

MANY A TWIST TO HUNTING OF MINERAL, TOLD

(Continued from page one)
of prospectors both expert and otherwise, and consisted in the main of deposits of mineral they had overlooked. Game was plentiful then and a prospector could easily obtain all the fresh meat he needed. In those days the country was not all cluttered up with game laws as at present. These laws, primarily established for a good purpose, have so degenerated that they are mostly used these days by unscrupulous persons to work injury to some neighbor, against whom they have a real or fancied grievance, and not from any desire to uphold the law. One needs only to read the daily news intelligently to realize the truth of this statement.

I presume there is no better locality in the world in which to ob-

tain a wide and thorough education on minerals than in Colorado. Probably every known mineral can be found in the Rocky mountains. Rocks that at first glance appear to be valueless often contain the standard minerals in paying quantities. In that state gold often is found in sandstone. Arsenical iron, at first scarcely noticed by prospectors, often contains a high gold content. Manganese, for years thrown away as of no value, often carries as high as \$200 in gold, per ton. Rare minerals like vanadium, rubidium, tungsten and pitchblende (from which radium is produced) are found in many sections, and any prospector who does not know his stuff is very liable to miss finding some valuable deposit that might make a fortune for him.

Petziite, a telluride of gold and silver, is a most ordinary appearing rock. Hardly any one would bother to pick it up for examination. Not a speck of gold can be seen with a strong magnifying glass in its tiny cavities. But there is plenty of petziite that will assay \$40,000 per ton. I was in Colorado when telluride was discovered. Assayers couldn't make anything out of it. Yet the old-timers were heating it white hot in their forges, dropping it into strong salty water and watching the gold bubble out of it. It was a year afterward before assayers got onto a method whereby they could assay it correctly. A prospector in those mountains must know how to assay and test his findings with blow-pipe, pocket smelters, or iodine and filter paper.

If he depends on assayers, it will cost him at least \$1.50 for each gold and silver sample and from that to \$10 for tin ore, vanadium and other rare minerals, to say nothing of all the time lost traveling back and forth to post offices and the trouble of wrapping and mailing his samples in accord with postoffice regulations. Also he knows that many assayers are not correct in their work, others take no interest in it, and there are still others who are known to be crooked.

Around the new mining camps used to be a great place for crooked assayers, there were so many opportunities in a new camp for them to make dishonest money. And many were the tricks of their trade. Sometimes a prospector would bring in a sample of rock and they would give him a big assay on it, no matter whether it was good or barren, thinking if they encouraged him he might bring in more samples which would mean more money for them, and would probably spend a lot of money in other ways which would help the new camp, or at least might do a lot of digging, during which he perhaps would find something good which would benefit everybody indirectly as well as himself.

There were assayers who would, instead of giving a man the real figures on a sample of rich rock, write him a low percentage of value, then try to discourage him still further by advising him that he could make nothing by mining such worthless stuff. Then when they thought they had him properly disgusted with his layout, would offer to buy it from him for little or nothing, posing as good Samaritans who were sorry for his bad luck, etc. If they succeeded in buying his interest, they had a good thing for themselves or for their friends to handle. And many a poor prospector was skinned at that game. That is the reason why any prospector ought to be able to do his own testing at his camp, roughly at least. It will save him a lot of grief. There are many ways of testing rocks, but for a gold test I know of nothing that will beat iodine and filter paper. All the old-timers in the Rocky mountains use it. And where an assay for gold alone costs from \$1 to \$1.25, a prospector can test his own rocks for two cents and a half each, right at his own camp, and save all the chasing around and delay of waiting for returns to reach him by mail. All rocks are divided into two classes. They are either oxidized or not oxidized. If they are not oxidized, they can be oxidized by heating them, which puts them all in one class, and the iodine can then handle them.

A man can then test any rock that gets into his hands, roughly, of course, but accurately and with a little experience can estimate its value very closely as to what it may run per ton. Then, if he finds he has something good and wishes to know the exact amount of gold in it, he will be justified in losing time and going to the expense of having it thoroughly assayed. Many a time I have returned to camp with 14 or 15 different samples of various rocks and have had

SHUT UP!

Visitors from the west called upon President Lincoln one day. They were filled with worry and excitement about the commissions and omissions of the administration. After hearing their complaints, the president said:

"Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin (a noted rope walker of those days) to carry across the Niagara river on a rope. Would you shake the cable, or keep shouting out to him—'Blondin, stand up a little straighter—Blondin, stoop a little more—go a little faster—lean a little more to the north—lean a little more to the south'? No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was well over.

