NEWS FROM MINING CAMPS.

REPORTED SALE OF THE RICH STRATTON PROPERTIES.

New York Men May Be the Purchasers —Butte Capitalists Developing a New Alaskan Copper Field—Opening of Navigation on the Upper Yukon.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., May 14.—The rumored sale of the Stratton Cripple Creek estate is generally accredited. The area comprises about 700 acres in the gold heart of the camp. Just who the purchasers are is not known. English capitalists are interested in buying important Colorado properties, stimulated by the Camp Bird success, and the mines may pass to them. It is rumored, however, that New Yorkers are the buyers. The price is understood to be $5,000,000.

John F. Fleming of Red Cliff, Col., has purchased the Farnum-Smallwood lease on Black Iron, Little Topsy, Cleveland, Morgan and Jenny Lind claims. The deal assures shipments to Salt Lake City smelters of vast bodies of manganese iron ore which has come into recent demand.

The Pay Car tunnel in Chaffee county is 70 feet in the native or metallic copper zone with no indications of limit. This is the biggest copper ore body ever opened in the county.

Cyanide mills are being built in various Colorado mining camps. The process is especially applicable to low grade Cripple Creek ores, the successful treatment of which means much for the camp's future.

The Cripple Creek district is active at present. The payroll reaches $700,000 per month. The May production record will equal if not surpass that of any month this year.

The $3,500 necessary to secure the resurvey of Cripple Creek has been subscribed. The Government will advance a like sum.

The Hoskiana Gold Mining Company of Boston, Mass., has taken up fifteen miles of placer claims on the Colorado River, 120 miles below the Green River station on the Rio Grande Western road. The company has expended to date about $250,000 in development and equipment. The gravel carries 20 to 75 cents a yard values in gold.

The El Paso general drainage tunnel is being driven from five headings. Excellent progress is being made, and the work will probably be completed some time in advance of the contract time. Much is expected from this tunnel. The water level in that part of the camp is gradually receding. The successful lowering of this level to 600 feet average from 350 will start a new era in the camp by permitting deep mining.

LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER.

HOUGHTON, Mich., May 13.—The annual report of the Copper Range Consolidated Company tells a gratifying story of growth and business gains. The railroad is doing a larger business than had been expected. The Baltic and Champion mines are already copper producers of importance, with even brighter prospects for the future.

The Elm River people are sinking a new shaft on what is thought to be the Winona lode. The friends of the Winona persist in thinking that the Winona amygdaloid is the southern continuation of the Baltic lode, and may be correct in their opinion, though the evidence is so scanty that it is rather rash to deny or affirm the identity of those mineral bodies.

The Adventure mill is now running as smoothly as could be wished, and the troubles of the first few months are over, so far as the mill is concerned, though the water supply is not yet in the best of shape. The main trouble with the Adventure is in the mine, and not in the mill, but the production of rock is being gradually increased, and the percentage of copper taken from the rock stamped is also showing a gain, both encouraging indications.

The accounts that have reached here of a new native copper district on the north shore of Lake Superior, in the vicinity of James Bay, an arm of Hudson Bay, are not definite. It may be said, however, that the discovery of native copper in considerable quantities in the James Bay district is not improbable. Newfoundland has native copper, occurring in rocks closely resembling the Keweenawan series, while native copper is being produced in considerable quantities in the maritime provinces of Canada. There seems a broad belt reaching from Newfoundland on the east to the western end of Lake Superior, in which native copper is found at occasional intervals. The Lake Superior synclinal of the cupriferous beds of the Keweenawan formation extends the full length of the lake, nearly 400 miles, and the copper-bearing amygdaloids are found on both the southern and northern shores of the lake, though all of the successful mines have been developed on the southern shore, and in the Keweenaw peninsula. Recent reports from the Weyerhaeuser-Gates exploration, fifteen miles south of Gordon, Douglas county, Wis., are that indications are not so favorable as earlier in the work.

The programme of improvement begun at the Quincy mine five years ago has not been discontinued, though the heaviest and costliest work is all done. The electrification of the mine by the substitution of power-trams for hand labor will be continued, and more extensive use will be made of electricity at the mill and about the surface of the mine. Other improvements are in progress and contemplated.

MONTANA.

