposition was commenced this week. The Washington and Massachusetts state buildings will be started soon.

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