

BUMPER ORE SHIPMENTS FROM THE IMPERIAL MINE

Rich Cable Cove Producer Breaks All Records Both as to Tonnage and Value.

During the week ending yesterday the Imperial mine made a series of bumper shipments to the Sumpter smelter. All previous records were broken, both as to tonnage and value. Ore from the main Imperial shoot, opened in a winze, and measuring two feet and nine inches in width, was the product which resulted in pleasing not only the mine management but the smelter as well. General Manager A. L. McEwen, of the newly incorporated Imperial Mines company, limited, of Detroit, to

whose hands the Imperial group of mines recently passed, was in Sumpter yesterday, checking up with Superintendent J. G. Kirshen, of the smelter. It is learned that the check given by the smelter management to Mr. McEwen was the largest yet recorded in the history of local ore purchases.

To a Miner reporter Mr. McEwen said:

"The Imperial never looked better, and the value of recent shipments has been the greatest on record in Sumpter's history."

PRODUCTION OF QUICKSILVER

California, Texas and Nevada are the only states in the Union that produced quicksilver during the year 1903. California mines yielded 30,526 flasks, worth \$1,330,916. The production of quicksilver in Texas amounted to 5,029 flasks, valued at \$211,218. Nevada could claim only 65 flasks as the year's output. The total production for the three states was 35,620 flasks of 76 1/2 pounds each, valued at \$1,544,934. This was an increase in quantity of 132 flasks, and in value of \$77,086, as compared with the 34,291 flasks, valued at \$1,467,848, which constituted the production of 1902.

A notable incident during the year was the publication by Prof. William B. Phillips, director of the University of Texas Mineral Survey, of a carefully prepared statement in regard to considerable extensions of the area in Texas where quicksilver is found. It is evident that quicksilver mining in Texas should increase for several years before reaching the maximum.

The average price for quicksilver, per flask, in San Francisco during the year 1903, was \$45.20. During each of the last ten years the amount of quicksilver imported to the country has been small. The quantity imported during 1903 had a value of \$1,065. The quicksilver exported during 1903 amounted to 17,577 flasks, valued at \$719,119, of which 10,722 flasks, worth \$446,845 were shipped from the port of San Francisco.

The above figures are taken from a brief report on the production of quicksilver in 1903, which is embodied in the volume entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1903," published by the United States Geological Survey. The report is also published in pamphlet

form and may be obtained free of charge from the director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

PLATINUM IS AN OREGON PRODUCT

The people of the United States need to look abroad for none of life's necessities. Luxuries, such as ivory billiard balls, sealskin saques, and spiced cakes, which can only be acquired through intercourse with distant nations, all merely to the gaiety of life, not to its vigor. There are, however, some valuable natural resources of which our country has only a limited supply—just enough to make all good citizens wish there were more. One of these is platinum. The world's production of that useful metal ranges annually between 160,000 and 170,000 troy ounces, but the production of platinum in the United States in '03 was only 110 oz., (worth \$2,080), and even that was 16 ounces more than the output of the previous year. Russia is the fortunate country which produces about 90 per cent of the world's platinum. The remainder comes mainly from Columbia, South America.

During the year 1903, the center of interest in platinum mining in the United States shifted from Shasta and Trinity counties, California, to southern Oregon. There, in the neighborhood of Grant's Pass and Kerby, platinum and iridosium are found in the placer gold. Associated with the platinum and gold is another heavy mineral called josephinite, which is a natural alloy of iron and nickel. It also has proven commercially profitable.

The production of 110 ounces of platinum sand does not include the platinum contained in the copper ores of the Rambler mine, Wyoming. It is interesting to note that 6,000 worth of platinum was obtained in

1903 in the form of slimes in the treatment of the copper ore and matte from this region.

The imports of platinum during 1903 show how inadequate is our home production. The total value of imports amounted to \$2,055,933, which were distributed as follows: Unmanufactured, 1426 pounds (\$328,103); ingots, bars, sheets and wire, 6,308 pounds (\$1,591,941); vases, retorts, and other apparatus, vessels and parts thereof for chemical uses, \$128,890; articles manufactured of platinum, \$6,999.

The price of pure platinum in wholesale quantities at New York continued during the whole of 1903, as during the last seven months of 1902, at \$19 an ounce.

