

**BONANZA WILL HAVE 100 STAMPS**

**Other Big Things Planned For That Mine.**

All kinds of rumors are in circulation regarding contemplated improvements at the Bonanza mine. The most important is that sixty stamps are to be added to the mill, making 100 in all, which will then be the largest mill in the Northwest, with the single exception of the Treadwell, in Alaska.

As the story goes, the sixty stamps will be installed at East Geiser, about one mile from the present site. After these stamps are ready to drop, the 40 stamp mill now in use will be moved to the same place, all included under one roof. The power, of course, will be supplied from one battery of boilers, and the necessary engines, harnessed together.

In order to more conveniently deliver ore to the mill, the hill will be tunneled, connecting with the deep shaft.

It is further reported that this shaft will be sunk to a depth of 1000 feet before work is stopped. It is now down 700 feet, and the authority for this information alleges that until recently it had been the intention of the management to stop for a season, after sinking to a depth of 800 feet.

Of course, none of these reports can be confirmed by questioning those in charge of the property. The management labors under the erroneous idea that it is in a position to assume an attitude of the "public be damned," and considers any effort on the part of the press to secure information about the mine as an unwarranted, impudent interference with their private business.

**GOLD IN KANSAS SHALES.**

**Professor Lindgren Says it is Not There in Paying Quantities.**

In Bulletin No. 202 of the United States Geological Survey, now in press, Professor Waldemar Lindgren gives the results of an investigation of certain Kansas shale beds, undertaken by the United States Geological Survey in May, 1902, to determine whether they carried gold and silver in commercial quantities.

The assertion that certain clay shales of western Kansas contain gold and silver dates back about seven years, and originated in the work of a company of men who were prospecting for zinc in the soft clay shales near Smoky Hill river, in Trego county, in 1896. These shales, it was found, extended through a large part of Ellis county. A large number of assays of these shales was made by different persons. A large percentage of the samples was said to contain gold and silver, and it was claimed that the clay had average values of from \$2 to \$10 per ton in gold and silver. Other persons, among them Professor E. Haworth, of the Kansas state university, denied that the shales contain gold in notable quantities.

Companies were formed and mills were erected to treat these shales for gold and silver. All the later developments have taken place in Ellis county, adjoining Trego county on the east.

A brief description of the topographic and drainage features of the region is given, reference being made to the United States Geological Survey's maps of the Hays and Ellis quadrangles, which embrace all points referred to in the report, and the geological features of the region are outlined.

The methods of sampling and assay-

ing are described in detail. The nineteen samples selected were assayed in the laboratory of the survey by Dr. Lindgren and Dr. E. T. Allen separately, and then by both gentlemen conjointly. For further confirmation the samples of most importance were sent to the director of the mint, George E. Roberts, who had them assayed, seven by W. F. Bowen, assayer of the mint bureau, and seven by Jacob B. Eckfeldt, assayer of the mint in Philadelphia. In all, seventy-seven assays were made of material taken from the nineteen samples.

The results indicate that minute quantities of silver are often contained in these shales, and that some samples show the presence of very small quantities of gold. The samples do not always give the same results in repeated assays, showing that the metals when present are unevenly distributed through the rock. None of the samples assayed contained silver or gold in economically important quantities. Although, of course, it is impossible to say what may be contained in those parts of the shale beds which have not been assayed, it is extremely improbable that this material will ever be of economic importance as a silver or gold ore.

A few samples were tested in the laboratory of the survey for zinc and also for copper. These samples showed no trace of zinc or copper. The concretions in the shale just below the Fort Hays limestone contained a brown carbonate of lime which is frequently mistaken for zinc blende.

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**Snake River Fine Gold.**

B. F. Orchard, of Baker City, Oregon, who spent Sunday in Butte, told an interesting story of the formation of a gigantic company with a capital of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of dredging the bed of the Snake river. This company will adopt entirely new methods, in view of the fact that all past efforts to work these sands have been notable failures. Mr. Orchard said: "We have secured the services of an eminent engineer who has had extensive experience in this sort of work in Australia, and the initial test he has made of the Snake river sands satisfy him that they will yield rich returns. For a long time it has been known that the bars of the river have been rich in flour gold, but all efforts to save this elusive stuff have failed. It is proposed to construct a large cyanide plant in the vicinity of Baker and the river will be dammed to bedrock and then the gold bearing water will be carried off in pipes, where the gold will be extracted by means of zinc precipitation tanks." Mr. Orchard remarked that a great deal of the stock had already been placed in Oregon, while the remainder is being negotiated for in New York. Mr. Orchard is en route for New York, in the interests of this deal.—Butte Inter Mountain.

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