

OLDEST COPPER MINE REOPENED

**It is in Cuba And Was First
Worked in The Sixteenth
Century.**

After having been idle for many years, the oldest copper mine in the western hemisphere is being reopened, writes M. P. Young in the Mining World. It is El Cobre, located in eastern Cuba, which a year or two ago was acquired by a strong company of New York moneyed men. Captain A. J. Bawden of Hurley, Michigan, a well known Lake Superior mining man, who recently returned from Cuba, had charge of the work of unwatering the property, and he brings interesting news concerning the old workings.

It is presumed that El Cobre was first opened by white men in the sixteenth century, although it is more than probable that Indians extracted copper from it prior to that period. It is unquestioned that the Spaniards operated the property to a considerable extent, and there is little doubt that it was thus the scene of the first copper mining work done in the new world by men other than natives. In the latter part of the eighteenth century an English corporation took the mine and operated it for seventy years. It was worked previous to 1868 and was closed and partly devastated at that time, which marked the outbreak of the ten years war for Cuban independence. The Cubans lost their cause and the former owners did not see fit to resume work under the Spanish regime.

It is shown by records that the mine produced \$16,000,000 worth of copper from 1850 to 1869. It is supposed the mine is 1,200 feet deep, although as yet this fact has not been determined fully, at last accounts the unwatering not having been completed. There are three parallel veins of red metal in evidence, with walls of a thickness of about 200 feet between them. The veins have a width varying from twelve to fifteen feet. Three shafts have been fitted up by the new company and a fourth is being put in condition. Besides these things there are innumerable smaller shafts, or gopher openings, at various points on the property, but none of these are of any material depth. The formation is volcanic in character.

As illustrative of the mineral wealth still presumably awaiting the miner's pick, the fact is cited that during the unwatering of the mine and old pump was recovered, the iron pipes and valves of which were eaten away to a large extent, and replaced by copper, the latter constituting about 7 per cent of the mass. It is also noted with interest that in the 90's a Cuban banker named Schumann, one of the owners of El Cobre, extracted copper from the property by a novel method. Pumps were put into operation and water from the ancient workings was permitted to flow over scrap iron, similar to the procedure in the "copper ditches" at Butte, Montana. In this manner the copper in solution in the water was precipitated and displaced the iron, being recovered in this way. The present owners of El Cobre are

the stockholders of the Spanish-American Iron company, of New York. Charles F. Knad is president, William Astor Chandler vice president and William C. Tegethoff secretary. The remaining directors are Colgate Hoyt, James C. Colgate, William Henry Yale, L. H. Severance and E. J. Barney. The same interests also own large iron properties in Cuba, the subsidiary companies comprising El Cobre mines, the Jurague Iron company and the Cuban Steel Ore company. El Cobre copper mine is twelve miles northwest of the city of Santiago, and the iron properties some miles to the northeast of the city. The copper mine has been equipped with ten boilers which furnish steam for the operation of the pumps and other machinery.

Aside from the deposits in the eastern end of the island, there are copper ore bodies in the west, near Havana, but these have not been extensively exploited. El Cobre is the only copper proposition in Cuba which has been given much attention.

POWDER RIVER ON THE RAMPAGE

Powder river and tributaries are again on the rampage due to the last few days of extremely warm weather and the melting snow in the upper regions. No serious damage has been yet reported, but there is inconvenience to travel both by rail and on the county road to Borune.

One bent of the bridge across the river near the smelter was disarranged and the train from Baker City did not get over on its way to Whitney until nearly 4 o'clock this afternoon. The passenger was about an hour late this morning on account of the work train, which was gathering material with which to anchor the bridge, being in the way. This work was rushed along speedily as possible and at the time named an engine was run over the bridge, and it was found sufficiently stable to allow the train to proceed.

Up the Bourne way there are several bridges over which the water is running, and it is with difficulty that teams and conveyances can pass. County Commissioner Gleason and Road Supervisor Estes went up that way early this morning with men to endeavor to anchor the bridges down and prevent their floating away.

