

MINES AND MINING The Search for Wealth in the Depths of the Earth Luck of the Prospector and Some Late Strikes.

GREAT SUMS TO BE EXPENDED IN THE OLD PUEBLO COPPER FIELDS

American Smelting and Refining Company, at a Meeting in New York, Decides to Begin Improvement Operations at Once.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, June 17.—The executive committee of the American Smelting and Refining company will submit to the board of directors of that corporation at the next meeting, to be held this week, a proposition that has been agreed upon looking to the immediate reconstruction of the plants belonging to the concern at Pueblo.

The executive committee, to which the matter was referred a few weeks ago, has completed a thorough canvass of the situation and reached the conclusion that the first big work to be done in the way of inaugurating large improvements should be begun at Pueblo.

The reasons for this are many, but the gentlemen who comprise the committee decline to be quoted upon the subject before the report is submitted to the governing committee.

They admit, however, that the work outlined for Pueblo is even greater than was at first contemplated.

The plants of the smelting company in Pueblo are capable of handling large quantities of ore and it is the intention to keep them running to their full capacity during the time the improvements are being made.

This will save a large sum of money that would otherwise be spent in paying railroad charges in sending the ore to other plants of the company, and, too, will prevent any of the employees from losing time.

The cost of the proposed improvements to be made at Pueblo is admitted to be \$2,000,000, and it is the intention that they shall be completed within one year from this time.

To do all this it will be necessary to begin work at once and for this reason the directors will meet in special session to ratify the report for the executive committee to which the directors have already agreed individually.

Simon Guggenheim, who has just returned from a tour of inspection of the plants of the company, is enthusiastic over the mining outlook in the west, and it is through his efforts that the smelters at Pueblo are the first on which a portion of the ten million dollars appropriated for improvements will be expended.

The Philadelphia smelter in that city will be the first upon which improvements will be begun.

This big work is the pride of the Guggenheims, and they are anxious to see it made the most important smelting plant in the world at the earliest possible date.

KRUPP NOT YET MINE OWNER

Report That Gunmaker Has Invested in Colorado Fields Is Not Yet Confirmed.

(By Associated Press.)
Boulder, Colo., June 17.—The report in one of the papers that a deal was soon to be effected whereby the Krupp works would take hold of a valuable tungsten mine at Nederland, known as the Com-

bination, has not yet been confirmed. Although it is known that shipments of tungsten have been made for some time to European points, much of the ore is purchased through brokers in New York city, and never leaves America.

The tungsten mines at Nederland have caused the revival of mining in that once deserted village.

The Nederland mill is running daily on from 15 to 20 tons per day from the various mines around here, and is concentrating it for future shipments.

THE BRITANNIA COMPANY.

Stock of Butte Concern Offered for Sale to New York Investors.

The Britannia Mining company, which is operating the Britannia mine, located a short distance southwest of the city, is advertising 75,000 shares of its stock for sale at \$3 per share. According to the advertisement, which appeared in the New York Sun a few days ago, the company has 23,000 shares of stock, having a par value of \$1 each, and the shares it desires to sell were placed in the treasury for improvement purposes. The advertisement also states that cash dividends of 15 per cent have been paid on the stock in the last year; that the company's property is located in the center of the Butte copper district and is surrounded by many of the Amalgamated Copper company's best properties. Then the amount of dividends paid by the Anaconda, Boston & Montana, Butte & Boston and Parrot companies is stated, together with the par value of those stocks and the price at which they are quoted per share.

Hamilton, June 17.—Herman Mull who has been working for several months for Drs. Frederick and Edward Ellis in the mine they own near Pony, in Madison county, has returned to Hamilton and is enthusiastic over the property. He says it is one of the best and largest showings he has ever seen, and predicts it will yet net the owners a big stake.

KEARSARGE ORE SAMPLED.

If It Assays Up to Expectations the Mine May Change Hands.

Messrs. John Berkin and E. J. Roller, of Butte, have thoroughly sampled the Kearsarge mine in Madison county. If the assay value of these samples taken prove satisfactory it is understood that they will take up the bond now held by C. E. Damours and pay him liberally for his work and he will still retain an interest.

The owners of the property bonded it to Damours for \$10,000. At the time the bond was given there was very little ore in sight, but Damours had ideas of his own as to the formation and where the ore should be and worked out his theory and developed a large body of rich ore. His work has been carried on along intelligent lines.

Should Mr. Berkin secure this property it may be expected that his people will place a plant on the ground for the reduction of the ore, which will necessitate the employment of a large number of men.