BUTTE, May 11.—Several Butte mining men and capitalists have become interested in a new copper field in Alaska, and the same men are interested in a project to build 413 miles of railroad from Valdez to Eagle City on the Yukon. Contracts have been let for grading the first thirty miles of the road and the promoters will float $1,000,000 worth of bonds in New York with which to carry on the construction. Experts have been examining the Valdez district and have made good reports to the men interested in the new country. The district is full of rich copper ore, and the Butte men own about thirty claims. It is the intention to build branch lines from the main road into several recently discovered mining districts.

Speaking of the new copper discoveries, Alfred B. Iles, promoter of the railroad enterprise and representative of the Butte interests, says: "One of the spur roads will be built from the mouth of the Chittyna River, which is about 100 miles from Valdez, and another will be constructed in the vicinity of Fairbank and Chena. Both will penetrate districts rich in mineral, one of which is the Nizina, discovered only last year, and which will this year yield no less than $2,000,000 in gold. The district is at the mouth of the Nizna River, and there are numerous copper properties close to the camp. The Bonanza group, which was sold to Havemeyer & Co. last fall, is located there. The mines of the group contain an immense lot of copper glance, and there are in sight 16,000 tons of ore that will run 77 per cent. copper. There is not a pound of waste rock in it.

Eight miles from the Bonanza there is another group called the Nicolai, named after an Indian chief who showed the white men the vein. On this property there are two parallel ledges of bornite ore, each of which is from 15 to 20 feet wide, and extend for miles through the country. This ore runs about 45 per cent. copper and carries some gold and silver. On the Kotsena River there is one group containing 140 claims, each of which has a ledge of copper ore of the bornite and chalcopyrite nature. It is estimated that 500 tons of this ore can be mined each day for five years without making more than an impression upon the bodies. This ore, however, is of a lower grade than some of the other, the average being from 31 to 34 per cent. copper. The veins are from 12 to 60 feet wide, and the ore in them is unlimited. The Tanana Mining Exploration Company, which is composed of New York capitalists, owns a group of claims on the Lokina River, which flows through the heart of the copper district. The vein of the property is from 12 to 45 feet wide, and in it there is an 18-inch streak of native copper. One can walk along the native copper croppings a distance of 700 feet. On the east side of the streak the ledge is composed of white spar which is impregnated with globules of copper, while the spar itself averages $60 in gold per ton. The company has broken on the surface 100,000 tons of this ore.

The Montana Coal and Coke Company, operating at Horr, Park county, is turning out 250 tons of coke every day. There are 235 ovens in use. The entire product of the mines and ovens is shipped to the smelter in Anaconda, the Butte reduction works in Butte, and the smelter in Great Falls. The entire output of coal is used for making coke and not a pound of it is shipped. The mines are located on the Yellowstone Park branch of the Northern Pacific, and are in a heavily timbered part of the country. The company is composed principally of Eastern capitalists, who have spent a quarter of a million dollars in equipping the property with machinery necessary to the successful operation of the mines and the treatment of the output. Joseph A. Coram of Boston, who has a large amount of money invested in Butte property, is the largest individual shareholder.

A new mining corporation known as the Treasure State, has been organized in Montana for the purpose of developing the Eleanor claims in the Rochester district of Madison county. The company will also operate an adjoining claim and a group of claims near York, and will build a mill and cyanide plant at York for the treatment of the ore. The York claims are partly opened and it is said that a body of good ore has been exposed in the workings. Of 750 pounds of ore sent to Denver, a return of $12 in gold was made. The test showed that 96 per cent. of the values could be saved by the cyanide process, which influenced the company to put in a cyanide plant. The Eleanor is known as the big lead because it covers a portion of an immense gold quartz vein traversing the district. The lead is said to be from 100 to 150 feet wide and several miles long.

So far as the Kendall mine is concerned, the deal for the sale of the property to an Eastern syndicate has fallen through. The parties, however, still have an option on the Barnes-King mines in the same district and they will run until July 1. The Case-Wilson Cyanide Gold Company of New Jersey has secured a $40,000 bond on several claims adjoining the Barnes-King properties.

HELENA, May 10.—One of the oldest copper districts in Montana—the Snowshoe, twelve miles northwest of Elliston, is attracting more than usual attention because of the high grade copper ore being produced in several claims. More than thirty years ago copper ore extracted from the Arnold mine was hauled overland by ox teams to Fort Benton, Mon., thence to New Orleans by way of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and there transferred to ocean vessels for shipment to Swansea, Wales, where it was treated at a profit by the owners of the property. At that time, however, copper was worth a great deal more than at present.

With the discovery of high grade copper at Butte, the Snowshoe district was virtually forgotten because of the fact that the latter had no railroad facilities. Eastern syndicates have secured control of several groups in the district recently.

