

MINING NEWS

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

PERMANENCY OF MINING

Permanency of mining needs to be stressed by the industry's spokesmen and supporters if the prevailing misconceptions so common among the public are to be dispelled.

The average mine lasts longer than the average mercantile business. According to Shaw's Management Service the new store opened in this country starts with a little more than seven years of life before it and every class of mercantile business has an average of failures running higher than 50 per cent.

The oldest company or business corporation in the world bears the name of Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags Antiscebolog and this year it celebrates its 700th anniversary. For 700 years this company has operated the famous Falun mine in Sweden without any change in ownership. In these 700 years the mine has yielded over a ton of gold, 15 tons of silver and about 500,000 tons of copper. Now it produces 20,000 tons of iron pyrites every year.

The Rio Tinto mine in Spain, has been productive since the days of the Roman Empire.

Mexico and South America contain a score of mines that have been operated for centuries.

The Homestead mine in South Dakota has paid monthly dividends since 1879, except for brief periods of suspension caused by fire and strikes.

Goldfield, Nevada, is a comparatively new camp; yet the mines there have already existed for more than twice the average life of a mercantile establishments.—Mining Topics.

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Edited by the Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau.

Several mines, among them the Mt. Reuben, Western Metals and the North Pole, have shut down for the holidays, the period of shut down varying from three days to two weeks. The abundance of water will

probably keep the placer miners continuously at work.

The last issue of the Developer, a magazine devoted to the mining industry, contains several articles regarding the mines in this section, as well as a very conservative article from the pen of George Schumacher of Medford on the black sands of the district. There are several copies of the magazine at bureau headquarters.

Dean Charles E. Newton of the school of mines at Corvallis, and William W. Elmer, president of the Oregon mine survey, a mining engineer of note, of Portland, spent last Saturday in the Pass on matters relating to the business of the survey.

Apparently there is to be a real revival of the interest in tin as a product of this district. Several assays have been secured from outside assayers, which lead to the conclusion that there is tin here in paying quantities. The collapse of the former tin boom here has made most of the conservatives skeptical. But if it shall prove to be the case that tin ores have been developed, it will go far to disprove the oft heard statement that the Grants Pass miner are prone to kid themselves.

Messrs. Diehl and Henderson, recent purchasers of the Banfield mine in Douglas county were recent visitors, and were much interested in the mineral district.

Work at the North Pole has proceeded with unusual dispatch under the direction of E. R. Copeland, who is in charge. We are advised that the sound of dropping stamps was heard a day or so ago.

It is reported on good authority that the War Eagle at Gold Hill has been sold to a large corporation, and that active work is about to start on that property under the engineer direction of Henry M. Parks, formerly the director of the Oregon bureau of mines.

The installation of the steam shovel on the Oscar creek placer mine has been completed. The present name of the mine is the Board Shanty and it promises to open a new era in placer mining here. There are several rich spots where there is plenty of water for bywash, but not enough for both that and cutting, and this method has apparently solved the problem. Oscar creek is one of the richest placers in the district, and the proposition will undoubtedly pay from the start.

The next meeting of the bureau will be held on the 31st of December. The change in date of this particular meeting was made necessary from the fact that the regular meeting falls on New Years.

Col. H. R. Rice of Contact, Nev., is in the Pass for a stay during which he plans to look over the mining possibilities here. Mr. J. R. Weaver of Portland, of the Board Shanty, is also making a stay here.

G. A. Russell is getting the Jones placer on Saxe creek ready for pipping. This placer has been worked for many years, and from the looks of the coarse gold brought in by Mr. Russell, is good for many years more. Evans creek has been neglected this year, in comparison with the other placer creeks of the county, and this is probably but the start of operations there. The giants at work have been increased to over fifty at this fringing. The Wickstroms is reported as working.

The organization of the Oregon Chemical company, the incorporators of which are George Schumacker, Walter Robinson, long associated with the Blue Ledge, and E. N. Gaylord, all of Medford, may very well open a new industry in this locality. The company has the backing of careful proving out of all the promoters claim for it, does not make any attempt to sell stock by so-called booster talk, and appears to have excellent opportunities for making money for the stockholders and for the district.

News Notes From State Market Agent

By C. E. Spence

Egg Associations Increasing.

Since 1913 there has been a remarkable growth in co-operative egg associations in this country. They are in 18 states, embracing about 70 associations, with about 50,000 members. Forty-eight associations handled 2,566,515 cases of eggs last year at \$26,529,218, and it is expected that 1926 will show a large increase over these figures.

Look Out for the Peddlers.

Any number of Portland families have been defrauded by buying bootleg potatoes to house-to-house peddlers. The sacks have a few good potatoes on the top and the rest ungraded and in many cases are blighted and rotten. The law requires that sacks shall be stenciled with the grower's name and the grade of the stock. The state market agent has prosecuted many peddlers and has cases now pending. The housewives should insist on lawful sacks.

Carl Vrooman's Plan.

Carl Vrooman, former assistant secretary of agriculture, in a recent speech in Washington said that unless some means is brought about to guarantee fair financial returns to the farms, the younger generation will disappear from agriculture. His plan is a non-partisan political merger of all of the existing farm organizations to force legislation to give farming the same guarantee that railroads and other public utilities get. Mr. Vrooman quoted figures

from the department of agriculture showing the "colossal proportion of the agricultural catastrophe." In 1920 the total value of the farmers' products shrunk over \$3,000,000,000; in 1921 nearly \$8,000,000,000; and in 1923 over \$5,000,000,000 below the 1919 level or a total shrinkage of \$24,000,000,000.

Get the License Number.

State Market Agent Spence advises those who buy potatoes from peddlers to dump the sacks and note the quality before paying for them or to get the car number. Arrests have lately been made by the market agent where families have been cheated by inferior stock by the housewife making a record of the car number. Every arrest so far made by the market agent has resulted in conviction.

Hot air never filled a pay envelope



Animals and Insects

Prepare for Winter

Ants, bees, wasps, flies and many other insects protect themselves during the winter by securing food supplies and constructing retreats.

The wonderful work done by ants, bees, wasps, spiders, butterflies and worms has been studied by many naturalists and researchers have been charmingly described by Lubbock, Fabre, Maeterlinck and other able writers. The underground apartments and terraced homes of the ants, their domestic life, social organization and thoughtfulness, are among the great wonders of nature.

These extraordinarily intelligent insects not only store away an abundance of food for winter, but also they provide aphides to be milked and they cultivate fungi gardens and manufacture many food substances while passing the winter months underground.

Genius, individuality and temperament in animals enable them to solve all the problems of winter which they may at any time encounter. These vary in individuals of the same species. Among any group of young animals or birds or insects you may notice individuals varying in fear, timidity, curiosity, suspicion, sociability, aggressiveness and initiative. Hardly two will be found with similar characters and temperaments. They differ as widely as the members of a single human family. The strong and fearless members of any species give the leadership and develop the customs which enable them to meet the conditions of winter.

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C. A. BOLES, Agent