

ANOTHER PICTURE OF PROSPECTOR

Here he comes, with his overalls or corduroys well marked with gouge or grease, usually both. His whiskers are ragged and he has a hungry physiognomy. Listen to his tale of riches to be acquired if only the hole could be sunk deeper. Who is the cuss? Sometimes he is an individual who could resurrect a sheepskin issued by Mr. Elliot of Harvard. Oftener he is a plain American citizen with little schooling, but versed in the lore of individual contract and being up against it.

Nutty? Not much—only born with the pioneer instinct—the wandering foot—the ear which hears only the call of the wild. Many of them? Si, Senor; many. Every boy who backs his name on a fence with a jack-knife is a relative of Daniel Boone, the same who in his Kentucky cave cut "D. B." on the rock wall of his refuge from savages, there to be read with wistful feelings by those who now dwell in fair Kentucky.

The prospector is always a liar. He cannot help it. The bright sun shine reflects from the snow masses which cover his beloved rocks, the vast stretches of mountain ranges, looking like a frozen ocean spread before him as he gazes from a star-striking peak, the vivid sunsets which he admires almost daily, the exaggerations of the atmosphere, his natural exuberance and abnormal bump of hope—all these make him a liar even with himself.

Blessed be the prospector; and may he, when his days are numbered, depart to a realm where every rift in the clouds discloses to his fascinated eye a pay streak of gold, and may he at least depart to a place where there are plenty of canned Boston baked beans, and a sufficiency of baking powder, saw bosom and flour, for the prospector is the man who funds the mines that furnish the gold for the world to do business on. Curse him not, ye infidels.—Custer, Colorado, Guidon.

Deep Mining in Cripple Creek.

To predict the future yield of any mining district is a difficult task because the conditions under which most ores are deposited are as yet too imperfectly understood, and the deposit themselves are usually too erratic in form and distribution to give certainty to such predictions, even when they are based upon a careful study of the history and present condition of the district. It is agreed by practical mining men that only actual work underground can definitely determine what there is in the way of mineral bodies. In Chippin county, Colorado, it was declared at one time that 1,000 feet from the surface was the limit of the paying zones, yet in the California mine, the shaft was sunk more than twice that depth without discovering any material diminution, either in quantity or quality of the mineral. At Cripple Creek, the deepest shaft is on the American Eagle at 1,500 feet. The Bluebeard is almost that deep and the Last Dollar over 1,200 feet deep, all without essential change of ore. At 1,100 feet in the Gold Coin the ore is stronger and better than it was above. It is true that operators have thus far confined their work to the zones above 1,000 feet,

but this is due to abundance of water, and not to scarcity of ore. There is an immense amount of good ore above the present water level, sufficient to last for many years, and it would have been manifest foolishness to continue costly operations at depth when there was plenty to be done with much larger margin of profit. The men who are most familiar with the district are so confident in the continuance of the ore bodies that they are planning to cut them at depths of 1,500 to 2,500 feet. This work is being planned and undertaken, not by visionaries, but by men of practical mining experience, who are using their own resources to back their convictions.—Mining Investor.

MINERAL PRODUCTS IN UNITED STATES

The United States geological survey division of the Department of the Interior, has, under the direction of David T. Daly, chief of the division, and by authority of Hon. Charles D. Wadlott, director of the mint, compiled and issued an elaborate tabulated statement, showing the mineral products of the United States for the calendar years 1894 to 1903, inclusive, with a capitulation showing the total value of mineral products since 1880. The metallic products, such as iron, silver, gold, copper, lead, etc., for 1894 were \$218,382,449. During the succeeding seven years the increase was gradual, until the production in 1903 reached \$624,318,008. Oddly enough, there was no metallic tin produced in this country during the period named, except 20 short tons of concentrates shipped from South Carolina in 1903. The non-metallic products, such as coal, clay, abrasive materials, pigments, etc., amounted to \$527,097,279 in 1894, with a phenomenal rate of increase until in 1903, during which year the total was \$1,419,721,569.

The gold production during this period was \$39,500,000 in 1894 and \$73,591,700 in 1903, the rate of yearly increase being almost mathematically exact.

The total value of mineral products, metallic and non-metallic and unspecified, was in 1880, \$369,319,900. This increase was gradual until 1892, during which year production dropped nearly ninety millions below the output of the previous year.

The total product for the last quarter of a century has been \$10,095,489,278.

BLACK BUTTE MILL IS RUNNING AGAIN

M. Dexter, engineer of the Black Butte company, received word Saturday to report for duty at once, as milling has been resumed. The clean-up was said to have been the best yet made.—Grant County News.

General Manager O. C. Wright, who recently returned to his headquarters in Sumpter from a visit to the Black Butte mine, confirms the above news. He says that cold weather necessitated a short shut down, during which time underground work was kept up. He expects a profitable spring season of operations at the Black Butte placers.

\$49,000,000 GUGGENHEIM CO.

A press dispatch from New York, dated the 20th instant, says: The terms under which control of the Guggenheim Exploration company will pass into the hands of the American Smelting & Refining company have practically been settled. It is proposed to form a joint corporation with a capital of \$49,000,000, half of which is to be 6 per cent cumulative preferred and half common stock. The preferred shares are to be divided into two classes, series A and B. Of "A," \$17,000,000 will be issued, and of "B," \$7,500,000. It is proposed to increase the A stocks by \$5,500,000 at some future day, making the entire issue of preferred shares \$30,000,000.

The exploration company will turn over to the new corporation its majority holdings in the Western Mining company of Colorado, the Velardena Mining & Smelting company of Mexico, all the stock of the Federal Lead company of Missouri, and the shares of various other properties, located chiefly in Mexico.

After spreading out until it has dominated the smelting industry of two continents, the American Smelting & Refining company is now branching out to acquire the mining properties owned by the Guggenheim Exploration company. It was the Guggenheim family that created the smelting trust and at the same time the Guggenheims formed their exploration company, as a separate concern to operate in mines. Gold-silver-lead-copper mines in Mexico and Colorado have been its field. It was organized in June, 1899, under the laws of New Jersey, with a capital of \$17,000,000, shares \$10 par and \$10,500,000 issued.

The American Smelting & Refining company was organized in April, 1899, with a capital of \$100,000,000, half common and half 7 per cent preference cumulative shares. It owns smelters all over the United States, Mexico and Chile. It recently bought the Everett smelter from Charles Sweeney's federal company.

The smelting trust so thoroughly dominates the lead industry that it handles a big majority of the output from the Coeur d'Alene mines, and has a close arrangement with the Federal Mining & Smelting company. Under its influence the price of lead has been held steady around 4½ cents for months and the public pays a higher price for lead than before the combine became effective. It was the desire of the smelting trust, however, to secure control of the mining situation more completely by getting direct ownership of the mines owned by the Guggenheim Exploration company.

There has been some gossip lately that the Guggenheim company expects to get control of the Montreal & Boston Copper company's properties near Phoenix and Boundary Falls, British Columbia.

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