

MINERALS FOUND IN THE CASCADES

In a recent publication of the United States Geological Survey, called "A geological reconnaissance across the Cascade Range near the forty-ninth parallel," George Otis Smith and Frank C. Calkins give some interesting details regarding the mineral resources of that part of the state of Washington. This reconnaissance was made in connection with an inspection of the northwest boundary line, undertaken at the request of the Secretary of state.

Okanogan valley has been the scene of mining operations for a considerable period. The search for placer gold dates back to the time of the original survey of the boundary, when coarse gold was found on the Similkameen, immediately south of the forty-ninth parallel, in quantities that caused great excitement. In later years development work has been carried on to a considerable extent in the old quartz mines, although there was less activity in 1901, the year when Messrs. Smith and Calkins visited the district, than a few years before. The Palmer Mountain tunnel, near Loomis, had been driven for several thousand feet into greenstone, and had cut twenty-eight veins. The country rock is granite and the vein material quartz and pyrite, with free-milling gold, except where galena occurs in association. The highest value in these lead ores is \$1, but the average gold value is reported as about \$25, with silver never exceeding four ounces.

In the Okanogan mountains, from Mount Chopaka west to Pasayten river and along the higher part of the Hozomeen range, the country in the vicinity of the forty-ninth parallel appears to be barren of ore deposits. In the lower valley of Pasayten river the alluvial gravels were thoroughly test-pitted many years ago without promising results. In the vicinity of Barron, as well as below, on Slate and Ruby creeks there have been mining operations. Several mines were worked at Barron, and prospectors are active throughout the Slate Creek district. Recently, hydraulic mining on a large scale was attempted at the mouth of Ruy creek, where placers once yielded rich returns to the miners, but that extensive plant, which includes a long and expensive flume, has proved a failure. Prospecting has been done on the upper Skagit in the vicinity of Lightning creek, but no success has been reported.

The Mount Baker district is a more promising field for investigation. Some veins of free-milling gold have been found and partly developed. The first find of importance in this district was made as late as 1897, and the mine that was developed in consequence is the only one that could be said to be upon a producing basis in 1901. This is the Lone Jack, one of the Post-Lambert group of claims, on the eastern slope of Bear Mountain and near the head of the west fork of Silicia, or Slesse, creek. The vein is four to five feet of clear-looking, solid quartz, and the ore, which occurs throughout the vein, is both free gold and telluride. It was reported as averaging \$25 to \$30 to the ton.

Another type of ore deposit is at the Graud Excelsior mine, on Wells

creek, about one mile northeast of the bridge over the Nooksak. Sulphides occur here scattered through an irregular rock that appears to be near the surface and approximately parallel with the slope.

Productive coal mines are found in the extreme northwest part of Washington at Cokedale and at Blue Canyon. In Skagit valley, near Hamilton, there are also coal prospects, in beds, but no development has been accomplished at that locality. None of these localities was visited in the course of this reconnaissance, and of others that were visited none appears sufficiently encouraging to warrant development. Among them was a prospect in the Swauk formation in the hills southwest of Wenatchee. It is noteworthy that the important coal measures, in the Cascade mountains southwest of this locality, are not in the Swauk formation, but in the younger Roslyn formation. Three coal prospects in the vicinity of the international boundary that were visited are briefly described.

The bulletin (No. 235) is published for gratuitous distribution and may be obtained on application to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

OREGON MONARCH RESUMPTION CONTINGENT ON THE RED BOY'S

Consulting Engineer Nicholson, of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, who returned yesterday from the Morning mine, will leave tomorrow for the Oregon-Monarch at Granite to measure contract work and outline plans for a winter's development. He will be accompanied by ex-Superintendent Tom Moffat.

Active resumption of operations at the Oregon-Monarch are contingent largely upon the opening of the Red Boy, as Professor Nicholson hopes to be able to buy electric power from the Red Boy for the operation of machine drills, and thus save the cost of installing a power plant.

Supplies for Nine Strike Extension.

General Manager Anthony Mohr, of the Wisconsin, this morning sent up to the company's mines on Little Cacker creek, an ore car and a wagon load of steel rails. Superintendent Jack Stonehocker is rushing work on the crosscut tunnel, which has passed through a strata of wash and has entered solid ground.

Eastern Capitalists Here.

There arrived on the morning train C. D. Starr, W. A. Crompton, Dr. G. R. Drew, and Dr. Justin Boyce, of Providence, Rhode Island. The gentlemen are stockholders in the Blue Bird and Black Butte Mining companies, and have come out to inspect the properties. Accompanied by General Manager O. C. Wright, they will leave tomorrow for the former, and from there to the latter. This afternoon they are looking over the smelter.

Looks Good at the Gem.

H. T. Hendryx is home from the Gem mine at Sparta, in the Panhandle. He says everything is lovely at the old producer; that Al Geiser is on the ground; that the mill is running day and night, and that the output is eminently satisfactory. He says there will be nothing doing in Golconda affairs until January 4. He was accompanied on his return by Mrs. Hendryx.

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C. M. Foster, accompanied by Attorney F. M. More, of Baker City, passed through Sumpter yesterday, on their way home from the Greenhorns, where they made a survey and gathered evidence for a pending lawsuit, involving title to a well known mine.

J. W. Messner, general manager of the Indiana copper mine, near Medical Springs, east of Baker, is in Sumpter today on business connected with the smelter. Mr. Messner is also manager of the Prairie Digging mine, in Grant county, a recent heavy shipper of concentrates to the Sumpter smelter.