Mines and Mining.

GOOD GOLD COUNTY

NEW YEAR COMPANY WILL ADD TO THE OUTPUT OF FERGUS.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.

It Is Developed by Four Tunnels—Ore To Be Carried From Mine to Mill Over a Wire Tramway.

Among the mines of Fergus county that will enter the list of producing properties with the beginning of the year 1902 is the New Year group of mines at New Year, 14 miles northeast of Lewistown, says the Argus. This group, composed of 18 claims, is controlled and operated by the New Year Gold Mines company, which is largely made up of St. Paul capitalists, who have demonstrated their entire faith in the value of the New Year group by the expenditure of large sums of money in equipping their mine and milling plant with every improvement necessary for their economical operation.

The New Year mill is located at the mouth of New Year gulch, at the base of the western slope of the Judith range, just where the gulch debouches on to the fertile valley which is a branch of the Warm Spring creek valley, one of the most productive sections of the county. The admirable location of the plant, with its easy accessibility and pleasant surroundings are not often met with in the gold mining sections of the Rocky mountain region.

Equipment of the Plant.

The equipment of the New Year milling plant is as complete as that of any plant yet erected in the northwest for the treatment of ores by the cyanide process and in its construction every detail looking toward economical operation has been carefully provided. The plant has an ore consuming capacity of 250 tons daily, is lighted by electricity and heated by steam, as are all the other buildings in connection.

In the engine room a 100-horsepower engine driven by two Fraser & Chalmers tubular boilers of 60 horsepower each, furnishes the power to operate the machinery of the mill, and a 31-kilowaat dynamo generates light for all the buildings of the entire plant. The ore crushing power consists of two large sized Gates rockbreakers, a set of heaviest Gates rolls, and a new Chilean mill which may be run in connection when necessary. Nine tanks with a holding capacity of 800 tons of crushed ore represent the tank room of the mill, and no pulp bin has been erected, as the management contend that an economy is effected by conveying the ore directly from the rolls to tanks without further handling. Hence more tank room than is really necessary has been provided. A Jeffrey droppan conveyor will convey the crushed ore from the rolls to the tanks, but this part of the machinery, while on the ground, has not been placed. All the pulp and solution tanks are built of heavy sheet steel and are practically indestructible. The most effective methods of applying the cyanide solution to the pulp, both from the bottom of the tank and from above, has been arranged in all the tanks and a complete system of waterworks for sluicing away the tailings is in place. The water supply is obtained from two water rights which the company has secured in New Year gulch, being conveyed through three miles of pipe lines to the mill. An abundant supply is present at all seasons, the pipe lines being fitted to convey 25,000 gallons of water per hour if necessary. Besides the splendidly equipped milling plant the company has commodious quarters for its employes, store rooms, well-fitted offices, a thoroughly equipped assaying plant and all other buildings demanded for the convenience and successful operation of a plant of this kind. A vein of first-rate coal within 200 feet of the mill supplies the fuel, not only for the New Year people, but a large part of the coal used at the Spotted Horse mine is also brought from here.

A Mile of Tramway.

This week will witness the completion of a wire rope tramway, for the purpose of conveying ore from the mines to the mill, a distance of nearly one mile. This is the first wire rope aerial tramway ever erected in the county and will reduce the cost of transportation, which was formerly 60 cents per ton when hauled by wagon, to less than 10 cents per ton. The tramway was contracted for during the past summer, but work on its erection began only about eight weeks ago. It is a Bleichert wire rope tramway and was furnished by the Trenton Iron company of Trenton, N. J., but the contract for its erection was undertaken by the Montana Hardware company of this city, at a cost of $17,500. The exact length of the tramway is 5150 feet and the total weight of the cables and castings furnished by the Trenton Iron company exceeds 86,000 pounds. It is suspended from 18 towers varying in height from 14 to 56 feet according to the grade over which it passes and every care has been taken in its construction to insure its permanence and usefulness.