Although no such flood as that of a weeks back is feared, there is still enough snow in the mountains to do considerable damage, if the warm weather continues to hurry up its melting.

IT WILL BE TO YOUR INTEREST

If you contemplate visiting the St. Louis exposition, to secure reliable information as to railroad service, the lowest rates and the best routes. Also as to local conditions in St. Louis; hotels, etc., etc.

If you will write the undersigned, stating what information you desire, the same will be promptly furnished. If we do not have it on hand, will secure it for you if possible, and without any expense to you. Address B. H. TRUMBULL, Commercial Agent, 142 Third street, Portland, Oregon.

Timber and Homestead Filings.

Timber and homestead filings, as well as final proofs, can be made before Charles H. Chance, United States Commissioner, office in First National Bank of Sumpter building, Sumpter, thus saving applicants expense of a trip to La Grande.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the Baker county court house during the week ending May 24, 1904.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. DEEDS.

Aug. 8, '03—Jas. Ludicker and wife to J. P. Hensley, 160 acres in Sec. 26 T. 7 R. 46 E.; \$2,000.

May 21—O. R. & N. Co., to F. L. Moore, east 1/2 Sec. 8 T. 8 R. 39 E.; \$920.

Oct. 5—Alice Lawrence and husband to M. A. Hughes, 50x106 feet on west side of block B, McCrary's addition to Baker City; \$900.

May 11—W. L. Vinson and wife to Mat Welter, 18 acres in N. 1/2 N. E. 1/4 Sec. 10 T. 9 R. 45 E.; \$4,500.

May 11—J. B. Harrington and wife to Geo. C. Bowman, 100x147 feet in part south block B, McCrary's addition to Baker City; \$1,500.

May 11, '01—J. S. Kenyon and wife to S. M. Wilson, N. W. 1/4 Sec. 25 T. 8 R. 39 E.; \$1,300.

May 14—State of Oregon to Oregon Lumber company, E. 1/2 Sec. 36 T. 9 R. 36 E.; \$400.

May 16—Thos. Laird et al, to Wm. Coles, 60 acres in Sec. 16 T. 8 R. 46 E.; \$1,100.

May 16—Fred Steele and wife to David Pointer, 4 1/2 acres in S. E. 1/4 S. W. 1/4 Sec. 24 T. 7 R. 45 E.; \$225.

May 19—August Ebell and wife to Nathan Bennett, N. E. 1/4 N. W. 1/4 Sec. 8 T. 11 R. 41 E.; \$1.

May 19—Chas. Hyde and wife to Mary Richradson, 1/2 interest block 14 Brattain & McComas addition to Baker City; \$1.

MINING MATTERS. DEEDS.

April 28—T. P. Wagner to H. C. Edwards, 1/2 interest in White Cabin placer claim; \$1.

May 17—G. Danal G. M., Co, by sheriff to Thos. Roach, Independentee and 4 quartz claims; \$5,346.

Special Excursion to The World's Fair.

The Denver and Rio Grande, in connection with the Missouri Pacific, will run a series of Personally Conducted Excursions to the World's Fair during June. These excursions will be run through to St. Louis without change of cars, making short stops at principal points en route. The first of these excursions will leave Portland June 7th, and the second June 17th. The rate from Baker City will be \$60 to St. Louis and return. Excursionists going via the Denver & Rio Grande have the privilege of returning via a different route. This is the most pleasant way, as well as the most delightful route, to cross the continent. The stops arranged give an opportunity of visiting the various points of interest in and about Salt Lake City, Denver and Kansas City. If you wish to accompany one of these excursions write at once to W. C. McBride, 124 Third street, Portland, for sleeping car reservations.

Don't Go to St. Louis

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For particulars, call on or address

H. C. BOWMAN,
Agent, Baker City, Ore.