

PROFITS OF MINING.

EXPENSE CUTTING ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF THE INDUSTRY.

Employment of Avenarius Carbolineum Will Save Mine Owners Thousands of Dollars Annually—Pushing Invention to the Limit.

It is a common saying that more money is expended in delving for gold than is taken out of the earth. Whether this is true or not, it is certain that mining is not all profit, and that this pursuit demands as close attention in the way of expense cutting as other business ventures do to insure success.

This fact is now fully recognized, and as a result, money saving machinery has taken the place of hand tools, and smelting has been reduced to a science, conserving almost every atom of valuable mineral, thus enabling very low grade base ore, formerly deemed worthless, to be worked at a profit. Invention is pushed to the limit in devising means whereby waste can be still further prevented, and profits proportionately enlarged.

In this connection, the attention of mining men might profitably be turned to the use of Avenarius Carbolineum, the justly celebrated German wood preservative, now employed in wood construction work all over the world, with excellent economic results.

Shoring timbers used in mines, often brought from distant points at considerable expense, are subject to rapid decay and replacement from contact with soil and subterranean dampness. This is not only a source of annoyance to mine owners, but frequently delays work and entails loss of time and money. All this would be avoided, and the life of these timbers greatly extended, if they were subjected to treatment with Avenarius Carbolineum before being placed in position. This compound penetrates wood from surface to center, and not only renders timber immune against decay, but also increases its tensile strength, thus adding to the safety of miners working under a propping so fortified. Corduroy roads, frequently required for transportation of ore from mines to railroad points, are also greatly strengthened, and their longevity increased by applications of Avenarius Carbolineum. This preparation is not expensive, and is as easily applied as common house paints.

In casting about for ways and means of cutting costs and increasing profits, the sagacious and far seeing mine owner will certainly give Avenarius Carbolineum a trial and, judging from results in other lines of wood construction, will have no cause to regret the experiment.

NEW LIFE ON THE COMSTOCK.

Great Electric Power Plant at Virginia City Does the Business.

It will be of great interest to mining men the world over to learn that with the advent of the installation of electric power and the placing of the most extensive electrical machinery plant in the world, the future of Virginia City, Nevada, is brighter than it has been for years—possibly brighter than ever.

The Mining and Engineering Review and Electrician, of San Francisco, is authority for the statement that the electrical machinery for the big power plant at Floriston, on the Truckee river—but a short distance from Virginia City, is nearly completed, and that the current will be ready to be turned on about the middle of September. The power will be derived from the plant of the Truckee River General Electric company, the

primary object being the furnishing of electric energy to the great Comstock mines—the mines that caused the whole world to marvel at their apparently inexhaustible capacity and richness.

The original discovery was made in the Ophir in June 1859, when, less than 40 tons of ore having been hauled to San Francisco, it was settled for on the basis of \$2947 per ton. Then followed the wildest excitement of modern times, beside which the Klondike and Cape Nome craze pale into insignificance. The Savage, Hale and Norcross, Chollar-Potosi, Gould and Curry, Yellow Jacket, Crown Point, Belcher, Imperial and other discoveries followed in quick succession, and the mines yielded, in the ten years following, \$120,000,000.

In 1873 the "big bonanza" in the Consolidated Virginia was struck, and the excitement grew in proportion. Capital was pouring into the new camp and Virginia City, a small camp among the sage brush and sand, began to assume the proportions of a great city, with a population of 35,000 or more. The excitement reached its zenith when it became known that millions in gold and silver were being extracted from this strike. It is a fact that between the years 1873 and 1882, \$111,975,761 were taken out from the bonanza. The strike was made at the 1167-foot level.

Then came the question of draining the lower levels of the mines, and the time produced the genius. Adolph Sutro projected the great tunnel known afterwards by his name. The tunnel was started in the valley of the Carson river, and ran for a distance of 20,018 feet in a north-westerly direction, when it struck the Savage mine at a depth of 1,640 feet. Subsequently all of the mines on the lode were connected with the tunnel. But when it was completed the deepest shaft had reached a depth of only 3,000 feet, so that the tunnel was of little use at that time in draining the mines, but it will remain a great engineering feat.

The wonderful difference in the cost of steam power and electricity is so great that the consensus of opinion among the old timers is that the low grade ores in the upper levels can be worked to a tremendous advantage and profit. That there is yet a great amount of ore in the old workings is well known, and that there is ore to the value of hundreds of millions below the present workings is the opinion of practical mining men. As an instance it may be referred to, that at the time of the fire in the Consolidated Virginia, rich ore was being taken from the bonanza, but at that time the workings were bulkheaded and closed, and have remained so up to the present.

It is estimated that the mines of the Comstock lode have produced, in gold and silver, nearly \$400,000,000.

Gold as a Money Metal.

The earliest coinage of gold that is authenticated was about 800 years before the christian era, in the time of Miletus, and it is well known that the Sicilians, 400 years before the birth of Christ, used the metal for coinage purposes. Long before that period, however, it had been used in art and manufacture, and years before the time of King Solomon, as ancient chronicles will prove. In the earlier centuries placer mining in southwestern Europe, and in the Ural mountains, was well established, and there are statistics of gold mining in Asia Minor during all the earlier centuries. There is nothing, however, authentic in the way of figures previous to the discovery of North and South America, but since that time the world's production of gold per year is pretty well established.—Exchange.

Private Board.

I will furnish private board to a few desiring such, at my residence on North street, near Center. Mrs. C. E. Duckworth.

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W. S. BOWERS ABSTRACTS

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