The tramway is suplied with two cables, known as the track and grip cables. The track cable is a lock wire cable 1 1-8 inches in diameter, on which the weight of the loaded buckets rests as they descend from the loading station at the mine to the mill terminal.

Forty-Five Buckets In Line.

The return track cable is also a lock wire cable seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and on it rests the weight of the empty buckets as they pass back from the mill to the mine. These two cables rest on arms reaching from opposite sides of the tops of the towers. The ore is carried in 45 buckets placed along the line at intervals of from two to three hundred feet, each bucket holding six cubic feet or about 600 pounds of ore. The buckets are filled from chutes at the loading station, passed by hand to the track cable, and by a patent attachment are gripped to the traction cable, which is an endless cable revolving around two great wheels, one of which is at each terminal. This cable is 10,300 feet in length and as it carries no weight is but five-eighths of an inch in diameter. It is suspended on arms that reach from the sides of the towers about four feet from the top. In obedience to the laws of gravitation the tramway is self-operating, as the loading station at the mine has an elevation of 602 feet above the mill terminal, and the weight of the decending laden buckets furnishes power for the return of the empty ones on the return cable. The speed at which the tramway is intended to run is 280 feet per minute, but this may be regulated at the loading station by a brake which operates on the big wheel around which the traction cable passes.

Round Trip In Forty Minutes.

At the intended rate of speed a bucket will make the entire round trip from the loading station and return in about 40 minutes. No delay is necessary either in loading or emptying the buckets. The tramway has a guarantee carrying capacity of 25 tons per hour, or 600 tons daily. Mr. C. A. Case, who comes directly from the Trenton Iron works at Trenton, has superintended the building of the tramway for the Montana Hardware company, and the substantial character of the work is a strong testimonial as to his experience in that line. The tramway is complete in all but a few minor details, and as quickly as the loading and terminal stations are finished it will be ready to begin carrying ore.

Much Work Done.

A large amount of work has been executed in the New Year mines the past 18 months and the management hopes by the latter part of December to have the work in such shape that the extraction of ore may begin. The mine is developed by four tunnels, known respectively as "A," "B," "C" and "D" tunnels. Of these "D" tunnel, which laps the hill 400 feet below the summit, is the main tunnel and all ores extracted will be taken through it. The other three tunnels, which are further up the mountain, were driven to develop the ore body and in all of them ore of as good a grade has been exposed. In "B" tunnel, which has penetrated the hill to a depth of 460 feet, an ore body 130 feet thick has been crosscut.

"D" tunnel has been driven 1469 feet and has several hundred feet of crosscuts, drifts, up-raises and other prospecting work. Some very good cyanide ore was recently encountered in a crosscut about 500 feet from the main tunnel on this level. An up-raise to connect "D" with the other tunnels is now in progress and will be completed within 30 days. Mining at the New Year is all done by machines and a fine eight drill Ingersoll-Sargent compressor located at the mill furnishes power for the four "sluggers" that are kept going constantly at the mine. The ore supply as now known will furnish the mill for at least three years and there is every reason to believe that the ore bodies of the New Year will prove as extensive as those of any properties in the Judith range. The ore is a typical ore for cyanidation as several hundred tons treated by that process in an experimental plant which was first erected on the property on the site occupied by the present mill. In both value and appearance it is much the same as the other cyanide ores of the district, ranging from $7 to $10 per ton and being of the same sedimentary structure observed in all the cyanide ores of this region.

A Competent Manager.

The management of the entire New Year properties for the past 18 months has been in the hands of Joseph Meredith, an experienced miner, who, for many years, operated in the mines of Rico, Silverton and other Colorado camps. Mr. Meredith is best known for his progressiveness in mining methods and it is under his efficient guidance that all of the notable improvements on the New Year properties have been effected. The present outlook is that everything will be in readiness for the mill to commence grinding ore with the beginning of the coming year, and the New Year properties will become important factors toward sustaining Fergus county's claim of being the banner gold producing county in the state in 1902.

