

SHOULD KNOW MINERALOGY.

This Science Is Necessary To The Prospector And Mining Man.

It is quite necessary that mining men should have a knowledge of mineralogy, and particularly so does this apply to the prospector. Coming in contact with geological formations and covering large territory, the prospector has rare opportunity to study minerals, and oftentimes does a knowledge of mineralogy prove profitable.

In the mineral world there are recognized upwards of one thousand distinct mineral species, many of which, however, are exceedingly rare, being nothing more than mineral curiosities and only fitted for the cabinet. Others occur in a great variety of forms. Of the commercially valuable minerals, those ores containing the various metals, there are about seventy-five species that are common to the United States, and are met with in varying supply in about every state in the Union. The prospector in his rounds and with what knowledge he has of minerals, is apt to know a number of these, but only when a man is well posted is he able to give the name of every species.

In the gold ores there are five telluride minerals that carry gold, and each specie has a distinct appearance from the other. These minerals are calaverite, sylvanite, petzite, angygitte and krennerite. There are a half dozen important ores carrying silver, these being argentite, proustite, pyrargyrite, cerargyrite, stephanite and stannite. In copper minerals here are at least ten that the prospector ought to know, they being chalcocite, chalcocyanite, covellite, bornite, tetrahedrite, cuprite, melanconite, chrysocholla, azurite and malachite. In lead ores the following are important: galena, jamesonite, minium, anglesite and cerussite, wulfenite, pyromorphite and mimetite. Zinc minerals are not many, the important ones being sphalerite, smithsonite, zincite and calamine. It is very important that the prospector be able to identify cassiterite, the only ore of tin of importance, and that he know a few of the cobalt and nickel ores, such as millerite, smaltite, niccolite and cobaltite. There are a dozen important ores of iron. In aluminum making minerals the prominent ones are bauxite, cryolite and corundum, and the only important ore of mercury is cinnabar. There are a couple ores of antimony worth exploitation, and several of manganese.

There are numerous other mineral

species that it would be well for the miner or prospector to have a knowledge of. A find of turquoise would be highly profitable. This also applies to any of the precious stones or crystallized rare minerals. Fluorspar is in good demand as a flux, etc. Lithia is made from the minerals spodumene and lepidolite. The borax supply of the country is mainly from the mineral colemanite. The minerals amphibole and chrysotile are the main sources of asbestos, and this is a most marketable commodity. A knowledge of phosphate rocks is well for a good phosphate deposit is a paying property. Thus one can observe the value of a knowledge of the more important mineral species. It is not only a most interesting study, but can be made a profitable one. In her distribution of metals and minerals nature worked marvelously. There's nothing more wonderful than the vast and varied chemical mixtures distributed through the earth for men's use.—Mining World.

VISITS DISTRICT.

Ex-Attorney General Of Utah Well Pleased With Camp.

A. C. Bishop, of Salt Lake City, ex-attorney general of Utah, was in the city this week and in company with Menno Unzicker, of Baker City, visited Captain Paul, superintendent of the Imperial, an old friend of his, and some of the neighboring properties. General Bishop is "looking around" probably with a view to investment, but there is nothing for publication at this writing. Relative to the district General Bishop says: "I do not know that any importance can be attached to my visit to Sumpter, more than to see my old friend Captain Paul, with whom I was well acquainted in Salt Lake and to take a general look at the district. From what I have seen I must say it looks most prosperous to me. Sumpter is one of the most lively mining towns in the country, and the general outlook of the camp certainly appears good. A great deal of work is being done I observe, and operators are steadily pushing their properties to the front. I predict a great future for the district."

Back From Union and Wallowa Counties.

A. O. Otness and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Northrop returned last week from a trip to Union and Wallowa counties where they went to look after timber lands. Mr. Otness left at once for Cracker Creek where he is interested in mining property.

Miller cap protectors. T. G. Harrison agent for Baker, Grant and Union counties.

Summer Book.

The Oregon Railroad & Navigation company has just issued a summer book entitled "Restful Recreation Resorts," a publication profuse in half tones, and good descriptive matter of the delightful summer resorts of the Columbia River Valley. It may be had for the asking from any agent of the company.

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