

STATE MINING INSPECTOR'S REPORT SHOWS MUCH OPTIMISM AS TO FUTURE

Helena, Dec. 8.—(Special.)—William Walsh, state mining inspector, has made his annual report to Governor Nichols. It is a most comprehensive report, and in part says:

During the year Montana has maintained its position in the first rank of the leading precious metal producing states of the union. In the face of changing conditions with their resultant periods of industrial activity and depression, the production of gold during the past ten years has increased throughout the state, and will continue to increase at a much more rapid rate under the present development, and if studied by the miner and mining investor can hardly fail to excite such an interest in the gold-bearing rocks and gravels of this state as would lead to their active development. The prospecting for and the development of the purely silver-bearing rocks has practically ceased, excepting in the very high-grade districts and in these they are only able to operate, merely battling for existence under prevailing conditions, their owners waiting for the turn in events which will bring with it such prices for the products of their mines as will permit the mining of the metal at a reasonable profit. It must not be presumed from the foregoing that Montana is not a large silver-producing state. On the contrary, silver is one of its chief metals.

Land Free. In the settlement of the middle and western plains the federal government extended to the homesteader every assistance. The land was free, the cost of location inconsiderable; the requirements for improvements within the reach of the poorest man. These inducements brought people from every part of the world to secure a home. They located their lands, established prosperous homes and became citizens. This broad-souled policy peopled states, made vast, vacant areas productive of almost incalculable wealth and made this nation the greatest in the world. The same policy of encouragement and assistance should be extended to the prospectors in the mineral section of the country. They take the gamble of their search and development. They may fail and search for years before securing a location that will bring them any recompense. It is through their untiring efforts that mines are found, which after development add millions to the wealth of the state, and they should be extended every liberty and every assistance possible along these lines.

I have endeavored to keep before me at all times the fact that we are entering, as far as the state of Montana is concerned, a new and untried field. All who have given the industry any thought must realize that Montana has long since passed the experimental stage and that her mineral resources, under proper exploration, can be depended upon for profitable returns, and now that it has reached a permanent business basis I believe that more attention should be paid to prospecting and to the developing of the various districts throughout the entire state. Just such a condition confronts us at this time. Mining is now a straight out and out business and must be backed by technical knowledge. Furthermore I want to say to you that any man who tells you that the areas in Montana's mountains are exhausted is not a real miner. He is probably one of the office sort of miners who sits and swings in a swivel chair.

No other state has a greater variety of resources than Montana. The latest discoveries of tungsten and onyx marbles mark some of its growing industries. Montana has the fundamental qualities for a much greater state than it now is.

It is by no means anything new for abandoned mining projects of the distant past to become contributors to modern wealth by reason of the application of new principles of mining or metallurgy and the utilization of new and improved power and transportation facilities.

Developing in Butte.

In no year in the history of the Butte district has so much work in the nature of development been done as during the past 12 months. A vast territory to the north of the copper zone has been explored and has proven to carry extensive ore bodies in copper, silver, gold and a large percentage of zinc. The development exceeded by 50 per cent even the large amount of work that was done some four or five years ago during the height of the copper boom, when a score of new companies were engaged in the work of developing new mines. At that time less work of that character was done by the large companies. The past year the small and numerous new companies were entirely out of it, with the exception of a few, and the work was confined to the large companies, which are doing extensive development on the several properties controlled by them. A great change has taken place in Silver Bow county by electricity taking the place of steam which will in the future add to the life of the camp at least 20 years, by cheapening the cost of production by which low-grade ores can be mined at a profit which otherwise would remain untouched at the present system of mining. While it is impossible for even an estimate of a reliable character to be given of the cost of production until after electricity has entirely taken the place of steam, it has been estimated that there will be a reduction in the cost of production of one cent per pound of copper produced.

The mining industry in Montana is looking brighter and is showing improvement in numerous directions. Conditions have shaped for a greater production in the near future. That is especially true of the gold camps. Radersburg, Marysville, Zortman, in the Little Rockies in Fergus county, and untold wealth in the hills west of Anaconda, where if the prospecting and developing work is kept up, the future will prove it to be the greatest gold district in the state. The Elkhorn district has taken on a new lease of life and, in fact, the entire district adjacent to Helena. In the Ruby country and in many portions of Madison, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark and Beaverhead counties they are awaiting the capitalist. In the western part of the state, in Flathead and Lincoln counties, that in former years have yielded millions of dollars in mineral wealth after a long period of idleness, mines are in operation today and show a condition of encouragement. The values are not theoretical and many of the mines require only more modern methods of mining to yield even greater wealth than ever in their history. While Montana has never boasted of its mines, other than the big copper properties which are famous the world over, it has some of the largest mineralized zones known in the world today. Our gold-bearing districts are not excelled in any country and the future will prove it. No doubts can exist as to the fact that there are good opportunities in the state for those who investigate. Recognition of this fact has led to the making of more than one fortune in Montana.