In the Cleveland and McKinley claims, recently located, copper ore in paying quantities has been found.

A strike that bids fair to be of much importance has been made on the farm of John Gibson, five miles south of Belt. A Helena syndicate has secured options on the property, and assays secured on the ore show an average of $6 a ton in cyaniding ore, which can be treated at a cost of $2 a ton. The property resembles the Kendall and Barnes-King mines in Fergus county, which have served to make it the leading gold producer of the State, even eclipsing Lewis & Clarke county, which has held the record since 1865, until this season.

Construction work has begun on the smelter for the Indian Queen copper mine in Beaverhead county. It is to have a capacity of 30 tons a day. By treating its own ores a long haul will be avoided.

United States Senator W. A. Clark has purchased for $100,000 cash the Ajax mine in Madison county. The Ajax is a noted gold producer and has yielded handsomely for many years.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11.—A remarkable rise in value of land around Oroville has been caused by the success of dredge mining. Twenty-two dredges are at work and six more are being built. Before these dredges demonstrated that there were big profits in working over the sediment land along the Feather river, land for farming or fruit growing could be bought for $75 an acre. Now all this land that is found by boring to be rich in gold commands $1,000 an acre. This amounts to about 2.10 cents per square yard and dredging costs about 4 cents per cubic yard. The dredges cost about $60,000 and they handle about 2,000 tons of gravel daily. All the companies are making handsome profits.

Spokane mining men have purchased the Siskiyou Copper mines at Elliott Creek, Siskiyou county, for $210,000. The ore is very high grade but it will take some work to bring the roads into condition to deliver the copper to the railroads.

NEVADA.

RENO, May 10.—The Montana-Tonopah mine shaft at Tonopah is now down 500 feet. Last Thursday the first big strike was made on a ledge which assays from $200 to $800 a ton in gold and silver. This strike bears out predictions of mining engineers, who declared that the property was on the line of the ledge in Tonopah that carried values up to $1,000 a ton. An electric drill for drifts and crosscuts will be installed this week. The company has a large amount of high-grade ore on hand which will be shipped at once to Salt Lake smelters.

The Ray and O'Brien Company, at Tonopah, shipped, last week, a carload of first-class ore, which carries from 80 to 100 ounces of silver and 40 per cent. of lead to the ton. This ore is from the 300-foot level. Chinese are not wanted in Tonopah or its vicinity. Last week a Chinaman paid $550 for a boarding house at Gold Mountain, and three days later the miners of that camp served notice on him that he would have to leave the camp. He left.

The Gold Mountain-Tonopah Company has shipped a lot of ore from the new shaft in the Midway which assays $58 in gold and $7 in silver. In the Monte Cristo, an adjoining claim, ore was found that runs $116 to the ton, $71 in siver and $45 in gold. The tunnel is now in 500 feet, and all indications show that it is approaching a large ledge.

The North Star mine hoisting plant was started last week. It is 54 horse power capacity, and is the largest of its kind in Nevada. It has 1,500 feet of ½-inch cable, and can handle a cage from a depth of 1,500 feet. The main shaft is now down to a depth of 650 feet.

The Reidler pumps in the Consolidated California and Virginia mine, on the Comstock lode, will be able to handle the water in this deep mine with ease. The shafts of the hoist broke soon after the pumps began work, and it is not expected that the new shaft will be put in before June 1. The water is now kept at the 2,150-feet level by one pump. It will be lowered to the 2,850-feet level shortly, and when all the pumps can be used it will be lowered to the 2,550-feet level, which is the bottom of the shaft.

The Quartette mine, in the Searchlight district of southern Nevada, has cleaned up $100,000 during the first four months of this year. This does not include tailings of $40,000 in the pit. The mine has forty stamps, and it is expected, when in full operation, to turn out about $2,000 a day.

In the Nelson copper mine, near Lovelocks, average samples show 11 per cent. copper, though some picked specimens of bornite go as high as 70 per cent. There is an immense body of this copper ore, which, on the third-tunnel level, shows a width of 50 feet.

LAKE REGION IRON MINES.

DULUTH, Minn., May 16.—Eastern men, accompanied by dredge experts from this city, have gone on an unusual mission to the north shore of Lake Superior. On the Canadian side of the lake, east of the Nipigon River, are immense areas of black magnetic sands, rich in iron, and it is the intention of these men to develop these beds of iron sand, and, if found feasible, to dredge and concentrate the sand and ship the concentrates to furnaces. Millions of tons of this sand are said to exist in the neighborhood, and the Eastern men in the deal have secure concessions from the Canadian Government.