LONDON QUOTATIONS DEFINED.

Speculative Influences Responsible for Decline in Standard Copper.

The Transcript asked John Stanton, the statistician of the American copper producers, to define "Standard" copper, as quoted daily from London in its relation to American copper quotations. Mr. Stanton says:

"Standard copper" is composed of any kind of stuff that may carry 96 per cent fine copper, and much of the "visible supply" consists of material carrying obnoxious impurities. Should some high-grade bars be found in stock a premium is paid for them, and I hear of 30 shillings premium having been paid for Chile bars quite recently. "Standard copper" is the speculative article, and under an ordinary contract the seller can deliver any quality of bars provided they contain 96 per cent pure, hence the premiums paid for choice of brands.

The decline in price of "Standard copper" since January last is due to speculative influences, and not to increase in the "visible supply," which has declined from 28,901 tons January 1, 1901, to 20,360 tons November 15, 1901. The brands of copper bought by consumers in Europe are: "Best selected," "Electrolytic," and "Lake copper." The latest quotations in the London market, and the equivalent in prices here (i. e., net value to shippers from this side) are as follows:

Brand—	London Price.	American Equivalent.
Best selected	72.10s	15.25c
Electrolytic	75.10s	16.40c
Lake	77.00s	16.75c

Special transactions may change these figures, but they are close quotations at this time.

ORE IN THE OVERLAND.

Two-Foot Vein Said to Be Widening—May Be a Large Body.

A strike has been made in the 250-foot level of the Overland mine, says the Helena Record. Two feet of ore is now shown and the vein is steadily widening. The managers think they have struck the top of a big ore body similar in character to the bonanza shoots that have been characteristic of the Overland and from which a large amount of high grade ore has been taken in the past. There are levels below this, and if the shoot proves extensive drifts can be run from the lower levels and the ore taken out.

The property is under bond and lease to Mrs. A. M. Esler and Frank Esler, whose previous operations on the Overland have proved so succesful, and who are in charge of the work.

Ore in Spotted Horse.

E. H. Crabtree is in Helena from the Spotted Horse mine in Fergus county, attending to the smelting of a shipment of high-grade ore which he has at the East Helena smelter. The ore will run upwards of $300 a ton. A new strike has been uncovered in the Spotted Horse and is being developed. Some of this ore will assay up into the thousands per ton.

Vein in the Argo Widening.

The new copper strike on the Argo claim at Canyon Ferry is increasing in size and improving with every foot of drifting. The long tunnel, which will tap the lead at a depth of 600 feet, is being driven ahead steadily. A fine stream of water has been encountered in the face, thus indicating that it is approaching the ledge.

ORE FROM THE PUNCHER.

Copper Rock Coming to Butte From the Property.

R. A. Punches is in town from the Greenhorn copper district, 12 miles northwest of Helena, says the Record. His property is regularly shipping iron ore to the East Helena smelter and copper ore to the Butte smelters. The size of the property is increasing with every foot of work done.

It is reported that a new shoot of ore has been struck in the Howard mine, just south of the city. The Howard has produced over $30,000 in high-grade gold ore.

Regular shipments of 150 tons per day are being made from the Benjamin iron mine at Elkhorn.

The force at the East Pacific mine at Winston has been increased to 95 men. The shipments from the East Pacific are nearly a carload a day.

Preparations for putting in the two new furnaces at the Helena smelter are proceeding rapidly. The smelter is getting all the ore it can handle and indeed will be somewhat crowded until the new furnaces are in blast.

Drifting is still proceeding on the strike at the Empire. The shoot is larger and longer than was at first reported.

Shipments of concentrating ore are being received at the concentrator at Helena from the Lee Mountain mine at Rimini.

Rumors of a Sale.

