

**EXPENSE OF  
LESTING A MINE.**

**Figures Given—No Fixed  
Charges Can be Made.**

Several inquiries have been received from eastern persons regarding the probable cost of the examination of mining properties, and leading brokers report that they are constantly in receipt of letters, asking for information on this matter. In many of these cases the writers exhibit a remarkable ignorance of what is required of a mining engineer in the examination of a mine. One broker was asked to employ a competent man at an expense not to exceed \$50 to examine a placer mine in the western part of Routt county, containing nearly 2,000 acres. As traveling expenses would amount to more than twice that sum, no one has yet been found willing to go, and in an examination of a placer property recently concluded, an expert was on the ground nearly six weeks in arriving at an approximate conclusion regarding the value of a tract of 2,500 acres.

The expense of examining a mine or prospect varies greatly, important factors being the character of the property, the character and extent of the ore body, the amount of development, the distance to be traveled, the modes of conveyance and the eminence of the engineer; for prospects with trifling development the charges of engineers are comparatively light, but for mines which have large bodies of ore exposed an examination frequently runs up into thousands of dollars, as besides the fee of the engineer, numerous assays must be made, assistants are required to aid the engineer, and frequently many tons must be run through a testing plant to determine the best methods of treatment. Less than two years ago the examination of a large mine in this state involved the making of 1,100 assays at a cost of more than \$1,500, and the treatment of 500 tons of ore. In addition to these expenses must be taken into account traveling expenses, hotel bills and incidentals, such as the purchase of necessary tools, the employment of extra labor, etc.

Average engineers expect to receive as fees not less than \$25 a day and expenses. This is not extravagant, as few even at that figure make more than an ordinary professional income during the year, while many are fortunate if they net the average wage of a bookkeeper. Engineers of established reputation make much higher charges. There are several engineers in this state who will not look at a mine for less than \$1,000, and many instances can be cited in which the engineer's fee, exclusive of expenses, was as high as \$3,000.

This class of expert engineer, as a rule, declines to examine anything but developed mines, or make general reports covering large areas of mineral territory, which include geological and topographical features, water supply, engineering possibilities and matters of that kind, which require exceptional skill and experience. On the other hand, there are in this city not fewer than 100 good engineers who will make examinations of small mines and prospects for \$100 to \$500 and expenses, dependent upon the distance from Denver and other factors mentioned.

Large mining syndicates usually employ their engineers by the year and pay large salaries. Several Denver men receive \$10,000 a year with the privilege of making outside examinations, and one Colorado man in the employ of a London syndicate receives an annual income of about \$50,000 as consulting engineer for several companies.

To make the trip to Routt county, men,

tioned above, would require \$1,000 for a competent engineer, \$200 for traveling expenses, \$125 for hotel bills, and the wages of two men at \$2.50 to \$3 a day for six weeks. The engineer could probably be secured for \$25 a day, and by increasing the force of laborers so as to cover the ground more rapidly, the total expense would be materially reduced, but in that case it might be necessary to employ an assistant to the engineer to enable him to keep his record of extraction up to the work of the men digging the pits.—Denver Republican.

**Old Gem Mine a Cracker Jack.**

The old Gem mine, near Sparta, is proving to be a cracker-jack and the Portland people who got control of it for almost a "shoestring," as the saying is, have reason to tickle themselves under the fifth rib. Manager Perkins was in the city yesterday, and confirmed the report started a week ago that in the Gem had been struck an exceptionally rich shoot of ore, extending from the 300 to the 450 foot level, the ledge running from two to four and a half feet in width and averaging by assay from \$13 to \$102 per ton, and the concentrates from the same ore running \$145 to \$826 per ton. Such a showing as is made by the Gem lends confidence to the merit of properties worked in a primitive way and abandoned as it were in the early '70s, the Gem was worked by stamp mill under, every stress of extravagant management and impractical methods. Of course the natural results followed. It was closed down and ever remained so until Mr. Perkins took hold of it and by exploration work found sufficient ore bodies to warrant the expenditure of money in development. This he has done and today the Gem gives promise of becoming one of the big mines of the eastern Oregon gold fields.—Baker Democrat.

**Hot Tamales.**

"Much depends upon your point of view," said the man who travels for his health. "There was a party of us went down south last winter for the first time, and we were keenly alert for all the typical southern things of which we had read and heard. We were on a buffet car when we entered Alabama, and when we were served with hot tamales you should have seen and heard us.

"Now we know we are in the south."  
"The dear things are wrapped in a sheaf of corn!"

"Never tasted any thing so good in my life!"

"The north isn't in it with the south delicatessen."

We contributed a lively fee to the waiter and then asked him where he managed to secure them.

"Dev's on the bill of fare, sah."

"No! Where?"

Sure enough there they were, and announced as specially manufactured by a prominent Chicago canned meat firm, and warranted not to spoil in any climate. And the cry of "hot tamales" had no charm for us when we heard it on the streets, for the romance had been commercially killed.

**Water Notices.**

The lawn sprinkling hours are from 6 to 9 o'clock p. m. Consumers are restricted to their own grounds, and will not be permitted to sprinkle the public streets. Running water through an open hose at any other hour than those mentioned, cannot be allowed. The water will be "shut off" whenever these rules are violated.  
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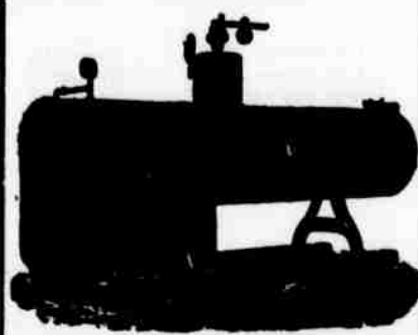
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