

**THE GENTLEMAN FROM COLORADO.**

**Discusses Relative Value of Hotel and Smelter.**

"If you will excuse me for repeating that literary chestnut from Dickens, 'I'm waiting for something to turn up,'" remarked the loquacious representative of the Centennial state Sunday afternoon, as he stood on the bridge across Powder river looking at the polluted water that had done service in the Golconda mill.

"This being the case, I have had time to think on other subjects than my own private affairs," he continued. "The topic uppermost in my mind of late has been the relative value to this town at this stage of the game of the big brick hotel, which THE MINER says Dave Wilson is going to build here, and the smelter which is already built and operated sufficiently to demonstrate its practical success. For one I am more than pleased to learn that Sumpter is going to have at last a hotel that men accustomed to the ordinary comforts of life will not be afraid to sleep in, a house that will entice the fastidious traveling man and the luxury loving capitalist to remain over night in this town, something that only absolute necessity has had sufficient influence to persuade them to do in the past. This is, of course, no reflection on the taverns now open to the public—I suppose it is necessary to make some such crack as that.

"In fact, the need of a good hotel is so apparent that it is a waste of energy to call attention to the whys and wherefores. But I was surprised to learn that more than \$20,000 had been subscribed in this camp towards the worthy enterprise, and couldn't help but think how much more direct benefit that amount of money would do this town if it were employed as a working capital with which to buy ore for the smelter. Fully that much money is needed for that purpose.

"You know there is no sentiment in trade; nor is there in the business of precious metal mining. If a mine owner has rock worth shipping and can sell it for cash, he is not going to turn it into the smelter here and wait ninety or sixty or thirty days, or twenty nine for his money, merely from motives of local patriotism. This thing of being a public benefactor is an almighty poor substitute for actual capital or credit at the bank, to do business on.

"The smelter here is a scientific success, there are already produced more than enough ores tributary to this camp to keep it running continuously, and it is a near approach to a local calamity that it is not in constant operation. If the smoke from its stack will drive out those who object to it as a nuisance, the institution will do a greater service to this camp than if its original object shall be richly realized.

"Of course, there is much ore in this district that can't pay for long railroad hauls, yet is of sufficient value to pay local smelting charges. It is the development of this class of mines that the smelter will aid, if it will pay cash for ores, and producing mines and pay rolls are what is imperatively needed here.

"The fact of the business is—to give this broad, comprehensive topic a personal application—if a whole lot of men are not put to work in this district pretty soon at wages of about three dollars a day, I'll have to go to work myself, and that is the appalling catastrophe that I am working my jaw so energetically to prevent."

**Iron Ore Production.**

It has been apparent for some months that the iron ore product is destined to play a most important factor in the revenues of this country for this year. Ac-

ording to the geological survey, generally accepted as eminent and accurate authority on such subjects, the iron ore output for the United States for the year 1898 was a trifle over nineteen million long tons. The same source gives the output for the year 1899 at nearly twenty-five million long tons, far in excess of that of any other country in the world, making a net gain of nearly six million tons, having a value of \$1.42 per ton in 1899 as against \$1.14 per ton in 1898. Three states in the Union practically contributed the entire product, namely: Michigan, producing nine million tons, closely followed by Minnesota with something over eight million tons, Alabama being third with nearly two million tons, and twenty-one other states making up the total or perhaps twenty-six million tons. It is interesting to consider the position Utah might assume in this procession, if the great iron ore business was industriously prosecuted. Irrespective of the marvelous deposits in Utah, Wasatch, Juab, Morgan, Weber and Salt Lake counties, there are those who maintain that in Iron county alone Utah could soon be made to take first rank in iron ore production. It is said, and generally accepted as a truth, that in Iron county, excepting a skim subsoil, that the county is all a magnetite and hematite iron ore. Experts, who but a short time ago were employed to examine and report on the iron ore possibilities of that section, proclaimed them unsurpassed or unequaled anywhere, saying that in the neighborhood of Iron City there are belts of iron ore outcropped easily traced for thirty or forty miles in length by five miles in width. There is nothing to show that Colorado contains any great deposits or mountains of iron ore as compared with Utah. Such being the case, with inexhaustible coal fields nearby, what is to prevent Utah from being the supply and distributing point for the trans-Mississippi valley in the manufacture of iron and steel—Salt Lake Mining Record.

**TRADE IN DIVINING RODS.**

**Belief That Hidden Treasures Can Be Discovered by Their Use.**

In New York city, located on one of the narrow side streets down town, is a factory in which are made every year more than \$10,000 worth of divining rods for use in finding hidden treasures. From this factory alone are turned out and sold each year almost 5000 fake rods, which means that in the rural districts within 200 or 300 miles of the metropolis are found every 12 months that many gullible farmers and ignorant hayseeders.

The details of this remarkable business are almost beyond conception. Can you believe there is one man at this end of the civilized nineteenth century blockhead enough to imagine even for a moment that he can discover gold mines and hidden treasures with the aid of a metal rod simply touched with loadstone?

Can you believe men live today, white men, men educated in the common schools of the country, men residing in towns equipped with newspapers and churches and circulating libraries—can you believe there are men dense enough to pay from \$15 to \$35 of their toil-earned money for such things as divining rods, treasure spears and treasure perfumes?

It is worse even than the gold brick swindle. A farmer visiting New York for the purpose of exchanging his good money for what he believes to be the product of a legitimate mine is simply conducting a business transaction. There is no thought of magic nor of the black art, but merely a commercial exchange.

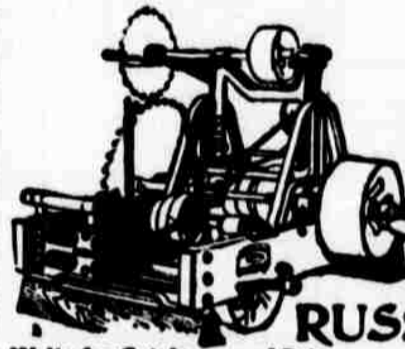
The hayseed who strikes up a dicker with a green goods man also is working on an everyday commercial basis. But the farmer or villager who invests in a divining rod, a treasure spear or treasure perfume marks the gauge of his intellect below that of a Digger Indian.—Boston Herald.

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ABSTRACTS

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