WILL BE UNDER ONE HEAD

Diamond R. Company and McLure Brothers Decide to Pull Together.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Diamond R company, held in Great Falls a few days ago, it was

decided to consolidate the properties of that company and those of the Broadwater group of mines near Neihart, owned by L. S. McLure and O. D. McLure, and to form a new corporation capitalized at \$1,500,000.

The two properties are valued at about \$1,000,000 each and will be consolidated on an equal basis. Final arrangements for the consolidation are being made and a meeting of the stockholders of the two companies will be called in a short time for the purpose of ratifying the action.

At the meeting all of the old officers and board of directors and trustees were re-elected for the ensuing year.

The Diamond R company's recent addition to its concentrator, which will increase its capacity to 300 tons daily, will be completed this week and in full operation. The new tramway constructed for carrying ores from the Broadwater group of mines to the concentrator, recently erected at a cost of \$30,000, will also be in operation this week.

Trunks!

Butte Made Trunks

Excursion Rates for Round Trip Trunks.

A FARE and a fifth for the round trip is about the usual inducement offered by the railway lines for June and July excursionists. This rate acts as a great stimulator for trunk trade, and never finds us unprepared. This year, having our own factory, that produces trunks superior to any from abroad, we have decided to make a cut rate to excursionists that will equal if not exceed that made by the railroads. Every trunk price has been cut. Every trunk we sell is guaranteed good for the round trip, even if your ticket reads around the world. Trunks that can be punched, and punched without care, "punched in the presence of the passenger" without the slightest chance of being knocked out.

1,000 Trunks
100 Hand Bags
200 Suit Cases
90 Valises

TRUNKS—Barrel top zinc covered trunks, worth \$4.00, reduced to... **\$2.50**
TRUNKS—Barrel top zinc covered trunks, worth \$8.00, reduced to... **\$6.00**
TRUNKS—Barrel top zinc covered trunks, worth \$15.00, reduced to... **\$10.00**
TRUNKS—Flat top canvas covered trunks, worth \$7.50, reduced to... **\$6.00**
TRUNKS—Flat top canvas covered trunks, worth \$10.00, reduced to... **\$8.00**
TRUNKS—Flat top canvas covered trunks, worth \$15.00, reduced to... **\$11.50**

Hand Bags From 50c to \$5.00 each
Valises From \$1.50 to \$10.00 each
Suit Cases From \$4.00 to \$15.00

We stencil your name on each trunk we sell and deliver to any part of the city free.

Proposed Home for Indigent Mining Prospectors

N. E. Linsley, a mining engineer of Spokane, has written the following article suggesting the establishment of a home for aged prospectors:

Of all the great events of the nineteenth century, none are paramount to the discovery of gold in California in 1848. We were then a rather slow-going nation, with practically no capital to exploit and properly develop the country east of the Mississippi, to say nothing of the vast unknown country extending from St. Louis to Astoria, and from British Columbia to Old Mexico.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848 it took but a short time to proclaim the good news to all the civilized world, and less than fifteen months after the discovery parties of men from nearly all parts of the world were en route to the new Eldorado.

The news had aroused the latent force in man that enables him to overcome all obstacles—conquer the wild animals, subdue the Indians, build villages and school houses, and then look for other worlds to conquer.

They were a fine lot of men, physically and mentally, that started for California in 1849-50, and those who crossed the plains never recovered from that love of adventure and desire to see and explore that they acquired on the trip.

After the year 1850 the states began to feel the effect of all the new dollars put into circulation, and our growth from that time on has been a marvel. A little gold was being mined in Georgia, but it was California first and the Rocky mountain region later, that furnished the sinews of war, commerce and manufacture that made it possible for us to become the foremost nation of the world within the short period of 50 years. It is to the men who pioneered the great west that I desire to call your attention. What shall we do for them?

It seems to me that many of these men were created to blaze trails, make discoveries and endure hardships, so that those who followed could enjoy all the comforts of advanced civilization. Many of these men have gone to the great unknown, and need no assistance from us. But there are many still living, who are from 50 to 70 years old, still prospecting and exploring. How they live would be a revelation to many who have become wealthy through the efforts, endurance and sufferings of these same pioneers and prospectors.

With a saddle horse, a pack horse to carry from three to four months' provisions, which consists of flour, bacon, beans, coffee, tea, sugar and salt for himself and his horses, a pick and shovel and a few cooking utensils—he nearly always uses tobacco, and sometimes has a dog for a companion—with \$25 in his pocket and a few blankets to keep him warm at night, the prospector is equipped for a six-months' trip into the mountains. He is full of hope—optimistic and visionary to the extreme. He starts out in the spring-time feeling sure that he will strike it rich and make a stake before snow flies.

