

## MINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Many American miners and prospectors now in the Philippine islands are "holding down" claims and express great hope of being able to develop them into paying properties.

Until last August the right to locate and secure title to mining property did not exist under the law, so every experienced mining man can readily understand that under such circumstances progress in mining would be impossible in any country.

The writer and many other citizens of the United States, who have some knowledge of mines and mining, have been disappointed in not finding a "Klondike" over there, but an examination of the ores on exhibit at the world's fair, Philippine reserve, will show good reason for expecting substantial progress in developing paying mines in the Philippines in the near future. Particularly is this true regarding coal, iron, copper and gold.

The black lignite coal is probably the most valuable mineral asset of the Philippine archipelago. Veins from four to eight feet in thickness have been discovered in various parts of the islands. Tests of these coals have been made on Spanish war vessels, and under boiler at the Cavite Arsenal, with satisfactory results. These coals at the depth obtained compare favorably with and are similar to the coal of Japan, Borneo, and the state of Washington. If this is true, the question would naturally follow: "Why have not the coal mines of the Philippines been developed?" and the answer is that the warm climate excludes the necessity of fuel beyond what is supplied by the extensive forests of the islands, which are accessible to all settlements.

It is confidently expected that the establishment of a naval station by the United States there will be the immediate cause of thoroughly testing the coal deposits of these islands.

So far as present developments show, the iron deposits in the Philippines are next in importance to coal. The iron mines at Augat, Bulacan province, which have for ages been profitably worked by the natives, possess the most valuable ores in the archipelago, which carry from sixty to seventy per cent of iron.

Flowsheets made from the iron produced at these mines bring a much higher price than those imported, on account of the fact that the keenness of edge and durability are superior to any blades shipped in.

The richness of these iron ores, and their ease of treatment have made it possible for the natives to render mining and smelting profitable, using the crudest methods imaginable.

The inspector of mines at Manila, Senor Luis Espina, in 1898, said: "Gold is found in moderate quantities nearly all over the Island of Luzon, but more particularly and under conditions favorable for exploitation, in the provinces of Bontoc, Lepanto, Benguet, Nueva, Ambos, Camarines and Abra. In Lepanto it is found in veins, alluvial deposits and in river sands. It is of a light color and of a degree of fineness to 0.833. In the province of

Nueva Ecija, the gold is exceedingly pure, brilliant in color and 0.958 in fineness. In Abra it is found in alluvial deposits and in river sands."

The Igorot, who inhabits Abra, Bontoc, Lepanto and Benguet, have in the past been extremely reticent about their gold mining. They have been quoted for the past 200 years as not permitting the Spaniards access to the mines. Even those who were intimately friendly with them were not allowed to visit the quartz mines, although some were permitted to wash gravel in the streams. The Igorot have the reputation of possessing mechanical skill, and are not afraid of hard work.

The time has arrived under American government when neither the Igorot nor any other person will be permitted to molest or in any way interfere with legitimate mining throughout the islands, so a forward movement in gold mining may reasonably be expected there.

Two stamp mills have recently been shipped in, and many other arrangements for testing the values of other properties under control of good miners and mining men, have been made.—Albert C. Smith in Mining World.

## PRAIRIE DIGGING WILL SHIP TO THE SMELTR

Joe Waddell, superintendent of the Prairie Diggings, was on the train this morning returning from Baker City to the property. Mr. Waddell was here a few days ago making arrangements with the smelter for a shipment of Prairie Diggings ore.

He is pushing work at the property, blocking out ore, and contemplates starting the mill when sufficient reserves have been created. It is a twenty-five stamp plant, one of the largest and best equipped in the state.

## Sumpter People in Southern Oregon.

Albert Geiser, of the Geiser-Hendryx company, and Roy H. Miller, of Sumpter, have just completed a tour of the southern Oregon mining districts. Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass and the districts contiguous to those places were visited. If the two prospectors visited the region of the recent gold strike, they have refrained from saying anything about it, but speak in high terms of what was observed in the sections visited.—Grants Pass Mining Journal.

## Supplies for the Gem.

Harry Hendryx, of the Geiser-Hendryx company, returned today from Baker City, with some more funds for the First National bank, of which he is a director. While in Baker, Mr. Hendryx arranged for the shipment of supplies to the Gem mine, which his firm recently took over. The Gem will be operated under the new management on an extensive scale.

## Mining Review Man Here.

K. R. Casper, representing the Salt Lake Mining Review, arrived in town this morning and will remain several days gathering material for a special writeup of the district. Mr. Casper is gathering stuff for a review of both Oregon and Idaho for his paper.

