

BLACK BUTTE MERCURY MINES

"Quicksilver can be manufactured here in Oregon at a less cost per unit of tonnage than it can be produced in any other known quicksilver region in the world." This terse statement from W. B. Dennis, manager of the Black Butte Quicksilver company, who has been diligently investigating conditions in mines of this character for several years past, and particularly entergetic in making scientific research to determine the exact values of the mine situated eighteen miles from Cottage Grove, in Lane county, conveys a faint notion of prospective importance of this industry to the state of Oregon.

The Black Butte quicksilver district is situated on the northern slope of the Calapooia mountains, near the head of the Coast fork of the Willamette river. Black Butte mountain, the highest peak in the district, rises to an altitude of 2,750 feet above the sea level. Of an area two by eight miles covering the district, about 2,000 acres are owned by the Black Butte Quicksilver company, a Washington corporation, including the apex of the peak mentioned, having acquired the holdings about six years ago. Without reference to the character of the ore, other than that it was cinnabar-bearing, a Hutner Scott flue ore continuous furnace was erected, with capacity for fifty tons per day, and other surface improvements were made. Subsequently another management succeeded that has been diligently at work in an effort to place the whole process of operation at the mine on a thoroughly scientific basis. More than 14,000 feet of work has been accomplished in adits, raises, winzes and shafts. When the present management assumed charge only about eighty feet of development was done.

Improvements and the mill represent an investment of \$40,000, and a total of \$12,000 is represented by the property as it stands, more than ninety per cent of which is held privately.

Work is now under way completing plans for construction of a new furnace that will be unlike any other ever built for treatment of cinnabar ores. While thoroughly satisfied as to the principles involved, and it is intended ultimately to erect a plant of 300 tons capacity per diem, an experimental furnace will be first erected as a matter of caution.

Some of the highest grade quicksilver ore found anywhere—metacinnabarite—occurs here, but in this property is found such a vast quantity of material in which the sulphides of mercury have found lodgment, that it is as a whole a low grade proposition. The ultimate purpose of the management is to handle immense tonnage, and with the necessary plant for doing so, it will be one of the great mines of the world, producing fortunes in the liquid mineral so essential in chemistry and sciences, production of which has steadily decreased in the world's production for several years past, with a single exception.—Oregon Mining Journal.

Deepest Gold Mines.

There are no gold mines in the United States with shafts exceeding

nor near approaching some of the Australian gold mines in depth. The Kennedy mine in California is the deepest gold mine in the United States and it has not yet obtained a depth of 3,000 feet. The gold mines of the New Chum railway in Victoria, Australia, has reached a depth of 3,860 feet and this mine has for a year or two been considered the deepest gold mine in the earth. The Victoria quartz mine at Bendigo, Victoria, has reached a depth of 3,700 feet on its main shaft and from the level at this point a winze has been sunk to a depth of 250 feet, thus giving this mine a greater depth than the New Chum.—Mining World.

ERECTING HOIST AT BLACK BUTTE

Manager O. C. Wright had a report from the Black Butte yesterday, stating that the foundation for the new hoisting plant is now being laid, and the work of construction is to proceed as rapidly as possible. In the meantime, sinking with a windlass will be continued while the machinery is being set. The new shaft is now down four sets of timbers, or twenty feet.

At the Blue Bird, Mr. Wright says, the ore is rapidly increasing in value, and construction work on the sawmill is proceeding satisfactorily.

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