He leaves the roads and trails and strikes out for the unexplored country, examines closely every change in the formation, and with his pole-pick handy, he breaks and examines everything that looks like ore, pans out the gravel along the creek beds for gold colors, endures all kinds of hardships, and 90 per cent of these full season trips bring him nothing that will justify further exploitation.

Sometimes he strikes it rich and reports the fact to his fellow prospectors, and a stampede is the result.

Washoe, Nev., Virginia City, Mont., and a hundred other places that have produced a billion of new dollars, is the result of the indomitable and tireless search of the prospector. Sometimes the prospector gets a snug little fortune and retires from the field. But a majority of them are improvident, lavish with their money until it is all gone, then get some one to stake them to an outfit and again go to the wilderness in search of another fortune.

The pioneer prospector has nearly filled his mission in the United States, civilization has encroached on his domain until he is obliged to travel on railroads, eat at restaurants and sleep in beds. This all costs too much money for the "old timer," whose habits are as fixed as the very hills which have so many years been his domain. There will

be plenty of prospecting to do for the next fifty years in the Rocky Mountain country, but it will be so different—the new prospector will need no packhorses. But I am digressing, it is the old pioneer prospector that prompts this effort. He is now too old and feeble to continue in the fields. He has lived so long in the mountains with trees, rocks and wild animals for his friends and companions, that he feels unhappy and uncomfortable in the city, and much more so if he is "broke." He is unfitted for work on a farm or for sawing wood at the back door for a livelihood. He who has lived so close to nature so long, whose results of his efforts have been of such vast benefit to all of the North American continent, should not be asked to do menial service after he has given all the best part of his life in pioneering and prospecting the unexplored. What shall we do for him?

I would suggest a "Pioneer Prospectors' Home," located some place in California, not far from the place where gold was first discovered. Possibly the old ranch where gold was first discovered might be the very place to choose. However, this could be determined later by a committee to investigate and locate. I would suggest: First, a suitable location containing not less than 2,000 acres of land, at least one-half of which would be well adapted to diversified farming, gardening and fruit growing, the other half to grazing.

Second, a comfortable building, or buildings, capable of comfortably accommodating 200 people, and a well-equipped hospital, good farming buildings, utensils, etc., suitable to properly farm, garden and dairy the entire 2,000 acres.

How to raise funds to carry out the scheme would be the first and important step. I would suggest that contributions to the amount of \$500,000 be solicited from wealthy mine owners, and others who have become wealthy directly and indirectly from the source of mines. Then ask the Federal government for \$500,000, and the Rocky Mountain and Pacific States each \$20,000. Then an annual appropriation of \$100,000 from the Federal government. It appears to the writer that this should not be a difficult task or an unreasonable amount to ask for this worthy cause.

The 2,000 acres properly managed should furnish all the vegetables, butter and milk, most of the fruit required, and a fair percentage of the meat and eggs. Those occupying the home, and able to do so, should be given some light duty to perform. Not compelled, the old prospector will volunteer and become interested, if treated right. I served three years in the army during the war of the Rebellion, and I have spent thirty-four years at mining in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific states. The soldier who served his country in the army is no more entitled to a pension and governmental aid than these same pioneer prospectors who have spent all of the best part of their lives blazing trails and showing up the great mineral wealth of the nation.

Eligibility to the benefits of the Home could be determined through statistics, etc. A regent from each of the Rocky Mountain and Pacific States appointed to govern the Home could arrange that matter after due consideration. My opinion is that the applicant should first show that he had been a prospector for at least twenty years and was now unable to continue in the field.

When the Home is completed and ready for the prospector, let him come, not as a mendicant, but as an honored guest, and there, in his declining years, he will live in the past. In the wreath of smoke from his pipe he will again see the stampede of excited prospectors and miners hurrying to some reported rich find. Again he will climb to the top of the highest mountain peak and feel sorry for the millions of people who have lived and died and never had one breath of fresh air like this. He will again be mending his shoes by his campfire and the pine squirrel will talk to him from the branches above. The waterfall, the beautiful lakes, the deep forest and rolling hills will all pass in review. Nature has kindly provided that the dark spots in his memory gradually disappear, leaving the bright ones brighter as he grows older. He has nearly outlived his usefulness, but he is entitled to a comfortable home far removed from the hill collector. Let him smoke his pipe and live over again those days of full vigor and manhood!

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