

ANCIENT ART OF MINING

That the knowledge of mining, and especially gold mining, dates back to a time "when the mind of man runneth not to the contrary" is abundantly shown by the constant mention of the subject in the most ancient writings. Among the earliest of these is the reference to Tubal Cain, in the Old Testament, who is styled "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron" This was before the Biblical deluge, and evidently refers to a time of quite advanced metallurgical skill, for they already had gained the knowledge of smelting and of alloys. Alluvial gold mining must have been vastly earlier than this.

Perhaps equally early are the records of the clay tablets found in Nineveh and Babylon, where the kings of the very earliest dates were accustomed to receive tribute of gold and precious stones, etc.

That gold was obtained in India from time immemorial is evidenced by allusions to the metal in the Rig-Veda, probably one of the earliest extant writings of mankind. There are references also in the same poem to jewelry and to drinking and other cups of gold and silver. English companies have reopened with great success some of these old Indian mines.

In South Africa in Matabeleland, many mines were opened by pre-historic races. Some people believe these were the mines of Ophir from which Solomon and the Queen of Sheba drew their stories of the precious metal.

Upon this continent, peoples long passed away, and of whom the present race of Indians has not even a tradition, mined for copper in the Michigan peninsula, while at coeval dates other mines in Mexico quarried obsidian, which when manufactured into arrow or spear heads, was exchanged for the copper of the north. How early this trading was done we may perhaps never know.

Examples need not be multiplied. Mining always has been and always will be man's most necessary occupation. Without it, he would have no tools to carry on other trades and employments. Without it, man (woman, too) would be hard pressed for articles of ornament and ostentation, and the stimulus which gives activity to acquisition—that most needful of inciters to ambition—would be woefully lacking.

Mining has come to stay.—Mining and Engineering Review.

NEW ASSAY OFFICE TO OPEN AT ONCE

Charles Raht, the assayer, who has moved his office from Baker City to Sumpter, has definitely decided to occupy the former location of Juessen & Clarke, in the brick building corner Mill and Granite streets. He will be open for business in a day or so.

Mr. Raht was formerly here in the assay business and is well and favorably known throughout the district. He has rented the Griffin residence on Columbia street and his family will reside in Sumpter.

MINING PAST AND FUTURE

John A. Church, one of the first mining engineers ever graduated from an American institution, has written an extremely interesting article for the Mining Magazine, of New York, entitled Mining Past and Future. Alluding to the history of mining in America, Mr. Church says:

It is only a quarter of a century since the yield of British copper ores was about nine per cent, and of foreign ores smelted in British works about fifteen per cent. America was then a large contributor to the Welsh furnaces; and long before our continent was spanned by railroads, ores, chiefly of copper and silver, were gathered in desert regions, and after a toilsome wagon haul were taken by the most devious waterways, or by a long journey, to a shipping port, and landed in Cornwall, after a trip that in some cases covered from six to nine months.

This was the history of even such a remarkable mine as the Anaconda, and many of us can remember the exhibition of industrial courage with which the owners of that celebrated property proceeded to the erection of their own smelters under conditions of fuel supply and freight that were forbidding.

This is also the history of Butte from the earliest days, when the furnaces turned out a product that was hauled by wagon to Ogden. It is the history of the Copper Queen, situated fifty miles from a railroad and two thousand miles from a market.

The beginnings of the great district at Clifton and Morenci, Arizona, were made when copper was hauled 600 miles in wagons, and when nearly a year was needed to get a four-ton locomotive on the ground. The freight alone on coke delivered at Globe was \$42 a ton.

Frequently the development of the mines has led to the construction of a railroad, and the importance of some of the mines has been a powerful incentive to the building of continental systems.

In view of American interest in the Far East and recent developments in that direction, one statement is rather significant:

We are already reaching out into other countries that afford sea transportation, and I should not be surprised to see the day come when certain great mines which I visited in China will be brought into the American market.

Mr. Church refers in a graphic manner to the relation existing between recent scientific discoveries and the industry of mining:

The wonderful discoveries in chemistry make it almost certain that the miner of the future will be engaged in a search for rare elements and perhaps for some that are still unknown or not fully appreciated. The power of electricity has given us the command of elements which could not be separated except in minute specks twenty-five years ago and it is entirely possible that new alloys with valuable qualities will extend the field of its usefulness. The miner in fact has one eye applied to a telescope, looking for new fields of effort, and the other glued to a microscope, searching for traces of metal, that he may recover from the

slags and gases of his waste products. His work is bound closely with the development of transportation, and indeed with every other industry, so that men who boast a conservatism that rejects investments in mining look with dismay while their bonds fall in value, because there is a strike among distant mines.

SUMPTER IS THE BEST AFTER ALL

Harry Hendryx, of the Geiser Hendryx Investment company, returned today from a business trip to Portland. Mr. Hendryx comes back with renewed faith in the Sumpter district. The first two options taken by the firm on southern Oregon properties have been relinquished, on account of the fact that the mines after due examination did not prove satisfactory. Mr. Hendryx says: "The Sumpter district offers greater inducements, in my opinion, toward mining than any other portion of the state. After considerable experience in the way of examining properties we are willing to stick by this camp unless something better offers than we have yet seen."

Mr. Hendryx says he expects big bunch of people here during the month of September.

THEY CAME, THEY SAW AND THEY WERE CONVINCED

Henry Peck and James Curry, of Wisconsin, made a trip to the Standard with Dr. C. P. Riley and returned this afternoon in time for the Wisconsin gentlemen to catch the train. They go to Portland to look around awhile and from there back home.

They were pleased with the Standard. They went over the whole works and were satisfied that it was a big thing. It was a sort of cold blooded deal with them. They didn't take a great deal of stock in what they had heard, but came to see with their own eyes. They saw, and were not averse when they left to saying that they were intensely interested. The things they saw out there—gold, cobalt, and copper were of a convincing nature.

CYANIDE PLANT FOR THE ALAMO

J. P. McGuigan, manager of the Alamo, returned today from a trip to Spokane, where he conferred with his associates, and went on through to the property.

It has been decided, Mr. McGuigan says, to put on a good development crew and start up the mill in a short time. This will probably take place within the next two weeks. In addition, Mr. McGuigan says, it has been definitely decided to install a thirty ton cyanide plant. Work on this is also to be started at an early day. The mill will need some little remodeling and adjustment, and it is figured that the cyanide plant is all that is needed further to effect a high per cent of saving.

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