

The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
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Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.25

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Death Valley is located in Inyo county, California, near the Nevada border. The name was given by a survivor of a party of immigrants, thirty in number, who in 1849 lost their way and, after enduring frightful suffering, most of them died in the hot sands. It is said that no other such tract of ground is known. It lies from north to south, with a length of about fifty miles and width of thirty-five, and its surface is 210 feet lower than that of the ocean. During August there is less than one-half of one per cent of moisture in the atmosphere. Summer heat rises to 137 degrees F., and 150 has been known; a higher temperature is unknown on the western hemisphere. The valley seen from the summit of Panamint range presents in November a long gray waste of desert, in which there are narrow bands of white, made by thin deposits of borax, and to the south is seen a thin line, the Amargose river, a poor, sluggish stream, dead most of the year, absorption taking it all in a short time. The mineral wealth of Death Valley is doubtless large, but outside of borax nothing else is mined.

In the United States copper is classified in three grades, lake, electrolytic and casting copper, and is sold in the form of ingots, anodes and wire bars. Lake copper, meaning copper from the Lake Superior, Michigan, field, is most pure and tough and for many years has sold at an advance over all other grades. It is well adapted to the making of copper wire. Electrolytic copper is copper electrolytically worked and more of it is sold than of the lake and is now the standard used in market quotations. It is presumed to have not quite the purity of the lake and is therefore considered less durable for electrical uses. Casting copper usually contains impurities that impair its toughness and electric conductivity, these impurities being arsenic, antimony and iron. The very smallest percentage of arsenic in copper spoils the copper for wire making. Casting copper is usually sold in ingots. Lake and electrolytic in ingots, wire bars and anodes. Copper anodes are heavy sheets of the metal used in copper plating by electrolysis.

The Mining Magazine, of New York, publishes an important article by Mr. Frederick Leslie Ransome, of the United States Geological Survey, in which are found some statistics of interest even to those not especially engaged in mining. Among other things Mr. Ransome says:

In the year 1902 the total value of the metalliferous product of the United States was \$624,258,584. Iron is easily first, the output being valued at \$372,775,000. Next in importance comes gold, with a production valued at \$80,000,000, closely followed by copper at \$76,563,954, this value being less than that of the preceding year, although

the tonnage was greater. The value of silver produced in 1902 was \$29,415,000, of lead \$22,140,000, and of zinc \$14,625,596. The United States leads the world in the production of iron, copper and lead.

The United States now furnishes about twenty-eight per cent of the lead of the world and twenty-six per cent of the spelter, besides a considerable amount of zinc oxide.

Over one-third of all the gold mined in the United States comes from the southern division of the Rocky mountains, chiefly from Colorado, which produces more gold than any other state.

Alaska supplies about ten per cent of the total gold output of the United States.

The present year has witnessed a greater number of reorganizations among what may be termed the "popular" mining companies than have occurred for many years in the mining industry, says the New York Commercial. By "popular" mining companies is meant those organizations which since 1898 have been more or less in public favor, and whose flotation was insured largely by the action of the investing public in co-operating with the promoters in organizing the companies. It is a noticeable fact that among a given number of mining flotations a certain percentage is always more popular than the others. This popularity is sometimes due to the unusual opportunity which the investment seems to offer; sometimes it is due to the wide publicity which those in control have given the venture. Sometimes both reasons concur to attract.

Among these so called popular mining companies, whose period of promotion covers from three to five years, about eighty per cent have been obliged to yield to the knife of the reorganizer. This process differs in detail in almost all instances, but the object accomplished is the same. The majority of the reorganizations thus far completed have been the means of adding bond issues to the original liabilities assumed. Others have made sweeping reductions in the amount of outstanding capital stock, with a view of increasing a treasury reserve which, under a former management, may not have been husbanded with solicitous care. The natural result of these various phases of pruning has been to depreciate the market value and price of the stock on the open market.

If the various events which have led up to these difficult times, among the mining companies previously referred to, are analyzed, one will find that incapable management lies at the root of a large majority. To make a mining venture successful a great deal more is necessary than the acquisition of a mine, which on its face seems able to demonstrate its earning capacity. The best of mines have been ruined by improvident management, and by taking for granted contingencies that may or may not follow the predictions made. Frequently the popular companies start out with what may be termed good prospects, which, if results follow as expected, develop into mines. But the hazard in mining, as in other ventures, often disappoints and expected conditions sometimes do not materialize. Mills and expensive milling machinery are often erected long before the ore in sight will justify the expenditure. Again, there is the company formed to operate the mine that has a past record of millions in production.

Here, again, the management often fails to consider the fact that the ore has changed in character and that new appliances will be necessary to operate the property profitably. The result indicates that more conservatism, properly applied at the start, leaving estimates of future earnings for later reckonings, would help bring about a needful reform.

