

CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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MINING NEWS

Edited by Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau

SILVER PEAK MINE IN FINE ORE

Wednesday the Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau received samples of exceptionally fine ore from the Silver Peak mine in the Riddle district about 50 miles north of Grants Pass. These specimens are among the most beautiful ones received at Bureau headquarters for many months, and are attracting a great deal of attention among mining and business men.

The vein is reported to be 57 feet wide, and three high grade ore bodies have been opened up so far. The body from which the samples come is estimated to have upwards of 100,000 tons of ore blocked, (exposed on three sides). The secondary ores run from 12 to 22 percent copper; 30 to 600 ounces silver, and from one-half to 250 ounces in gold, the bulk of the ore running much less than one ounce in gold but high in silver. Primary ores run from \$4.00 up and average for the full width of the 57 feet over \$19.00 per ton.

The property is owned by the Oregon Exploration company. The vein is staked for a distance of seven miles, and four companies, including the Beaver Springs Mining company, are developing the ledge and three are operating air compressors. The Beaver Springs company, of which H. L. Shaver is president, expects to tap this rich vein at a depth of 300 feet.

DOES IT PAY?

The 1925 gold production of Josephine county is reported to be \$129,000.00—an ultra conservative estimate. Compare this with the United States Geological Survey's report of the 1923 gold production—\$16,032—a very healthy increase. However, the 1925 production is estimated by those in position to know to be far in excess of the amount named. This increase was brought about largely by the organized efforts of the mining men to put the industry on a better basis and to lay the foundation for the full development of our mineral resources. This organized effort was obtained through the Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau, which came into being in November 1923. It has not only encouraged the mining man to go ahead with his development, but, through a systematic publicity campaign, carried on in local papers and outside mining journals, many experienced mining men have been brought into the country for investigation of our minerals, several of whom have taken over properties and proceeded to develop same. The legitimate investment in mining—both mineral and non-mineral—in Jackson and Josephine counties runs into the millions and is increasing rapidly. Much of this investment has been dormant for several years but through the organized effort to place the industry on a better basis, these investments are being revived and the properties placed in shape to produce. Undoubtedly more new money was brought into Southern Oregon for mining during 1925 than from any single line of industry.

Does it pay to place the mining on a better business basis; to make the otherwise idle 90 per cent of the district produce new taxable wealth; to not only bring in large amounts of new money from the outside, but also to produce a large sum of new money from the earth annually; to provide payrolls for the district; to provide a cash market for farm products at your door; and generally to do those things to insure lasting prosperity? Any thinking business man can answer these questions only in the affirmative.

The agency created to better the mining conditions of the district has carried on over two years, quietly and systematically, carrying the news of our mineral resources and their

development to all parts of the Pacific coast. The results obtained are reassuring, and the work must be carried forward and its scope broadened if Southwestern Oregon is to receive the full benefit of the development warranted by its mineral resources. The work is well begun; and its future depends solely on the support of the Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau by the mining and business interests it is serving.

Saturday next at 2 o'clock a meeting of the Bureau will be held at 511 H street, Grants Pass, to consider the question of supporting this work. Every mining man and every business and professional man are invited to attend and assist in reaching a conclusion that will insure the development desired.

LOCAL MINING NEWS

President Archer of the Ida mine on Louse creek is expected at the property next Saturday from his Salem home.

Work continues at the Mount Reuben at the rate of about 9 feet of new tunnel per day, and if the Utica vein shows up according to survey, it should be cut within the next two weeks. The Utica vein is about 8 feet wide at the surface and to a depth of 80 feet average about \$12 in gold. The California vein—the main objective of the long tunnel—is approximately 1300 feet further on.

The contract work in driving tunnel on the Ida to open up new ore bodies is progressing satisfactorily.

Call at Bureau headquarters and ask to see the fine specimens from the Silver Peak. It will give you a new slant on the mineral resources of Southwestern Oregon.

Fred Merrill, deputy game warden, who owns mining property in the south part of the county, became a Bureau member this week.

QUICKSILVER

Production of quicksilver in 1925 will probably show a decrease over that of 1924, in spite of gradually increasing prices and the best market conditions since 1918. The price per flask has increased from about \$70, New York, Jan. 1, 1925, to \$92, as this is written Dec. 1, 1925, with no spot metal of any consequence in the country. Many who are in touch with the industry predict \$100 per flask and upward during 1926, and this is probable.

Consumption of the metal in this country continues to increase, principally in the electrical and allied industries. Although accurate data are not available, the United States will probably consume nearly 45,000 flasks of mercury in 1926, or about one-half of the world's production. This is nearly twice the pre-war consumption, and each year shows a heavy increase. European advices indicate an increased demand for the metal on the continent, especially in Germany. For ten years prior to 1914, Germany was the world's largest market for quicksilver, and that country will probably again become a large consumer. Heavy importations into the United States continue from Spain and Italy, and a small amount is being received from Mexico. Very little quicksilver is exported, on account of the import duty of \$18.75 per flask.

Through the European situation, as far as quicksilver production and marketing is concerned, in somewhat obscure, nevertheless it is apparent that the Spanish and Italian production is at present in very strong hands and that producers in Spain and Italy are in a position to secure the best possible prices for their product. Inasmuch as the bulk of the world's production comes from these two countries, and mostly from three or four mines, it is easy to understand how the market can be controlled. The following is a rough estimate that I have made of the

world's 1925 production of quicksilver: Italy, 52,000 flasks; Spain, 32,000 flasks; Mexico and miscellaneous, 3,500 flasks; United States, 9,500 flasks; a total of 97,000 flasks.

In Italy, the Old Idria mine at Carniola, that formerly belonged to the Austrian crown, is about worked out, according to London reports. However, the mines in the Monte Amita district are increasing production and probably will for some time. A new district, the Monte Labro, also reports a small output. In Spain the one producer, the Almaden, continued production at about the same rate as formerly, and it is hardly to be expected that this amount will be increased.

In the United States, as in 1924, most of the domestic production in 1923 came from four mines: The New Idria, New Almaden, and Cloverdale, in California, and the Chisos mine in Texas. There was a scattered production from Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Considerable work is being done in California in reopening old mines and in new prospecting, and also in Oregon and Washington. Nevada reports considerable activity in the Mina district and near McDermott, on the extreme north boundary of the state. No new metallurgical development was reported for the year.—H. W. Gould, Mining Engineer, in Mining Journal-Press.

ENVIABLE WORKING CONDITIONS

Wage earners in this country earn more, live better, have more recreation and yet save more than workers of any other country. Including skilled and unskilled labor, the daily pay of the American workman is approximately that of the weekly pay of the English workman. Yet the demand is equal to the supply in this country, and in some crafts there is a shortage, while in England about 1½ million persons are maintained in idleness on the "dole" which the government contributes. England is regarded as the most tightly unionized country in the world.

Unions in the United States have done much to raise the standards of

pay and living conditions. Those standards now are at a level where there should be little dissatisfaction, little excuse for labor disturbances and strikes.

SOMEBODY PAYS THE TAXES

Discussing municipal ownership of utilities, H. E. Tobey of the Interstate Public Service company of Indiana, says:

"As to the claim that the municipal government can finance at lower costs than private industry through the medium of tax-exempt securities, the injustice and evil of such exemptions are becoming so flagrant and so apparent that it is not to be believed that the public will tolerate this condition much longer."

It takes just so much money to run the government, whether it be national, state or municipal. Where a utility is municipally owned and therefore tax-free, the immense sums of money which it would pay to the city in taxes, must be made

up by general taxation—often falling heavily on those who get no direct benefit from the utility.

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