The above figures are taken from a report on the production of platinum in 1903, which is included in the Survey's forthcoming volume "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1903."

INTERESTING MINING TAX CASES IN COURT

A perplexing problem is to be decided by the District court at Cripple Creek, involving the continuance or dismissal of the temporary injunction which has been secured by some 200 mining companies operating in the district, to prevent the sale of their properties for non-payment of taxes. The validity of the judgments secured for the non-payment of taxes has already been passed upon by the Supreme court of the state and the suits were thrown out of court for want of jurisdiction.

The taxes in dispute are those that were levied for the years 1900 and 1901 by the assessor of Teller county.

In many cases the taxes were more than 100 times as great for 1900, under that assessment, as they were for 1899. It is alleged that non-producing ground was assessed at from \$100 to \$1,500 per acre, while producing properties were valued at from \$25 to \$200 per acre. A few of the companies which were originally interested in the matter paid the tax, but by far the greater number have not, and a majority of those are still unable to raise the money and are without any relief whatever.

The matter was originally brought to the attention of Judge Seeds in the district court of Cripple Creek, the petition being in behalf of the companies and protesting against the taxes of 1900 and 1901. Judge Seeds decided against the companies. The case went to the Supreme court and was dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

Another case, based on the assessment for 1902 and almost identical in its legal propositions, was taken before Judge Lewis in the District court and was decided in favor of the companies. This, in turn, is being appealed to the Supreme court by the county, but it is believed will be thrown out for want of jurisdiction, as the case of the companies was.

THEY DIG FOR WOOD AND CLIMB FOR WATER

In the semi-arid regions of northern Mexico and southwestern United States, a place where it is said they "dig for wood and climb for water," the natives resort to certain divinations to locate water, which remind

us not a little of the days when the only mining engineer who told his secrets for pay was one who carried a divining rod or a forked twig instead of, as now, a college diploma. A Mexican authority asserts that these tests "are even more certain than the witch hazel switch." The following are some of the tests:

Where it is suspected that water may be found in a well of reasonable depth, extend a sheep's pelt with the wool up. In the middle place a fresh egg. Cover by an earthen jar glazed inside when the earth is perfectly dry and the day warm, clear and without wind. At sunrise on the next day, lift the jar, and if the egg and the wool near it are covered with dew, water will be found at a slight depth. If the egg is dry and the wool damp, water will be found at a greater depth, but if there is no dew either on the egg or on the wool there is no water to be found in that vicinity. Another recipe is: Grind sixty grains of quick lime and mix it with an equal quantity of paris green and sulphur. Put the mixture in a new jar with twenty grams of unwashed wool. The mouth of the jar should be sealed with an earthenware stopper of the same material as the jar itself. Then weigh it and when the atmosphere is perfectly dry, bury it about eight inches below the surface of the ground and cover it up, beating down the earth. Dig up the jar twenty-four hours afterward and weigh it. If the weight has increased in the meantime, water may be found by digging, but if it weighs less there is no water in the vicinity.

All of which is very important if true.—Mining World.

THE VINSON RAILWAY.

Word comes from Baker City that W. L. Vinson and associates are pressing the preliminary work for the construction of the railroad from that city to Eagle valley. A number of eastern capitalists are interested in this road. They are experienced railroad men connected with the New York Central railroad. They have gone over the proposed route, and are satisfied that the local traffic which the road will get from Eagle and Pine valleys will make it a paying investment, not counting the increase in business which will naturally follow by reason of the rapid development of the country with the completion of the road.

One of the most important features connected with the building of this road will be opening to the world the famous Cornucopia mining district, which has lain dormant for the past fifteen years for want of railroad transportation.

The promoters of this new road hope to be able to begin construction work within the next sixty days. A large portion of the grading can be done this winter, as it is through a section of country where cold weather will not be a hindrance to the work.

Consulting Engineer H. H. Nicholson, of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, accompanied by Superintendent Tom Moffat, drove out to the Oregon Monarch mine, near Granite today, and will return tomorrow. Professor Nicholson will measure up contract work and arrange for further work on the long crosscut tunnel, started when J. H. Robb was general manager of the mine. The Black Jack, an adjoining mine, another Killen, Warner, Stewart promotion, where steady development with flattering result is in progress, will also be visited.