An important electrical discovery was made at Stockton, California, the other day. It has been held heretofore by electricians that it is impossible to synchronize electric currents on the same wire without serious results. This was done, however, when a break occurred in the Standard company's line and the Bay Counties power turned on. The currents met on the wires, and there was no accident, although the heavy load of 55,000 volts was carried. The discovery is said to be of vast moment.

BIG ORDER FROM A CRACKER CREEK MINE

The Sumpter Lumber company's sawmill, which was shut down temporarily on account of the breaking of a shaft, resumed operations yesterday afternoon, the breakage having been repaired.

The company has an order for 150,000 feet of lumber from a well known Cracker Creek mine which it is now working on.

IMPERIAL SHIPPING TO THE SMELTER

The Imperial, recently taken over under lease and bond by McEwen, Arthur & McEwen, made its first shipment to the smelter today. It was seven tons.

The new mill is going full blast and the quality of concentrates is high grade. Manager Fuller, of the smelter, was at the property and expressed himself as highly pleased with the character of the work and the quality of concentrates being turned out.

Beautiful Columbia River Folder.

The passenger department of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company has just issued a beautiful and costly panoramic folder entitled "The Columbia River, Through the Cascade Mountains, to the Pacific Ocean." From Arlington to Portland, and from Portland to the Pacific ocean every curve of the river and every point of interest are shown, while Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount St. Helens, perpetually covered with snow, stand in all their beauty. On the back of the map is an interesting story in detail of the trip from Huntington to Portland and, from Portland to the ocean, not overlooking the beaches and the San Francisco trip by ocean. A copy of this folder may be secured by sending four cents in stamps to pay postage to A. L. Craig, General Passenger agent for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, Portland, Oregon. By sending the address of some friend in the east, and four cents in postage, the folder will be promptly mailed.

The Miner does job printing.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the court house in Baker City for record yesterday:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

August 30.—Jno. Livingston and wife to W. H. Strayer, [100x100 feet on Spring Garden avenue, Baker City; \$700.

March 27, '02—Lee Cassidy and wife to M. J. Hindman, 240 acres in Sec. 12 T. 9 R. 39 E.; \$2500.

August 2—Mary J. Jenkins to Surbeck Brothers, lot 5 block 99 Parker's addition to Baker City; \$890.

August 26—H. C. Bowers and wife to D. L. Wyatt, lots 10 and 11 block 3 Heilner's addition to Baker City; \$1.

August 26—W. N. Bayliss to M. J. Hindman and wife, lots 3 and 11 Warren Heights addition to Sumpter; \$127.

April 14—J. N. Holcomb and wife to Leonard Goss; 85 acres in Sec. 11 T. 9 R. 45 E.; \$3,000.

Dec. 14—E. B. McDaniel to W. J. Patterson 440 acres in Sec. 27, 33 and 34 T. 9 R. 39 E.; \$1.

Sept. 1—Jno. N. Geisler and wife to R. N. Graves, lot 12 block 3 Sumpter Heights; \$300.

May 12—Isaac T. Bowman and wife to V. Robertson, et al, 120 acres in Secs. 1 and 2 T. 7 R. 41 E.; \$6,000.

August 31—Alpha Salle to S. A. Pilkey, lot 7 block 3 Sunnyside, Sumpter; \$500.

MINING MATTER.

DEEDS.

August 16—Jas. A. Wright and wife to H. P. Mills, M. and E. quartz claim; \$300.

August 26—A. F. Garrison to J. W. Bolland, et al, Accidental No. 1 and 2 quartz claims; \$400.

Jan. 29—Guy E. Pierson to P. A. Nelson, Yankee Girl 3 quartz claims; \$250.

May 17—Pierce Gold Mining company to Eklhorn Consolidated Gold Mines company, Klondike and other claims; \$33,000.

August 27—C. G. Green and wife to L. L. Carter, 1/2 interest in White Cloud and 6 mining claims; \$1,200.

Gold Coin Compressor Plant.

J. M. Doyle, superintendent of the Gold Coin in the Cracker Creek district, was down today for supplies and things. The compressor plant at the property has been practically completed, and will be ready for work in a few days. It is a six drill plant, though only two or three will be used for the present.

Eastern Oregon Enterprise.

Three pounds of ore was the total of eastern Oregon's mineral exhibit at the American Mining congress in Portland. And the chances are that this much was taken from Grant and claimed by Baker. In the meantime, it is confidently expected that capitalists will soon be falling over one another to invest in a country so prolific.—Grant County News.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

The co-partnership heretofore existing between R. Philliber and Wm. L. Palmer, under the firm name and style of Philliber & Palmer, doing business as butchers at Geiser, Baker County, Oregon, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, Wm. L. Palmer retiring therefrom. All accounts due to the said firm of Philliber & Palmer are payable to the said R. Philliber, who retains the said business at Greenhorn, Oregon. Dated at Geiser, Oregon, July 26, 1904. PHILLIBER & PALMER, R. PHILLIBER, Wm. L. PALMER.