

OLD ARASTRA.

President Saylor States That Property Is Making Good Showing.

Professor J. F. Saylor, of Spokane, president of the Old Arastra Mining company, operating in the Granite creek district, spent some time at the property recently, looking after development work. C. M. Fassett, a well known mining engineer, recently examined the property, and his report was not only extremely favorable but he decided to take an interest in the mine.

The crosscut now being driven is in 450 feet, having cut seven ledges in this distance, all carrying good values. Six sacks of ore taken at random from 200, gave exceedingly satisfactory averages, Professor Saylor states. It is a smelting ore that will yield good returns. The average of all the assays taken from the ledges is from \$35.

There are several blind ledges on the property and it is thought that in all ten will be encountered, counting the seven already cut. The formation is granite, which, contrary to precedent, it is stated is heavily mineralized. The veins are widening and growing decidedly richer with depth.

Professor Saylor was formerly superintendent of the Spokane schools, but he is now devoting his entire time to his mining interests. He left this week for the east on business connected with his company.

PRODUCTION OF PLATINUM.

U. S. Geological Report For 1902, Now In Press.

The report for 1902 to the United States geological survey on the production of platinum in 1902 is now in press. The report is in two parts, the first being the report proper, by Dr. Joseph Struthers, and the second being a paper by Prof. J. F. Kemp on platinum in the Rambler mine, Wyoming.

The production of platinum from domestic ores in the United States decreased from 1,408 ounces, valued at \$27,526, in 1901—the largest output recorded by the geological survey since 1880—to 94 ounces, valued at \$1,814, the smallest production since 1893. In connection with the platinum there was also obtained from the ores 20 fine ounces of iridium, as against 253 ounces in 1901. The domestic supply of platinum in recent years has been obtained as a secondary product chiefly from gold placer deposits in Trinity and Shasta counties, California. It is reported that the metal occurs, though not in commercially rich deposits, in many other gold placers of California, as well as in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado and Alaska. The Rambler mine, Wyoming, continues to attract attention, and during the year a considerable quantity of the metal was collected but not marketed by the Waratah Minerals company, at Kerby, near Grant's Pass, Josephine county, Oregon.

The Russian sources of platinum supply, which furnish about 90 per cent of the total consumption of the world, are comparatively limited. The platinum bearing ores extend along the eastern watershed of the Ural mountains in eastern Perm and along the watershed farther south.

The imports of platinum into the United States during 1902 were valued at \$1,987,980, as compared with \$1,695,895 in 1901.

Prof. Kemp's paper contains a brief description of the situation, topography

and geology of the Rambler mine, which is in Albany county, Wyoming, about 45 miles southwest of Laramie, near the headwaters of Douglas creek, in the Medicine Bow mountains; a description of the Rambler dike, and an account of the ore body itself. Great interest was excited late in 1901 and early in 1902 by the finding of the platinum group of metals in the copper ore of the mine and by the separation from the ore of speryllite, diarsenide of platinum. The metal has not yet been extracted on the commercial scale. The paper is illustrated by a map of the Rambler mine. —Mining World.

POE A PROPHET.

Discovery of Helium Proves That He Was More Than Poet.

The discovery of the metal helium proves beyond question that Edgar Allan Poe was more than a poet—a genuine prophet. The application of sulphuric acid to the mineral cleveite causes helium to form, and helium is lighter than hydrogen.

Poe, in his story of "Hans Pfaal," describes just such a metal as helium. Pfaal, it will be remembered, is making a new kind of balloon secretly. This is the passage where the prophecy of helium's discovery appears.

"I then took opportunities of conveying by night to a retired situation east of Rotterdam five iron-bound casks, to contain about fifty gallons each, and one of the larger size; six tubes, three inches in diameter, properly shaped, and ten feet in length; a quantity of a particular metallic substance which I shall not name, and a dozen demijohns of a very common acid. The gas to be formed from these latter materials is a gas never yet generated by any other person than myself. I can only venture to say that this is a constituent of azote, so long considered irreducible, and that its density is about 37.4 times less than that of hydrogen. It is tasteless, but not odorless; burns when pure with a greenish flame, and is instantaneously fatal to animal life."—New York Commercial.

GOLD IN LIMESTONE.

Mr. Hubbell Cites Other Instances Than the One Here.

Frederick N. Hubbell, secretary of the Mines Equipment company, San Francisco, in a recent letter to The Miner, says:

"Noting the article in a recent issue of your paper of the occurrence of gold in limestone, it recalls a specimen of crystallized limestone (calc spar) some years ago, belonging to Mr. Coryell, of this city.

"There was no doubt of the character of the gangue, it being pure carbonate of lime, as the gangue was entirely dissolved away leaving a beautiful structure of leafy and apparently crystalline gold, the acid used being dilute hydrochloric.

"This occurrence has also been noted in the ores from the Gleeson mine (King of Arizona) if my memory is not at fault.

"The verified report of the occurrence of gold in a pure granite outcrop and in payable quantities, verifying what I have personally seen in seyenite, in Mexico, makes us sometimes wonder with the senator, 'Where we are at.'"

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