

**WILL DOUBLE
MILL'S CAPACITY.**

**Director Casseday, Of Black
Eagle, Is Authority For
The Statement.**

It is stated on authority of a director in the Black Eagle, Malheur district, that if the cleanup which is to take place on the first of the month turns out as well as expected the company will double the capacity of the mill. D. W. Casseday, of Minneapolis, land commissioner of the Soo system, and a director in the Black Eagle and Gold Bug Grizzly properties, returned this week from a visit to the former, and states that he is more than pleased with the superintendence of J. F. Meikle and the general prospect of the mine. He says:

"Superintendent Meikle is making an exceptional record, and if our cleanup is what we expect, the company will put in twenty additional stamps making forty in all. Our present mill, it will be remembered, was completed Jan. 1, and started in operation about a month ago. Superintendent Meikle is now running through 120 tons a day with a total cost of sixty-nine cents a ton for both mining and milling, which is an exceptional record. When it is taken into consideration that the ore averages \$3 to the ton, the profit is at once apparent. More than this there is practically a mountain of low grade porphyritic ore, which can be absolutely quarried, thus reducing mining expenses to a minimum. It is probable if the Black River power plant goes in the mill will be operated from this source, thus further reducing expenses since the distance from wood renders fuel at present expensive."

**ROTARY MILL
AT VIRGINIA.**

**General Manager Ernst Says
Plant Is Now Working
Satisfactorily.**

A. B. Ernst, of Seattle, secretary and general manager of the North Pacific Mining company, operating the Virginia in the Greenhorn, was in the city this week. He says that the Parker rotary mill now in operation on the property is working all right, and he thinks it a decided success. The mill was first started over a month ago, but some of the machinery broke, causing delay. Only a few days ago the mill was started again and according to Mr. Ernst is doing satisfactory work. The daily capacity of the plant is between thirty and forty tons, and Mr. Ernst states there is enough

ore on the dump to keep it going for two months if no more were taken out.

A large amount of development work has been outlined. On the Virginia vein proper there is now over 1,000 feet of tunnels, shafts and drifts. Besides these there are two other veins, one a fissure averaging five feet in width and the other a contact about twenty-five feet. The fissure carries free gold and pans well, while the contact carries concentrating sulphides. This contact vein crosses the Virginia 400 feet from the present workings. The purpose is to continue the drift on this vein until it reaches the contact vein and thoroughly explore it. At the point of intersection a depth of 350 feet will be obtained. The five foot ledge parallels the Virginia running northeast and southeast. The other is east of north.

Mr. Ernst made a trip to the Cove to look after another property in which he is interested. He will leave tomorrow on a business trip to New York.

SHOULD KNOW ROCK.

**Government Publications Give
Much Useful Information
To Prospector.**

Since the business of the prospector or miner is not primarily with the rocks, but rather with the useful minerals, it has of ten been assumed by this class that any study of rocks, as rocks, was a simple fad and a proper occupation for the bespectacled geologist or the "yellow legged" expert. This assumption is a foolish one, and often has kept the practical miner from real progress in the broader lines of his business. It is hardly necessary to say that a technical knowledge of rocks and a familiarity with the foreign-looking names which men of science have given to the different species is not a requirement for the business miner, but it is safe to urge that the progressive men in the business get over their prejudice against the now accepted rock names of the scientist and endeavor to become familiar in a general way with the present day nomenclature of the rocks. Every camp has its own much-reverenced names for the local rocks, but when the professional men call the miner's "trap" a "diabase" or a "basalt," as the case may be, the new idea should be frowned at.

The whole science of the rocks is in a very unsatisfactory condition, it is true, but out of the confusion and conflict much order has already come, and certain general principles are well recognized as to the classification of the rocks. These general facts can be gathered from the scientific works and geological reports. One of the best means of learning about rocks is to study the bulletin issued by the United

States geological survey, entitled "Educational Series of Rock Specimens" (Bulletin No. 150). This publication is practical and gives references to the localities where the typical species of rocks can be observed. Another excellent government publication is "Analyses of Rocks," United States Geological Survey (Bulletin 168). The use of these manuals, with a little observation, should serve as a beginning course in rocks, which lead to a better knowledge as experience clothes the outlines with facts.

This rock knowledge is useful. First, because it enables the men from different and remote districts to have a common language in which to describe the occurrences of the ore; second, because the modern book and technical press assumes a fair knowledge of scientific rock classification on the part of the general reader. But more than this, the rocks have certain well recognized relations to ore deposits and a knowledge of the names and a familiarity with the general chemistry and genesis of rocks is a guide to intelligent work either in prospecting or mining.—Mining World.

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