Mining operations have been resumed on the properties of the Antoine Ore Company, now owned by the Republic Iron and Steel Company and a large tonnage will be taken out this year. From the Antoine mine alone shipments are to be more than 100,000 tons, while several other mines are to be worked more or less and the Vulcan silica is to be opened for mining. These mines produce a lean ore, high in silica, which make them valuable for mixing with the almost too pure ores of the Mesaba range. In the past year or two there has been a very active demand for these ores, and the Republic company has been only one of half a dozen large consumers buying them. The United States Steel Corporation has taken a large acreage of lands known to contain lean silicious bessemer ores of this character and will mine heavily this year.

Numerous electric projects are under way for the development of power for mines in the Lake region. One of these is at Vulcan, where preliminary steps have already been taken. Another is for the mines of the Lake Superior Iron Company at Ishpeming, which owns the upper falls of the Escanaba River. Another is near Stambaugh, on the Menominee range, where vast power is running to waste. Still another, and the largest of the lot, is at Duluth, where there is under development a plant that will furnish more than 50,000 horse-power, part of which will doubtless be used for the mines of the Mesaba range. A last is near Ely, where the falls of the Kawishiwaw River will give ample power for all the deep mines of the Vermillion range and at a very short transmission radius.

The United States Steel Corporation has commenced the work of exploration on part of the famous "section 30" Vermillion range, that belongs to it.

The Lake Superior Iron Company is making arrangements for a semi-centennial celebration of the beginning of mining on its Ishpeming properties, which is to take place on June 24. The Lake Superior company is controlled by the United States Steel Corporation, and leading officers of the big concern, from New York, Pittsburg and Duluth, will be present. These mines have now been operating for half a century, and have produced more than 11,000,000 tons of high-grade ore, and still have a vast tonnage in sight.

ALASKA.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 11.—Ice is disappearing at White Horse and Labarge, and it is expected that navigation on the upper Yukon will open this week. Freight is accumulating at Skagway and other points along the route and shippers are manifesting anxiety to get it to Dawson in anticipation of good prices. The lower Yukon from Dawson to Forty-Mile, Eagle and Circle, is expected to open by May 20 and a large amount of business is awaiting this event. The entire Yukon fleet will be profitably employed this season.

The movement north to Nome will again be started by the steamer Portland, which was the pioneer last season. This vessel is now receiving cargo and will sail for St. Michael and Nome on May 17. She will be followed by a large fleet of sailing vessels and steamers, destined for the same ports.

The rush to southeastern Alaska, Valdes, Cook Inlet and Copper River points continues, regardless of the snow, which is reported very deep for this season of the year, particularly so at Valdes and Cook Inlet. In the oil region the snow is said to be from six to ten feet deep, but this is regarded as a trifling barrier to those who are seeking fortunes in petroleum. The excitement in this part of the country is about equally divided between copper and oil, each product possessing great merit. The gusher at Kyak, it is said, is in position to yield several thousand barrels of oil a day, as soon as the owners are prepared to take care of the product. A steamer was chartered last week to carry 300 tons of machinery and piping for this well and it is thought the oil can be readily handled and marketed this season. The land on Little and Big Kyak islands not appropriated by the Government has been taken up and companies organized for the sinking of wells.

The Tanana diggings have been practically shut out by reason of the bad roads and high streams, rendering travel almost impossible, until the Yukon River opens to navigation.

On Forty-Mile and on all the Klondike tributaries there is great activity, the spring clean-up being on in full force. The average is good.

WASHINGTON.

SEATTLE, May 11.—There is considerable development work under way in Republic district and some shipments are being made to the smelters.

The Silver-Butte mine near Northport, one of the old producers of the district, has again been enrolled among the shippers and now has 600 tons of good ore on the dump ready for transportation to the smelter. The properties in the district are giving good promise.

The anthracite deposits in the foothills of Mount Rainier are being rendered accessible by a branch line of the Northern Pacific, now under construction. This coal field was prospected twenty years ago, but it was impossible to get capital interested in opening the mines and securing transportation. While the quality is hardly up to the Pennsylvania standard, it is excellent and is a great improvement in the soft coal generally in use on the Pacific Coast. It will be ready for market this season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 11.—The Tyee smelter on Vancouver Island is now running regularly on copper gold ores mined in the vicinity and from the west coast of the island, and also from Texada Island.