Accidents.

I am pleased to report a considerable decrease in the number of both fatal and non-fatal accidents during the year.

An analysis of the summary of causes of accidents reveals the fact that resulting from causes both looked for and unexpected, accidents will occur. The most prolific source of accidents during the year was from cages in shafts, resulting in the death of nine men. This cause is unfortunately at all times. A very disastrous explosion occurred in the Radersburg district from an explosion of powder, causing the death of six men. Had these not occurred the fatalities would have decreased very materially in the state.

Naturally in the discussion of mine accidents a great deal of importance is attached to the humanitarian side of the question. Indeed that side is the real reason for the intervention of the government in such matters. The state is, or should be, solicitous for the welfare of its citizenship. The backbone of a state is not its wealth or property, but its strength in clean, active and intelligent manhood. For a state to lose a considerable portion of its working population is a public calamity, and it is therefore right and proper that the state should compel employers of labor to throw the proper safeguards around their workmen. However, there is another phase of the question which is receiving more attention from up-to-date employers of labor. Accidents are recognized to be an important source of commercial

loss. This mentioned merely to show that accidents have a really commercial importance in dollars and cents. But there is another phase. The effect of such accidents is to diminish the working capacity of every man employed. The mental depression occasioned by rescuing miners inevitably causes men to realize that they themselves may be the victims of a similar accident at any time. It is safe to say that the effect of a serious accident is to shock every working miner for a time, and for several days, which means a large increase in the cost of production. Some superintendents will carry over their work in a very risky manner. This is not good mining and it is safe to say that when accidents are frequent, the management is poor. The loss, of course, falls on the stockholders of the companies. It is an undoubted fact that if state governments would adopt sensible laws looking to the reduction of mine accidents and steadily enforce them, the results would accrue to the general benefit of the stockholders. Reasonable state regulation of such matters should not be imposed by mining men, but should be welcomed by them in order to protect the industry against the operations of reckless managements.

Statistics.

During the year ending November 30, 1911, there were: Mines inspected, 279; men employed in mining, 14,000; fatal accidents, 46; percentage of fatal accidents to each 1,000 men employed, 3.26; non-fatal accidents, 20; percentage of non-fatal accidents to each 1,000 men employed, 1.21. To the number of men employed as above stated, 500 may be conservatively added, which would include the scattered prospectors who are working their own claims and to cover those employed by small operators employing from two to five men, and also leasers, which would make a total of 14,500 men employed during the year.

Number and Causes of Accidents.

The following shows the number of fatal accidents and their several causes, occurring during the year ending November 30, 1911: Premature blasts or explosions, 11; fall of rock or ground, 10; by cages or shafts, 9; falling from bucket in shaft, 2; falling down ore chutes, 4; falling down manways, 4; suffocated by gas or foul air, 3; falling down raise, 1; caught by falling ore chute, 1; by being crushed under ore car, 1; total fatal accidents during the year, 46.

Number of Non-Fatal Accidents.

The following shows the number of non-fatal accidents with their causes during the year ending November 30, 1911: Fall of rock or cave of ground, 11; premature blasts and explosions, 3; injured by falling timber, 2; by being caught by mine car, 2; by falling down manway, 1; by being struck by cage, 1; total non-fatal accidents for the year, 20.

Detailing conditions in Missoula county.

Mr. Walsh says: "Missoula county is fast coming to the front as a producer. The district formerly known as the Clinton district has some very promising mines, and, considering the amount of developing done has proven a success. For several years mining has been carried on in Missoula county in a desultory manner. It is hardly conceivable that characteristics as that situated between Missoula and the Idaho state line can only point to seven or eight producing mines. Those developed to any extent are the Iron Mountain mine, which consists of a shaft 2,000 feet in depth and a tunnel driven to the length of 5,000 feet which cuts the main shaft at a depth of 1,600 feet and which is being used as the main operating tunnel, which greatly reduces the cost of operation; the Tarbox, Bryan and Ben H. group at Balfesse, the Amador on Cedar creek; the several properties being operated at Carter are conducting their operations by tunnels reaching a length of 1,500 feet and the St. Regis Mining & Milling company, at St. Regis, with several developed properties near De Borgia, have been carrying on development work very extensively during the year and the operations are conducted in a safe manner."

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YOUR GRAY HAIRS QUICKLY VANISH

A HARMLESS REMEDY, MADE FROM GARDEN SAGE, RESTORES COLOR TO GRAY HAIR.

