

The Sumpter Miner

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An Australian mine operator who is touring the world for the purpose of studying various mining and reduction customs and methods, now in Butte, Montana, talks most entertainingly of mining laws and conditions in his home country. He says:

"In western Australia there are government stamping mills where ore is crushed at nominal prices, and where prospectors, beginning with practically nothing, have become wealthy mine owners. More than 200,000 tons of quartz were crushed last year in these mills. In the Phillips river district the government has made advances on ore and put in a government smelter, which in no sense is a rival of private industries. There are government stamping mills and cyanide works in southern Australia. In the central portion of the country there is a government mine which was sunk for the purpose of showing that the district is rich in minerals in the hope that prospectors would be encouraged to enter and improve the land.

"The eight-hour law is universal in Australia, and no work is done on Sundays or holidays, excepting in the smelters. In the stamping mills and in the mines there are about 300 working days in the year. All holidays fall on Monday, and in this way permitting the worker to have from noon on Saturday until Tuesday morning for recreation, thus allowing him time to go into the country if he wishes to do so.

"Wages vary in the different states. In western Australia the miners get \$3.50 a day, furnace men, \$2.92, carpenters, bricklayers and engine men \$4. Particularly high salaries are paid to managers and metallurgists, probably the highest in the world. In Victoria and New South Wales the living expenses are very low and the men get \$1.50 to \$1.75 a day as common laborers. Carpenters, bricklayers and engine men get \$2.50. The scale is fixed by the unions and approved by the government.

"In Victoria the government not only assists in equipping prospectors but makes advances to mine owners on the security of the land. In New South Wales the government assists the prospector by paying him dollar for dollar—paying him one-half wages for working his own claim.

"The mining property bill in Australia provides that if a man has mineral under his land and does not work it, another may secure from the government the mineral right of the land. When he is through working it, the rights revert to the original owner. If a man wishes to work the minerals under his own land he may, of course, do so. There is room for improvement in this respect in this country. Not two per cent of the patent lodes from Mexico to Oregon are worked, and through that district there are decaying cities which would be prosperous and progressive if it were not for the tying up of claims through patents. I think the time will come

when the same rule will be adopted in this country as now prevails in Australia."

Before Federal Judge Beatty in Boise during the past few days there has been on trial the case of the United States versus the Shaw Lumber company, for the recovery of \$155,000, the estimated value of timber alleged to have been cut from the public domain. The case hinged on the question of the character of certain lands, whether or not they are "mineral." In his charge to the jury, the judge said:

"I instruct you upon this important question as follows: That the law includes as mineral land not only those tracts in which mineral has been actually discovered, and which has been claimed and located as mining claims, but also all other lands lying in reasonably close proximity to or in the general neighborhood of such mining claims, and all such neighboring lands, even if mineral has not actually been discovered therein. * * *

"I feel satisfied in saying that ground containing only a trace of mineral, a color, or containing it in such small quantities that a miner would not expect it to ever prove profitable, cannot be held to be mineral. But when it contains sufficient mineral to encourage the miner to claim and locate it in good faith as mining ground, and work and develop it with a reasonable expectation of finding mineral in paying quantities, even if it never proves profitable, is, within the law, mineral land."

The world's commerce of the latest year from which statistics are available is given in the recently issued annual report of the chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. It shows the total reports of all nations of the world to be, in the latest year available, \$10,515,000,000, and the value of the total imports of all nations, \$11,809,000,000. This would give the total value of the world's imports and exports combined as \$22,324,000,000, but since all articles which were counted as exports became in turn imports when they entered the country of destination, it would appear that the actual value of the articles entering into international commerce is, in round terms, \$11,000,000,000.

The chief of the bureau of statistics also estimates the value of the articles forming the internal commerce of the United States, counting only a single transaction for each article, at about \$22,000,000,000 in a single year. While it has been customary to speak of the internal commerce of the United States as equal to the international commerce of the world, it appears from this statement that the actual value of the merchandise entering into the internal commerce of the United States is practically twice as great as that entering the international commerce of the world.

It is not pessimism to tell the truth, however dark and disagreeable the statement may be. The following from the Mining and Engineering Review, for instance, hits the bull's eye of accuracy, though it is a frightful fact to contemplate:

"In other times and other countries men were as dishonest as men are in this age and country. But in former times that portion of mankind who preferred to prey on their fellow men rather than to toil, were

compelled to take to the highway, to sail under the black flag of piracy or to burglarize the homes of honest citizens by the aid of the midnight "glim." But in those days such thieves were outlawed and branded as robbers and pirates. Their prototypes in this age of enlightenment are known as "captains of industry" or apostles of high finance, who have studied the intricacies of the law and who have remained within its bounds, until they have amassed sufficient wealth to purchase legislatures and defile and debase judicial benches. Then they can defy the law and control the very functions of government, for no man would dare to aspire for judicial or presidential honors in the United States in this year of Christianity, 1904, unless endorsed openly or secretly by the powers behind the banks, so that this anomalous proposition is presented to the people by the trusts: 'Vote whatever way you please, the electoral ballot is sacred and this is a government by the people; but whoever you elect, we win.'"

