

## SMELTER AT THE STANDARD.

### Plant on the Ground and Construction Being Hurried.

The assurance of a smelter on Dixie creek has given considerable impetus to the quartz mining in the Quartzburg district and considerable development work is being done.

A Miner representative visited the site of the Standard Smelter company's new venture, on Monday. He was courteously received by J. J. Parker, who, during the absence of Mr. Kelly has charge of the work.

The works are situated a little over  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from the main shaft of the company's mine, the Copper King. A good grade has been established for the tramway from mine to smelter. An easy grade has been surveyed over the hill to the North Fork of Dixie creek, and a road will be built, making an easy haul to the smelter from the properties in that district.

The work on the smelter itself is being pushed as fast as it can be, with the men available, and the material at hand.

The ground is cleared, and the foundations are ready for the various buildings. A substantial cribb-work foundation is all but ready to admit of the machinery being set up. The boilers, engine, pumps, skipway, hot-air blast, fire-brick, building brick, in fact—everything is on the ground. The heaviest work will be to get these in place; meanwhile the framing and crib work, under the efficient supervision of Mr. Hasbrock, is rapidly approaching completion, and it is confidently expected that the big blast furnace will, as Mr. Hasbrock naively expresses it, "be blown in" with the first snow.

In conversation with Mr. Parker, the latter said:

"The work has been necessarily slow from the start. To get a good, solid foundation for our crib work, on which the heaviest machinery will stand, we had to cut away the side of the hill. It was hard and heavy work, but all hands were pulled together, and, barring the placing of the machinery, the worst is now over. There is not much to show apparently, for all our hard work, but I am more than satisfied, considering the difficulties we have had to contend with."

Mr. Parker is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, holding rank in the transportation department of Luzon, P. I. He is much pleased with the outlook and predicts a splendid future for the mines of the Quartzburg district.—*Prarie City Miner.*

### COPPER MINING INDUSTRY.

#### Interesting Facts Regarding its Rapid Growth in Recent Years.

A report will soon be issued by the Interior department of the geological survey on the copper mining and smelting industry of the United States in 1900. The industry was exceedingly prosperous during the year. Values remained at a relatively high level and while some of the great producers, through a variety of causes, did not contribute as much metal as in former years, others largely increased their output.

There was very great activity in the opening of the old mines and the development of new properties, but only a few reached the productive stage in 1900. One by one, the report says, they will appear as sellers in the copper market

in 1901 and 1902. The report contains figures showing the great strides made in the mining of copper since its inception as an industry in the United States.

In 1845 the total output of the entire country was only 100 tons. In 1850 it was 650 tons; in 1860 12,500 tons and in 1880, 27,000. Since 1880 Montana and Arizona have entered the field, and the yearly output has increased by leaps and bounds. In 1883 the output was 51,570 tons, in 1890, 115,966 tons and in 1900 the gross total tonnage of mined copper was 270,588 tons.

In the comparatively early stage of the copper industry, that is prior to 1880, when the new fields in Montana and Arizona began to make themselves important factors in the output of the United States, by far the greatest percentage of the total output came from the Lake Superior region. In 1840 the percentage of the Lake Superior product of the total output was 96; in 1850, 88; in 1860, 95.1, and in 1880, 82.2.

With the discovery of the Montana and Arizona mines, however, the percentage of the total product of copper mines in the Lake Superior region began to decrease.

It was 20.7 in 1883, 13.4 in 1890, and in 1900 19.5. The exports of copper from the United States, have steadily increased during the last few years. In 1893, 80,392 tons of fine copper were exported; in 1896, 125,605 tons; in 1898, 146,115 tons, and in 1900, 160,082 tons.

The heaviest exports took place in the first half of 1900, when 90,743 long tons were shipped. The product of Montana in 1900 broke all records, being 770,738,439 pounds, while in Arizona there was a slight falling off.

### ONE ADVERSE OPINION.

#### Walla Walla Paper Quotes a Prevaricating Thickhead.

The Walla Walla Union quotes one, Ed Gregory, as saying, after throwing a bouquet at Baker City: "Sumpter, however, about which there was so much excitement about eighteen months ago, is dead and the few men who have remained in business and have survived the collapse may live through and continue to exist, but they have long ago lost whatever ideas they may have once possessed relative to the future of the camp. . . ."

"Baker City will never be a large city. There is nothing to make it so. There is not an acre of what one would call good land near it. It is mines, mines, all mines. The country about there has all been explored and all of the mines which exists there have been found. . . ."

"A short time ago I visited Sumpter. That place is just waiting for some one to come along and bury it. There are people there who can't get away and there are others who make a living. No one is doing more than passing well and there were hundreds who left all they had without other return than experience."

Of course, there is some reason for a man lying with this baseless abandon. Whether this man Gregory was refused a hand-out here; or received a rebuff on a larger scale, THE MINER can't say, but it is a sure thing that something occurred in Sumpter to displease him; otherwise he wouldn't have drawn quite so long a bow.

One thing is certain, however, that his statement regarding the farm lands in Baker county and that other startlingly depressing information, that "all the mines which exist there have been found," is proof positive that he is a chronic thickhead who knows nothing about this or any other mining region.

Read page 10 of this paper and see what THE MINER offers its subscribers.

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