

SAMPLING WORKS.

O. Great Benefit to the Small Producer.

O. M. Rosendale, a mining engineer, has written for the Portland Telegram an interesting and instructive article on sampling works. He states the well known fact that they are much benefit to small producers, who cannot afford to pay the shipment rate charged for less than carload lots. This destroys the main object of the article, which is to show why such an institution should be established at Portland; as the very first thing the small shipper would encounter would be the prohibitive transportation charges from his mine to sampling works located at Portland, some hundreds of miles away. Sampling works should be, and successful ones are located in convenient proximity to mines. The following are extracts of general interest taken from the article:

"Public samplers, outside of smelters, have proven themselves the greatest benefactors in the development of the mining industry. In Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho and California, these works act as middlemen between ore sellers (prospectors, miners and promoters) and ore buyers—smelters and reduction works. They receive ores in any quantity and of different and widely apart analytical compositions, mixed into suitable beds, and dispose of these mixtures to highest bidder. It is true that ore buyers of different smelters visit, from time to time, the mining districts of Oregon, buy up the products of large mines or contract for their output, yet these men do not directly benefit or encourage mining, because they are not after small quantities, too small to be of any consideration and of an unknown analytical quality, and even if these small parcels should be of a desirable analytical character they would not stand the transportation charges, because below the carload limit and its benefits.

"With a sampler at Portland, Oregon, either outright buying or disposing to the best advantage, any and every parcel or quantity of metal bearing ores, a great impetus would be given to the mining industry of the state. At the present time, with one small exception, the ore seller is at the entire mercy of the ore buyer. The latter does not canvass the field, because the miner has no sampler to which he could ship or consign his output; he, the ore seller, has to accept any terms, any price, any penalty the ore buyer sees fit to put on and impose upon his, the ore seller's, product. Ore of a given grade, regardless of the precious metals it may contain, may be of a very undesirable character, because it may contain analytical proportions, such as too high or too low a percentage of iron, lime, silica, barium, sulphur or zinc, that it is practically useless for reduction purposes and, if bought at all, so-called penalties, at so much per cent, are extracted. These penalties diminish the value of the ore considerably and are a source of annoyance and loss to the miner.

"A public sampler seeks to eliminate these objectionable features. It keeps in store all ores which are subject to a penalty, and mixes these ores with such products as contain far less per cent of these objectionable elementary proportions.

"It is of utmost importance to the man who has a promising prospect or an undeveloped mine to find out the exact nature of the ore of the same. He must and should know what his ore contains. He must find out the analytical features of his product. And the only way to gain this knowledge is to send to a sampler a few hundred pounds of his ore. A few chunks of his ore will not suffice. Spec-

imens of a picked character do very well for a preliminary assay, yet a man who puts his money, his energy and his time underground should be reasonably assured that the stuff he takes from the mine, developed or undeveloped prospects, is a marketable product.

"The ore supply situation of the state I will thus briefly describe: According to the report of the director of the United States mint, Oregon, in 1899, produced in precious metals, chiefly gold, in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000. The number of producing mines throughout the state were 52, and the number of mines and prospects in all stages of development 280. A careful canvass shows me that there are at present not less than 24 producing mines in Baker county district alone, and together throughout the state 400 mines, prospects and mine properties in all stages of development. Oregon, at present, has entered upon an area of mining activity only paralleled by the oldest mining states of the Union. With all due allowance of over enthusiasm, by the latter portion of the present year, Oregon will have many new producing mines added to the ones now figuring as producers.

"All ores and concentrates go at present to the center and eastern smelters, with some very slight exceptions. To illustrate the expansion of the mining industry, we may be permitted to marshal before you some interesting statistics. Concentrates shipped from Baker City and Sumpter during March, 1899, 700 tons; during December, 1899, 1400 tons, or 100 per cent more than in March. With a sampler at Portland, necessarily followed by a smelting plant, every pound of this steadily increasing ore output would be sampled at Portland.

"I will not go fully into the ore supply situation, simply expressing my belief that eastern Oregon alone could easily and amply supply a sampler at Portland with a full tonnage every day of the year, provided the sampler treats the mineowner and his ore with courtesy, fairness and honesty."

Big Land Office Business.

The phenomenal rush of business at the United States land office in this city keeps up, and at the present rate there will be four times as much business transacted during the present year as was done last year. As a sample, six homestead filings were recorded on Monday last. There can be no doubt that a strong tide of immigration has set in to eastern Oregon, on account of agricultural, timber and mineral resources.—La Grande Chronicle.

Blue Ribbon Mines Sold for \$70,000.

The Blue Ribbon group of mines, located near Granite, were sold a few days ago to P. J. Donohue, representing the DeLamar interests, a mining man of Idaho, for \$70,000. The owners of the property were Peadleton parties. The terms of the sale are \$7,000 in thirty days, \$27,000 in sixty days and \$35,000 in ninety days. The property embraces several claims, some of which are largely developed.—Baker City Democrat.

Miners Should Do More Cross-Cutting.

Cross-cutting should be indulged in more by miners. The more cross-cutting that is done, the more ore bodies are developed. Take nothing for granted; the walls of crevasses may be back walls of still other crevasses and not in sight and beyond which wall a high grade ore might lie, that otherwise would be passed by in ignorance.—New Mexico Mining Record.

Notice to the Public.

All consumers of city water must make application to the office of the Sumpter Water company before the mains are tapped or any residence or business house supplied with water.

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