A close analysis of the present copper market says an expert on the subject, reveals an unusual state of affairs, and even the most conservative regard the outlook as favorable. The present enormous demand for copper for foreign consumption, added to the domestic demand, which during the past four weeks has commenced to assert itself, shows that there is not copper enough being produced in the United States to meet the present activity. In fact, if it had not been for the influence exercised by the leading metal selling agencies in this city to underrate the present movement, copper would be selling higher than it is now. Heretofore when a strong demand for the metal has developed and reserve stocks were small, selling agencies have been prone to encourage buying, with the result that a rapid advance was readily secured. At the present time, however, actual demand has controlled the market, and there seems to have been a total absence of any fictitious advance.

September reports of the Tacoma smelter show imports of ore amounting to a valuation of \$208,827.35; merchandise, \$2,295. Exports in the form of furnace products amounted to \$334,862.39. The company is now at work figuring out a plan by which it can save the mineral that is lost in the smoke from the huge chimneys. Some \$20,000 a month is said to be lost in this way besides, the residents living near the smelter complain to the city about this mineralized smoke killing all of the green trees and shrubbery. The company expects to filter the smoke, so as to catch and save the mineral and do away with the nuisance complained of, at the same time.

The name "orange" is from the Latin aurum, meaning gold, or of golden color. The fruit was originally a bitter berry about the size of a common cherry and very seedy. The work of man has so far improved on nature that the delicious fruit of the present day has been evolved.

It is rumored that a new compound metal has been made which will take the place of copper and can be produced at one-tenth the cost, and an offer of over one million dollars for the patent has been received.

In the statement of the treasurer and secretary of state, it appears that more than \$110,000 has been received under the Eddy law, of which something like \$94,000 was from the annual license, and the remainder for the initial tax. The latter has fallen off materially, as nearly all companies desiring to incorporate with a high capital stock, have been organized under the laws of other states. There are about 400 corporations that have not reported to the state officials, and it is believed that several of these contemplate making a fight when an effort is made by the state to collect tax, or drive them out of business.

Reports from New York and Salt Lake are to the effect that the Gould-Rockefeller clique has secured control of the Union Pacific.

Idaho is credited with a total gold production of \$400,000,000. Oregon, according to the official returns, trails along far in the rear with only about \$165,000,000.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

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

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

July 20—Henry Stoddard to Ethel M. Stoddard, Home place (65x100 feet) Valley and 4th streets Baker City; \$760.

Aug. 6—J. H. Robbins and J. W. Scriber and wives to Wilson Investment company, E. 25 feet lot 6 block 2 Sumpter; \$1,750.

Oct. 10—P. J. Brown and wife to Chas. McKinney, 100x100 feet in Campbell tract in Sec. 16 T. 9 R. 40 E.; Baker City; \$200.

Oct. 11—J. H. and C. A. Early to Mary E. Scott N. W. ¼ Sec. 5. T. 10 R. 38.; \$1,500.

Oct. 4—N. J. Nelson estate to D. W. C. Nelson, 100 acres in Secs. 4 and 5 T. 9 R. 39 E.; \$600.

Sept. 10—M. Hoff and wife to Minnie Craven, 100x200 feet in Block 37 Pacific addition to Baker City; \$1.

Oct. 1—Birdie Kusk and husband to Fred Link, north 28 feet lot 14 block 2 Bourne; \$50.

Sept. 16—J. P. Lucads and wife to S. Osborn, E. ½ Sec. 23 W. ½ Sec. 24 T. 8 R. 38 E.; \$6,000.

Sept. 7—A. A. Denny, et al, to Geo. Wilkins, lot 2 block 6 Brattain & McComas addition to Baker City; \$160.

MINING MATTER.

DEEDS.

Oct. 14—Wm. H. Molden to German American State bank, trustee, ½ interest Morning Glory and 4 other quartz claims; \$1,250.

Oct. 1—Henry Graves to W. F. Kippen, Great American quartz claim 2 years; \$20,000.

Oct. 1—W. H. Gleason, et al, to W. F. Kippen, Crown group quartz claims; \$65,000.

Oct. 13—Thos. Downie, et al, to J. F. Dickson, ½ Mary Agnes Consolidated quartz claim; \$1.

May 1—Eugene Bartholf and wife to L. N. Cook, Eureka quartz claim; \$30.

Sept. 10—C. B. Neal, et al, to Oregon Smelting & Refining company Lime Kill placer claim; \$1.

Seven tons of ore from the Clough property, on Paddy's creek, in the Panhandle, were recently run through an arrastra and yielded \$40 per ton.