

MINING NEWS

Reports and News of Activities and Conditions of the Mining District of West Coast.

PLANS FOR NE WINDUSTRY HINT TO BIG THINGS FOR SOUTHERN OREGON

Chemical Company Planning to Start Operations During the New Year

On a plot of ground, probably at Talent, Medford or Central Point, the Oregon Chemical company are planning to build their factories, the first unit of which they hope to start shortly after the new year.

The Oregon Chemical company is just springing into existence as far as the public is concerned, although for twelve months they have been organized and have worked with the successful end now near solution.

During the past year it has been a partnership agreement between Professor George Schumacher, chemist; Walter B. Robinson, engineer, and Wilfield R. Gaylord, attorney. The association was formed to investigate the chemical resources of southern Oregon and northern California with the view of eventually establishing a general chemical industry. The investigations proved to them that for variety of mineral and metallurgical resources, this field cannot be equalled anywhere in the United States and probably not in the entire world. It has been decided to organize the company further and attempt to start the first unit first, as the first unit is a paying proposition and is needed for the future units or enlargements. The start, as planned, is the manufacture of lead, lead products and alloys and charcoal by-products. A lead-charcoal plant will result. The task of securing lead is easily solved as the men at the head of the company have secured ample means of acquiring all they can handle. The market is as staple as the market for gold or silver. The supply of wood waste in this district is practically unlimited.

The primary products of the pine and fir wood distillation consists of charcoal, pyro-ligneous, acid, tar, gas, acetate of lime, acetate of lead, methyl alcohol, turpentine, acids, and many other products or by-products.

Here is where the new company will reap a ready harvest in this district and the plant pay from the start if they can make the start soon.

The local heating problem for the orchards offers an almost unlimited market for properly prepared, or briquetted charcoal, as it is smokeless higher in heat value and cheaper in cost than either oil or coal briquettes. There are of course, an infinity of by-products which can be made from wood-waste and tar distillation.

The Eastman Kodak company make over 2,600 such products.

When the first unit of the home produced plant is a success, the expansion can be made. Every raw material is here in this district to justify the establishment of a chemical industry, and it will certainly be done by some one.

Prof. Schumacher, the technical head of the enterprise, is a German chemist and metallurgist of international reputation and world-wide experience and never in his world travels and extensive investigations for various nations, has he experienced a field offering equal opportunities to this.

We hope to see from the efforts of this company, one of the largest general chemical enterprises in connection with a reduction plant for ore treating, to rise in the West. It will happen.

Mining operations will be more active in Jackson county this winter than for several years, according to Newton C. Chaney of Medford. "This is because of the abundance of water," explained the district attorney of Jackson county, who is in the city. "There are several good properties which have not been worked for two or three years because they could not get water, and mining without water is just about as possible as flying without an airplane. The mountains of Jackson

county are full of precious metals and fortunes have been taken from the gulches. This winter there have been heavy rains and so the streams are up and this is the condition which the miners have been waiting for."—Oregonian.

There is considerable activity in preparing to reopen the War Eagle quicksilver mine in the Gold Hill district. The property has recently been reacquired by Chicago people who have reorganized under the corporate name of the Medford Reduction and Refining company, with local headquarters at Medford. This property is the best developed quicksilver mine in this region, equipped with a 30-ton Scott furnace and was a heavy producer during the war period. H. M. Parks (formerly associated with the Oregon bureau of mines, is reported to be the engineer in charge and Samuel Bertleson of Medford, superintendent in charge of the works.

OREGON TO PRODUCE HALF OF DOMESTIC OUTPUT OF QUICKSILVER

Within a few days the Opalite mine in Malheur county will start the operation of their 100 ton per day plant for the reduction of ores and recovery of the quicksilver contained therein, and it is reported that the outlook is so encouraging that the belief is expressed that this property will produce, when running full blast one-half of the quicksilver produced in the United States.

W. R. Johnson has sold his claim known as the Sunshine, located on Elk river, to George F. Sparks of the Elkhorn group.

Dan McLeod brought in specimens of ore from nearby points last week that would create great interest among large operators in other sections. Mr. McLeod says these ledges are so accessible that it is hard to believe they exist.

Dr. Boyer, of the Crystal Mining company, operating the old Madden mine on the Sixes river, was a county visitor last week. The Madden is considered one of the choicest of the black sand properties and great expectations are held as to what is will do in the way of production when the development work is completed and the mine actually placed in operation.—Port Orford News.

MINING WEALTH

Wealth of mining and quarrying corporation is estimated by the Federal Trade Commission at 10.1 billions of dollars or nearly 10 per cent of the total estimated for all corporations.

The report covers 18,884 corporations. The estimated value of land, buildings and equipment of these corporations is given as 8.5 billions or 12.5 per cent of the total for all corporations. The value of inventories, cash, etc., for mining companies is given as 1.6 billions or 4.7 per cent of the total for all corporations. The commission says the proportion of fixed assets to total wealth is, for mining, above the average.

Metal mining and oil and gas mining are said by the Commission to be the two most important of the mining industries and represent 62 per cent of the total wealth of the mining group. Coal mining represented 24 per cent and other mining, 14 per cent. Corporate wealth devoted to metal mining and oil and gas mining were nearly equal in 1922. Inventories, cash and other assets of coal and oil and gas mining corporations each represented 11 per cent while those of metal mining companies was 23.5 per cent of the total. Land, buildings and equipment held by oil and gas mining companies represented 32 per cent of the total; those of metal mining companies, 28.5 per cent and those of coal mining com-

panies 25 per cent.—Mining Truth.

VALUE OF METAL PRODUCTION FOR 1925

The metal production of what is commonly known as the Pacific Northwest for 1925 totaled \$176,645,000, divided as follows:

British Columbia, \$63,135,000.
Montana, 66,800,000.
Idaho, \$31,815,000
Alaska, \$17,850,000
The Yukon, \$1,540,000.
Washington, \$1,065,000.
Oregon, \$430,000.

The small showing made by Oregon is not due to lack of commercial mineral resources, but rather to an indifferent attitude toward mining on the part of those whose business it should be to see that all the natural resources of the state have an equal chance to be developed. Mining engineers who have studied the southwestern Oregon field predict that some day that section will become one of the greatest mining camps the world has ever seen, basing the prediction on their knowledge of the vast mineral resources known to exist. Those who seek to guide the development of this great state should ask themselves the question why it is that with great mining states on three sides of it, Oregon is so backward in developing this fundamental industry. The question contains much food for serious thought.



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