

PRODUCTION AND USE OF GYPSUM

One chapter in the volume "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1903," which the United States Geological Survey will soon bring out, is entitled "The Production of Gypsum in 1903." In this it will appear that the gypsum industry has made considerable advance during recent years. The total production for 1903 is given as 1,041,704 short tons, valued at \$3,792,943, as against 816,478 short tons, valued at \$208,933,341, which was the output for 1902. The production of gypsum is reported as crude gypsum, land plaster, plaster of Paris, and wall plaster, according to the condition in which the gypsum first reaches the market. The figure given as that of the total production is, therefore, an estimate arrived at by computing the whole output as crude gypsum. The total value given is that of the product in its different forms as it reaches a market.

The advance in the use of gypsum has resulted mainly from the increased use of gypsum plastered all in modern buildings. Much of the gypsum sold as plaster of Paris is subsequently manufactured into wall plaster by local firms. About 3,000 tons are annually utilized in bedding plate glass during the process of grinding and polishing. The production of land plaster is confined to certain of the eastern states, where it is used as a fertilizer, and to a few localities in the West, where it is employed in neutralizing "black alkali." The gypsum which is sold crude is in large part ground locally and utilized as land plaster. Some of it enters, as a small percentage, into the composition of certain Portland cements.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of crude gypsum calcined to the total crude production rose from eighty per cent in 1901 to about eighty-three per cent in 1902 and to about eighty-six per cent in 1903, but the total calcined production in 1903 was more than the total crude production of 1901 by about 108,000 tons. It is also worthy of note that the value per ton of the calcined gypsum rose from \$3.31 in 1901 to \$4.77 in 1903.

That part of the report which takes up the production by states contains many interesting facts regarding the occurrence of our gypsum deposits. The gypsum industry is carried on commercially in twenty-two states and territories, which, named in the order of their importance as producers, are Michigan, New York, Iowa, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas, Virginia, California, South Dakota, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, and New Mexico. The five other states concerned in the industry do not produce gypsum, but contain large plants to which the raw material is shipped and at which it is converted into wall plaster and plaster of Paris.

The new developments are principally in the West. An attempt has been made to govern the industry in a large section of the country by the organization of the United States Gypsum company, which controls the greater portion of the deposits in Iowa, and in part also those which have been developed in Kansas, Michigan, New York, Oklahoma, and Ohio. Probably the latest discovery

of gypsum is a deposit in Florida, observed near Lake Panasoffkee. It occurs in a low-lying area of hummock land known as Bear Island. Two pits sunken through it have shown it to be from six to seven feet thick.

Gypsum to the value of \$467,597 was imported into the United States during 1903. It came chiefly from Nova Scotia and entered the ports of the New England and northern Atlantic states. A considerable amount has been received at San Francisco from Mexico in previous years, but none was imported from there in 1902 and 1903. The United States is the second country in the world in the production of gypsum, yielding precedence only to France. Canada is third, Great Britain fourth, and Germany fifth.

THREE BEAR HUNTERS' HOUND ON A HOT TRAIL

Harley Wood, Charley Starr and Tony Mohr's hound dog will depart tomorrow morning for the forest fastnesses contiguous and adjacent to as well as surrounding the Ibex mine.

The party therein and thereupon will murder one certain baldface bear whose presence in the region described was made known to Harley, Charley and the hound dog Sunday morning by a special runner from the hills, who told of discovering a bear track as big as a boiler-lid and other unmistakable "bar" signs.

Harley, Charley and the dog will go armed with a double barreled crosscut saw, a sack of salt and a repeating cannon. The hound dog is today being starved to make him ferocious.

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. Acopy 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.

Don't Go to St. Louis

'Till you call at or write to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. Office 134 Third Street, Portland, Oregon. Low rates to all points East, in connection with all transcontinentals.

W. S. ROWE, General Agent., Portland, Oregon.

General Traffic Agent Joseph Barton, of the Sumpter Valley railway, passed through Sumpter on the early train, en route to Tipton, where he will supervise the erection of a new depot building.

DIDN'T JUMP A MILL SITE

Because McEwen, Arthur & McEwen, lessees and bonders of the Imperial mine, erected their milling plant, not on the Imperial group, but on an adjoining claim known as the Miner, there was a whole lot of threatened trouble up in Cable Cove last week. The selection of a mill site was made without exact knowledge as to the boundaries of the Imperial, so that no harm was meant. When the discovery was made that the enterprising Sumpterites had unwittingly transgressed the law relating to trespass, Captain A. M. Paul, owner of the Imperial, was dispatched as emissary extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Pendleton, to explain to the owner of the Miner claim that everybody at this end of the line stood ready to do the right thing.

Captain Paul's mission resulted in him securing from the Pendletonians a bond and lease on the claim in question at a figure satisfactory to all parties concerned.

The Imperial mill is pounding along steadily, effecting, it is officially announced, the best saving of values in the camp.

Two Hustlers Home.

E. F. Warner and John Phillips arrived in Sumpter today from Milwaukee, where they are in charge of a branch office of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company of which they are active members. Their mission here at this particular time is largely one of inspection. The Killen, Warner, Stewart company has successfully promoted a number of big eastern Oregon mining properties. Their latest success is the Standard, and they are now engaged in reviving the rich Morning mine from the lethargy of litigation. Both Mr. Warner and Mr. Phillips have been busy all day greeting their host of Sumpter friends.

Whittier's Latest and Best.

A. D. Whittier calls his latest study in clay "Pinched Out." An old bald headed, weather beaten prospector sits on the collar of his shaft, his feet resting on the dump, hands crossed on his lap, his face the personified picture of despair. This is unquestionably Mr. Whittier's most artistic production. It was

done on an order from General Manager Fuller, of the smelter, though the conception is the artist's own. He says his idea was to inspire Mr. Fuller with benevolence, so that when a poor devil of a prospector hauls in a wagon load of ore, to give him a little more than all that is coming.

SPECIAL EXCURSIONS TO ST. LOUIS

August 8, 9 and 10, September 5, 6 and 7 and October 3, 4 and 5 are the remaining dates upon which tickets will be sold at the reduced rates to the St. Louis fair. These rates apply over the Denver & Rio Grande and Missouri Pacific. For the patrons of these roads special excursion cars will be run through from Portland to St. Louis without change. See the many points of interest about the Mormon capital and take a ride through nature's picture gallery. During the closing months travel to the fair will be very heavy. If you contemplate going write W. C. McBride, general agent at Portland, of the Denver and Rio Grande, for particulars of these excursions.

DAILY MINER AS A BILL COLLECTOR

Some days since E. Norton instituted a civil suit in Judge Allen's court against W. Cecil, postmaster at Tipton, for wages due for work on the postoffice building there, alleging that the defendant claimed that around him was thrown the strong, protecting arm of the national government and that he was thus rendered immune from civil suits. But the plaintiff and the justice wouldn't have it that way.

Before the complaint was served, however, Postmaster Cecil saw the story in The Miner about his defense; telephoned to Judge Allen to learn if the facts stated were on the square, if it were really true that he had the brazen effrontery to institute proceedings against a federal official, and on learning it to be a fact that he was up against it, asked what the whole amount of the damages amounted to and said he would remit. The next day a check for the amount claimed and costs arrived.

Hotel Sumpter.

Meals 15 cents and up; bottle Baker City beer 5 cents per glass; good rooms 50 cents.

The Miner does job printing.

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 St., Portland, Oregon.