A feeling of sadness accompanies the discovery of the first gray hairs, which, unfortunately, are looked upon as heralds of advancing age. Gray hairs, however, are not always an indication of advancing age, for many people have gray hairs quite early in life. Of course, it is unnatural, and indicates that there is something wrong with the individual, and that nature needs assistance in correcting the trouble. The same is true of hair that is constantly falling out and becoming thinner every day. If everything is right with nature, the hair, even in comparatively elderly people, should be long, thick and glossy, without even a streak of gray.

The ideal assistant to nature in restoring and preserving the hair is Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Hair Remedy, a clean and wholesome dressing for daily use. If not only removes dandruff, but strengthens weak, thin and falling hair and promotes its growth. A few applications will restore faded or gray hair to its natural color.

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MINNEAPOLIS WHEAT.

Minneapolis, Dec. 8.—Close: Wheat—December, 99 3/4c; May, 1.04; July, 1.03 1/2c. Cash—No. 1 northern, 81; No. 2 northern, 82 1/2c; No. 3 wheat, 84 1/2c.

MARKET DEPRESSED BY REPORTS

VARIOUS RUMORS TEND TO BRING ABOUT HEAVINESS IN THE DAY'S TRADING.

New York, Dec. 8.—Prices were slightly lower at the opening of the stock market today. Erie first preferred, which lost 1/4, was the heaviest of the railroad issues, most of yesterday's close. A few issues disclosed strength. Canadian Pacific rose 1 and Louisville & Nashville 1/2. Trivial fluctuations were the rule during the first hour of business. The market displayed an undercurrent of heaviness. Pressure against the Hawley stocks and some heaviness of the Gould group influenced speculative selling of the active features. Chesapeake & Ohio and Denver & Rio Grande preferred declined 1 and Iowa Central preferred 4 points.

The prospect of an exceptionally unfavorable bank statement tomorrow, feared by traders from buying stocks, with a loss by the banks of more than \$2,000,000 since last Friday, it is thought not unlikely the surplus may be entirely eliminated.

Leading stocks were offered more freely in the latter part of the forenoon. The whole market manifested greater weakness. The copper stocks were heavy, despite expectation of a good showing in the Copper Producers' statement. Among the noteworthy losses were: Sloss-Sheffield, 2 1/4; Denver & Rio Grande preferred and Great Northern Ore Certificates 2, and many other important stocks 1 to 1 1/2. Bonds were easy.

Increased depression was shown by the market during the noon hour. This was attributed to the utterances of the head of a leading financial institution whose views were largely tinged with pessimism. The report of the Copper Producers' association for November, while in many respects favorable, failed to arrest weakness in the copper. After Louisville & Nashville had been depressed 2 points, Union Pacific and United States Steel 1 1/2, the selling stopped and there was a small rally.

The market closed firm. Retirement of short contracts gave a decided upward impulse to prices as the session drew to a close. Wabash stocks and bonds were conspicuous in the recovery and the active copper stocks rose to above yesterday's closing.

New York Closing Stocks.

New York, Dec. 8.—Today's closing quotations on the exchange follow: Amalgamated Copper..... 60 1/2; American Smelting & Refining..... 70; do preferred..... 102 1/2; Anaconda..... 37 1/2; Atchafalaya..... 10 1/2; Atlantic Coast Line..... 135 1/2.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Baltimore & Ohio, Canadian Pacific, Chesapeake & Ohio, Chicago & Northwestern, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Chicago Livestock, Chicago, Dec. 8.—Cattle—Receipts estimated at 2,000; market strong. Beesves, \$4.65@5.25; Texas steers, \$4.10@5.75; western steers, \$4.40@7.20; stockers and feeders, \$3.65@5.80; cows and heifers, \$2.65@5.90; calves, \$5.00@8.25.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Money Market, New York, Dec. 8.—Close: Prime mercantile paper, 4 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange easy, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$2.56 for 60-day bills and at \$2.75 for demand. Commercial bills 4 1/2. Government bonds, weak; railroad bonds, heavy.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Metal Market, New York, Dec. 8.—Standard copper firm but quiet, spot, \$12.65@13; London firm, spot 458 1/8; 3d; futures, 259 13/8 3d. Arrivals reported at New York today 380 tons. Custom house returns show exports of 5,441 tons so far this month. Lake copper, 13 1/2@13 3/4; electrolytic, 13 1/2@13 3/4; casting, 12 1/2@13c. Lead quiet, \$4.40@4.50 New York; London, \$2.15 1/2. Spelter weak, \$8.25@8.35 New York; London, 22 1/2@23.

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