## BIG DEAL IN PLACER GROUND CONSUMMATED

One of the biggest deals in placer mining ground recorded in Baker county for a long time was made yesterday, negotiations for which have been pending for several months.

The property involved was the Jed A. Blair placer mining ground, 200 acres patented, together with water rights, flumes, etc., the purchaser being the Uncle Sam Mining and Milling company, T. M. Anderson is president.

The consideration is \$30,000, of which \$10,000, was paid in cash to Mr. Blair yesterday forenoon at the law office of Olmsted & Strayer. Papers and deeds were placed in escrow at the First National bank and subsequent payments are to be made; \$10,000 on or before October 1, 1904, and \$10,000 on or before January 1, 1905.

In addition to the Blair claims the Uncle Sam Mining and Milling company recently acquired the Boswell property, with its extensive water rights and privileges, also, the company is the owner by purchase of eleven quartz mining claims.

All of the above property is situated in Malheur county, in the vicinity of the old mining camps of Mormon Basin and Amelia, and not far from Malheur City.

Jed A. Blair has rightfully the distinction of being the pioneer placer miner of the Mormon Basin section and has almost continuously operated the claims he has just sold for thirty-five consecutive seasons, and with good results. The claims have yielded bountifully. It is understood that Mr. Blair thinks of permanently making his home in Baker City and is negotiating for the purchase of real estate here.

Mr. Anderson, who negotiated the purchase for his company, is a practical and experienced mining man, having operated for many years in California, and elsewhere. He has extensive plans to carry out for the working of the property his company has acquired, principal of which is a bedrock flume of several miles in length, which will enable him to operate, the giant hydraulics and have the sluice and tailings carried off.—Democrat.

## DREDGE FOR CRANE FLAT PLACERS

It is reported on good authority that Burch & Burbridge, the owners of the Crane Flat placers, in the Granite district, are now in the east negotiating for dredging machinery to be installed at the diggings in a short time.

As previously stated in The Miner, the experimental machinery installed has proved very successful, and the company is now ready to go ahead with the enterprise on a more extensive scale. The ground has been thoroughly prospected and found to be immensely productive. The details of the new machines to be installed are not known, but it is understood that it is to be placed in a short time.

LOST—Time book in name of Harry Weller. Leave Miner office. Reward.

## CRUEL IRONY OF FATE IS THIS

In the Democrat of this morning is published the assessment notice against the stockholders of the notorious White Swan Mining company. The assessment levied is five cents a share. In the notice it is not stated the amount of money that it is thus sought to be raised, nor the number of shares included in the assessment, and it would require a week for an expert accountant to figure it out.

The notice occupies thirteen and a half columns in the Democrat, set solid, and contains about 3200 names. The assessment was levied June 21 and the sale of stock delinquent will be held at the company's office in San Francisco August 19.

There will doubtless be several shares on which the assessment will not be paid. Some one seems to be milking White Swan stockholders again. The shares will be bought in by the company and it will not be surprising if the public is again given an opportunity to buy this stock.

And in this story is found a striking illustration of the irony of fate. This "fat take," this rich pocket, so to speak, judged from a newspaper standpoint, that is the publication of this long, expensive legal notice, is made in the Democrat, the paper that has pounded to a pulp the erstwhile head of the White Swan company, Letson Balliett, he who started the Herald to "do" the Democrat and spent \$50,000 of White Swan money in the unsuccessful attempt. Only a few weeks ago the White Swan company sold the Herald for a song, compared to what it has cost.

## HUMBOLDT MILL IS EXPECTED IMMEDIATELY

Dr. Jackson, manager of the Fortune Mining company, operating the Humboldt and Red Lion, was on the train this afternoon going to Spokane, to arrange certain business matters in connection with the organization.

The machinery for the Humboldt mill has been shipped and it is expected will be received in a short time. Dr. Jackson says it has been necessary to get steam from the New York, an adjoining property, to operate the boilers for the Humboldt shift. The milling machinery for the Humboldt is expected here in a short time. The Red Lion plant has not yet been decided upon.

## COMPRESSOR PLANT IS EXPECTED DAILY

J. M. Doyle, superintendent of the Gold Coin in the Cracker Creek district, was in town today. He expects the compressor plant recently ordered in any day.

The Wheeling, West Virginia, investors in the property, Mr. Doyle thinks, will be here in the course of a week. With the installation of the compressor plant extensive development work will be inaugurated.