"The government is carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence and we'll get you safe across."—Nolan County (Texas) News.

the whole outfit tested by supper time. One wants to be sure the iodine is pure, though. It probably will be these days, but we had to be careful in the times I speak of, because many small druggists, not satisfied with making 500 per cent on everything they sold, had a habit of adulterating their merchandise as well.

When I prospected for companies that paid all the bills, which I did for many years, I did a lot of assaying at their expense. Of course, as stated, I made my own tests on various rocks in various ways, but when I had found something worth while, some mineral-bearing vein we will say, that showed up good, I would take samples here and there clear across the vein (or ledge), mortar them up as fine as flour, stir them thoroughly, then quarter the mixture. Out of one quarter I would take three samples that I would send to three different assayers, and check up on the returns. That way I got a very close estimate on what the ore would run per ton, by subtracting a certain percent, because no ore will hold out to its assay in the smelter.

There are many tricks in the mining game and if I don't know them all, it is because some new ones may have been invented quite recently that I have not heard of. Guess everyone has heard the definition of a mine, very terse and to the point: A mine is a hole in the ground with a liar on top. And that holds true in more cases than you would suppose.

● Miss Josephine Clute of Big Applegate spent some time in Jacksonville Wednesday. J. Clute and father of Applegate made a business trip to Grants Pass on Tuesday.

● A surprise birthday party given in honor of Miss Lois Matheny was a Sunday evening occasion at her home. Many young people from both the Ruch and Medford vicinity were present to enjoy an evening of games and refreshments.

● Miss Mary Jean Barnes, from Phoenix, is spending the week at the home of Miss Marjorie Peebler.

● Glen Smith was Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. Throckmorton.

● Mrs. C. G. Peebler entertained several friends at her home Thursday, when the afternoon was spent in piecing a quilt.

● Mrs. Ivan McDonough and daughters spent a few days at Persist recently, visiting her parents.

● Ruch Sunday school, being held at the Ruch school house each Sunday morning from 10 to 11 a.m., has extended a special invitation to people of the vicinity to attend its services each week.

COPCO ORDERS SECOND CAR OF ELECTRIC RANGES HERE

Word has just been received by local officials of the California Oregon Power company that, in response to popular demand, another carload of special Westinghouse automatic electric ranges has just been purchased from the factory. When this big range offer was first advertised in newspapers a short time ago the response exceeded all expectations and the entire shipment was completely sold out in a few days. The California Oregon Power company immediately wired the Westinghouse factory for another carload and it is now on the way. Many of these ranges are already sold and local residents are advised that any additional orders will have to be placed at once, as a policy of first come, first served, will have to prevail.

This is said to be the first time a fully automatic, completely equipped electric range has ever been offered to the public at such a remarkably low price and on such easy terms. After present stocks are sold out, the offer will be withdrawn, as this purchase was a factory close-out order and no more of these ranges will be available.

● Lida Bereford, Mrs. Earhart, Walter Matheny and wife from San Diego, Calif., are visiting the Matheny families of Ruch.

● Miss Babe Demmer of Portland arrived Tuesday for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Sophia Demmer, and other relatives and friends.

● Mr. Oden and Walter Thurman are among the men finding work in pear orchards. They have accepted employment at the Wing orchards.

● Mrs. Eddie Wollan of Medford is spending some time in a cabin under the pine trees at the Summit service station. Mrs. Wollan has been suffering from asthma and finds the summit locality a quick and certain relief.

● George Demmer suffered an injured eye when a splinter of wood struck the eyeball and penetrated so deeply the services of a physician were required to remove it. Sight, however, has been unimpaired, and the injured eye is recovering.

● Remodeling and improvements in The Miner office were underway early this week under the guiding hand of H. C. Mechem, who took tool and board in hand to produce a new counter and other fixtures. No regulatory system is or can be perfect. Our country editors, for example, get no pay for newspapers we do not print.—Weston Leader.

The Blue Eagle may be okeh, but we just can't forget the yellow ones we once glimpsed through a bank grille.—Weston Leader.

Most folks shy from legal notices, but the country editor doesn't if they're for publication in his newspaper.—Weston Leader.

Her bid for fame with a loaf of bread nearly 24 feet long reminds us that Walla Walla has always been a good place for a long loaf.—Weston Leader.

We're opposed to the parade that Oregon nudists plan to pull at

Estacada. It will be too far away.—Weston Leader.

A snake crawled up the pants leg of a Texas man, but all he did was to change brands.—Weston Leader.

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