

PYRITIC SMELTER.

Sumpter's Plant Completed, Will Soon Be Blown In.

Last week THE MINER published a statement from E. T. Bradford, of Denver, stating that he had made a thorough test of the pyritic treatment of eastern ores at the smelter using that system in Leadville, and that the experiment had been eminently satisfactory. He declared that the ores are peculiarly adapted for this improved smelter process. The chief difference between this and the old method of smelting, is that it does away with the expensive roasting of ores, the chief purpose of which is to get rid of the sulphur.

All this is of especial interest to Sumpter and the mining men of this district, for the reason that a smelter of this kind is about completed and ready for operation here. Charles Laughlin, who has been constructing the machinery and erecting smelters for the Union Smelter Manufacturing company, of St. Louis, for fifteen years, is in charge of the work here. He says the company satisfied itself that the plant would be a success here before it made a move to put it in; that he, after examining the various ores produced in the district, hasn't the slightest doubt on the subject. He says he can treat ores carrying as high as 15 per cent sulphur.

The institution is practically completed, but will not be blown in for several weeks yet, for the reason that it will require that length of time to collect a sufficient quantity and variety of ores. Considerable has already been contracted for, but none has yet been delivered. The roads are now in condition in most places to begin hauling and it will not be long before this obstacle will be out of the way. A shipment of ore is now en route from Montana, on which a trial run will be made. If it proves successful, a smelter of this make will be erected at the mine.

Mr. Laughlin desires THE MINER to say that the statement made in a Baker City paper, that his company had notified the mine owners of Cable Cove district it will not buy or attempt to treat ores from that section is entirely erroneous; that the smelter will have no difficulty whatever in reducing their products and is now ready to buy all that they have to sell. In fact, it is already in the market as an ore buyer from every district in eastern Oregon. He says that where there is a small per cent of lead in copper rock, he can not pay for the lead, for the reason that it goes into the matte and refineries will not pay for it.

If sufficient quantities of ore can be secured, the plant here will be increased to a capacity of 100 tons a day by next fall. This can be done without suspending operations. Sampling works will be built and operated before the end of the year.

EDISON'S GOLD MACHINE.

Will Work Desert Sands Without the Aid of Water.

It was announced some time ago that Thomas A. Edison had invented a secret process by which the sands of the desert could be relieved of the gold which lies in them.

But the scheme, while very commendable, seemed too ambitious for success. Lately it has developed that the "Wizard" has not only completed his invention, but is getting ready to put it to work.

The importance of this invention may be gathered from the fact that such a process, working successfully, would multiply many times the production of gold in this country. There are thousands of square miles of gold bearing lands in the United States that cannot be worked on

account of lack of water. In the great deserts of the south and southwest there are vast expanses of rich sands that might be made to give up millions of dollars' worth of gold if the necessary water could be obtained. A friend of Edison's, a scientist of no mean repute, says:

"To mining men this has been one of the greatest problems and the fact that a man like Edison was engaged in trying to solve it has been a matter of the greatest interest to them. In fact, they have unbounded faith in the ability of the wizard of electricity to make good his promises, and there are few people now who will dare to assert that the secret process will not prove a success.

"While ore concentrators are not a new thing, Mr. Edison's machine is unique in every respect. The only man, however, who knows the secret of its construction is the inventor himself, and even when it is put in operation no other person will share the secret, with the exception of a trusted employe who will be taken from his New Jersey laboratory to assist Mr. Edison in its operation. The only thing which the outsiders, or even the workers at the mines, will see of its workings will be the gravel being dumped into the hopper at one end and coming out at the other end, separated from its precious burden of gold, which will be delivered at another part of the machine ready for the work of the refiner. Those who construct the machine will have no idea of how it is operated. They will be given certain parts of the machine to make according to designs furnished them, and they will have no knowledge as to the purposes for which the parts are intended. Some idea of the secrecy with which the concentrator has been built may be gathered from the fact that although it has been in process of construction for more than a year, the fact that the strange machine was to be used for that purpose was not known by any employe at the laboratory until a few weeks ago.

"As soon as the inventor was persuaded that he had accomplished his object, he proceeded to organize a company to operate the machine. Mr. Edison then purchased the abandoned Ortez Grant, in New Mexico, paying about \$3,000,000 for the 54,000 acres, and it is there that the machinery is now being installed. The first plant is to be located at Dolores, and others will be set up at different parts of the territory.

"Dolores lies in the very heart of the Ortez grant, but no one would imagine to look at the surrounding country that millions of dollars' worth of gold was concealed in the sun-baked sand. Metallurgists have estimated that there is between \$500,000,000 and \$800,000,000 in gold buried in the rocks and gravel of these 54,000 acres of barren New Mexican ground."—Exchange.

Cow Killed by a Bear.

Ernest Stansel brought down word last Monday that they had missed one of their fat milk cows from the ranch the other day. Upon investigation the remains of the cow were found near the Crawford cabin, in a mutilated condition. Further investigation revealed the tracks of some immense animal, which at first they supposed to be a cougar. A more careful investigation, however, led the boys to believe that it was either a grizzly or silver tip bear that had done the work. It is very seldom that this species of bear is found in this country. A few, however, have been killed, one by Walter Brown, of this city, who still has the skin in his possession. The boys are keeping a lookout for him and will give him a dose of lead if they get a chance.—Grant County News.

Voters Attention.

The voters of the North and South Sumpter precincts can now register at the city hall, E. L. Manning, city recorder, having received the registration books from the county clerk for that purpose.

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W. S. BOWERS ABSTRACTS

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