

**TESTING COAL
FROM JOHN DAY**

**Rail Road People Interested in
The Proposition.**

All the big transcontinental railroads are looking for coal—more coal. They must have it for fuel, for use of petroleum has not yet been sufficiently tested to warrant the suggestion that it will soon be in general use as fuel. Success enough has attended the tests so far, however, to justify the hope that it may ultimately be used extensively. Even in that event, coal will always command expensive respect for domestic purposes.

Hence, we may readily understand why persistent effort is being made to establish the fact that extensive coal beds lie along the course of the John Day river; and knowledge of the circumstance that a big railroad company is behind the present effort to make a final test of the quality of the coal in local fields assures us that a big railroad company is searching for adequate excuse to build into the John Day country at an early day; first, for development and use of our coal deposits and other rich and extensive resources, and, second, to head off envious competitors who are anxious to harvest profits from the same field.

The mission of W. W. Reese, who went to Portland this week with excellent samples of coal from the deposits below John Day town, is in line with the above suggestion. He went as the agent of those who represent millions of capital. His samples will be subjected to scrupulous analysis by experts for the O. R. & N. Co., and, if the test prove favorable, it means a big railroad up the John Day river within a short time. In the present emergency in which railroad companies find themselves, there can be no doubt of the correctness of this conclusion.—Prairie City Miner.

FIGURING ON COPPER SUPPLY.

Expert Will Ascertain Total Stock of Refined Article on August 1.

An effort is being made in the east to find out how much refined copper there is in the United States and as soon as the information is obtained, it will be given the public in circular form. The information is to be based on government reports and statements of warehouse men in Liverpool, Havre and Swansea. The compilation is to be made by Messrs. Ledoux & Co., who are not only technically familiar with the subject, but who are in position to secure the figures desired in the makeup of the statistics.

In relation to the proposed compilation Dr. Albert R. Ledoux, of New York, says:

"It is true that at the suggestion of friends I have undertaken to ascertain the total stocks of copper on August 1, 1902, and have met with unexpected success. Most of the important copper producers have given me in confidence their stocks on hand at the mines, in transit or in warehouses, whether sold or unsold. And in other cases I have obtained the necessary information in my own way. In most cases I had no difficulty in verifying statements rendered and am confident that the figures which I shall publish will accurately represent the real trade situation, so far as influenced by the question of stocks.

"Not only have I obtained estimates from producers, but have ascertained stocks held by the refiners of the country, whether in the form of matte, bars, anodes or refined. The figures could be

ready for publication at this time excepting for the fact that I am endeavoring to avoid duplication. For instance, it is reported to me that a certain mining company has a certain amount of copper on hand and if this copper happened to be in a refinery it would be included in the refinery's report, unless particular care was taken to separate it. It will probably be published about September 1. I have purposely avoided adding up the items so that I can truthfully say to inquirers that I do not know myself what the totals will figure out until the very end of the compilation."

SAME OLD COMPLAINT.

EDITOR MINER: During the past six weeks I have had a task to perform that has been one of the most difficult I have ever undertaken, and I have performed the same kind of labor in many western states and in British Columbia, during the past quarter of a century. The work alluded to is the acquiring and compilation of information regarding the mines of eastern Oregon.

To say that I am surprised at the state of affairs as they exist here is drawing it mild. As an instance, I very much desired to ascertain the gold production for the years 1900 and 1901, and approached every one I thought it possible to post me on the question. If any one has this information I have been unable to locate the individual.

Also, I am pained to say no one appears to take any interest in changing this condition of affairs for the better. In fact, many are opposed to any enactment that would compel mine owners making reports as to their production, claiming the owner of a mine cannot be called for a statement of his output any more than a merchant can be compelled to give out information as to his business.

Mr. Editor, this argument strikes me as being silly. There is really no comparison between the two lines of business. The merchant with his private capital purchases his stock from a wholesaler and disposes of it at a profit. His is a vocation in which the Federal government has no interest. Yet the assessor and the tax collector can demand certain statements from him according to law, which become a part of the public records.

On the other hand, the mine owner acquires his wealth-producer from the general government; that same government has a department at the nation's capital. Part of the business of this department is to acquire and furnish information as to the production of the

precious metals in the United States and give credit to each state or district.

But, astonishing as it may appear, I am credibly informed that the immense amount of treasure being won from the ground in the state of Oregon is divided as follows:

Some of the gold goes to the United States assay office at Boise. Idaho gets the credit.

Some goes to San Francisco. California gets the credit.

The high grade shipping ores and the rich concentrates go to Puget Sound. Washington gets the credit.

Mr. Editor, there is surely some way by which this deplorable state of affairs can be remedied. Oregon is a great gold producing state. It should have proper credit for its production. The Sumpter district is wonderfully productive, yet who can give the seeker after information any real facts?

RANDALL H. KEMP.

Sumpter, Oregon, August 30, 1902.

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