A report was yesterday in circulation about Missoula to the effect that a group of the most promising claims at the Copper Cliff camp had been sold to an English syndicate for $55,000, says the Missoulian. The report was from a somewhat reliable source, persons of knowledge of mining affairs firmly holding the opinion that the deal had been arranged and that directly work of an extensive character would be commenced.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

At the Butte—L. C. Parker, Deer Lodge; C. W. Foster, San Francisco; C. A. Ross, Helena; N. J. Bielenberg, Deer Lodge; Mrs. C. C. Woolard, Pocatello; C. W. Meyers, Chicago; G. L. Foster, Helena; C. E. Woodworth, Missoula; W. P. Gwinn, Anaconda; Joseph Meyer, New York; William Mackie, San Francisco; Edward Leszynsky, San Francisco.

At the Thornton—J. R. Toole, Anaconda; Mack Walker, Utica, N. Y.; T. A. Rickard, Denver; John Berkin, Boulder; C. E. Mack, Cincinnati; F. C. Goodnow, Boston; W. R. Southard, Rochester, N. Y.; W. C. Cates, Salt Lake; D. T. Hackett, Melrose; A. O. Newton, Livingston; Warren Stetson, G. W. Stetson, New York; Mrs. A. M. Dwight; R. B. Smith, Anaconda; James C. Avery, New York; C. E. Atkinson, Chicago; James Donovan, Helena; J. T. Wilson, St. Louis; C. N. Gurley, New York.

At the Finlen—Edward M. Conant, Minneapolis; E. J. Smith, J. B. Smith, J. H. Smith, Bozeman; W. H. Crowley, Mrs. J. M. Malin, Logan; William P. Baker and wife, Helena; Joe Bradley, Hamilton; T. C. Naylor, Washington, D. C.; John P. Harrity, Great Falls; D. Raymond and wife, New York; C. O. Richardson, Getrude Bell, Mrs. C. R. Smith, Miss Ida Merlyn, New York; Sam Johnson, Buffalo; H. H. Hess, W. D. Palmer, New York; L. H. Nuckel, Helena; L. B. Edward, San Francisco; M. F. Linden, Anaconda; W. A. Francis, Omaha; J. T. Dugan, Great Falls; M. Newbager, Chicago; E. H. M. Lively, New York; W. L. Crow, Pueblo, Colo.; George E. Velvel, San Francisco; Edward Sachs and wife, Chicago.

Marriage licenses were issued yesterday to W. S. Collins and Naomi Beatty, Christian J. Wall and Louise Wickwide, Thomas Fogarty and Alice Gleason.

PROPOSALS WANTED.

Sealed proposals will be received by the trustees of School District No 1, Silver Bow county, Montana, up to 8 o'clock p. m., of the 3d day of December, 1901, for the erection and completion of a two-story and basement brick school house, to be erected on that certain piece or parcel of ground situated just east and adjoining the present school site of the Franklin school building, Meaderville, Silver Bow county, Montana, and to be in full accordance with the drawings and specifications therefor, as prepared by H. M. Patterson, architect.

Drawings and specifications and general form of contract and bond can be seen at the office of the school clerk.

Proposals must be addressed to Thomas Richards, school clerk, and marked "Proposals for building school house," and must be accompanied with a certified check of $1,000.00, as evidence of good faith on the part of the person making such proposal.

Checks made payable to the order of Henry Mueller, president of school board, and shall be forfeited to School District No. 1, Silver Bow county, Montana, in case the party to whom the contract is awarded shall refuse or fail to execute a contract and bond for building said school house, in accordance with said drawings and specifications.

Trustees reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

HENRY MUELLER, President.
Attest: THOS. RICHARDS, Clerk.
6t.

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FOR RENT

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There is no better steel made nor no sweller handles than we offer. 1 doz. Knives or Forks or 6 of either
Silver Plated, Celluloid Hollow Handle
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Pearl handle, best steel blade, 1 doz. pieces at $18, $20, $25
Solid sterling handle, best steel, one doz. $30.00
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