A new coal field is being opened up at McNeil Bay on the eastern side of Vancouver Island by a company that has recently acquired 40,000 acres of land. Three seams of coal, respectively 4, 6 and 10 feet in width, have been encountered, the coal being excellent for steam and cooking purposes.

IDAHO.

BOISE, May 10.—The latest reliable news from Thunder Mountain is that ore running into the hundreds per ton has been struck in a raise from the lower tunnel of the Dewey mine, and that in all of the crosscuts and tunnels of the property the ore is of a very satisfactory grade.

Another very important strike has been made in the famous Trade Dollar at Silver City. A body of ore on the 800-foot level goes from $2,000 to $5,000 a ton in gold and silver.

Last year several new locations were made on free-gold-bearing veins at Deadwood, Boise county, and the locators spent the winter in development work on most of them. It is said that in every instance good ore bodies have been exposed. The veins are several feet in width and give every indication of permanency, the foot walls being porphyry and the hanging granite. During the early sixties considerable placer mining was done in the district, and much float picked up in the claims, yet only a very limited amount of prospecting was done for quartz.

H. H. Cole has returned from Teton Basin, Fremont county, and reports that that new district is among the most promising in the State. The formation is granite and the course of the veins northeast and southwest, and they are traceable on the surface for many miles. The largest vein discovered is over one hundred feet wide and the ore assays from $9 to $50 in gold a ton. Parallel with the big ledge is another nearly as wide, which assays $11 in gold, $8 in silver and as high as 35 per cent. copper. Spokane and Salt Lake mining companies already have representatives on the ground. Along the course of the ledges rich copper float is picked up for a distance of twenty miles, and 200 locations have been made in the district. Most of the mines are at a very high altitude, and the snow is yet so deep that supplies cannot be taken in. There is abundance of timber and water and fine coking coal in the district.

IN THE BLACK HILLS.

DEADWOOD, S. D., May 12.—It is announced that the new Horseshoe cyanide plant at the Mogul mine, in Ruby Basin, will be ready for running about July 1. The plant will be the largest with complete crushing facilities in the Black Hills. The daily capacity will be 500 tons at first, the crushing to be accomplished with stamps in solution of cyanide—called the "wet crushing process." The Horseshoe is still shipping ore from its principal mines, including the Lucile and Ben Hur, to Denver smelters and to various other reduction plants elsewhere.

There is a big mining deal pending in the Iron Creek region, in which several hundred acres of mineral land are involved. Major A. J. Simmons has obtained the bonds, in behalf of Eastern men, who intend to spend a large sum in development.

The Homestake Belt Gold Mining Company has been organized by Black Hills and New York men for the purchase of Peter McGuire's property, consisting of 200 acres adjoining the property of the Clover Leaf Gold Mining Company on the south. The company takes its name from the ore belt of the famous Homestake, on the southerly extension of which it is situated. The ground is known to be crossed by at least four strong veins of free milling ore, which are considered to belong to the Homestake ore system, having the same general course, northwesterly and southwesterly. Two of these are fifty feet in width, and a third is known to have a width of forty feet. Assays show values ranging from $5.40 to $11.36 a ton. Two wagon roads and a railroad, the Black Hills and Fort Pierre branch of the Burlington, cross the group. Water is at hand in abundance, as Elk Creek crosses one part of the ground. The executive office of the company is at Watertown, N. Y.

ARIZONA.

PHOENIX, May 5.—The Black Warrior Copper Company, Amalgamated, has started in operation its leaching plant and is now treating sixty tons of ore daily. The volume will be increased until the total treatment capacity of 300 tons is taxed. The mines, comprising great low-grade copper deposits, are located near Globe and in formations similar to those which embrace the Old Dominion and the United Globe. Acid employed in the leaching process is manufactured on the ground and the cost of treatment is extremely low. James Fleming is at the head of the company and Pittsburg capitalists are heavy stockholders.

In its plan of expending several hundred thousand dollars in improvements the Old Dominion Copper Company is at work grading for a new smelter site and it has already put down to a depth of 130 feet a big double compartment shaft which will be sunk 1,000 feet.

UTAH.

SALT LAKE, May 11.—State Senator A. B. Lewis has incorporated the Royal Gold and Copper Mining Company with a capital of $10,000,000. The mines upon which this enterprise is based are some of the most famous in Beaver county, leaving out the Horn Silver. They have for years been known as great producers.

LOOT AT THE CITY HALL.

Doors to Be Put on the Mayor's Lobby to Save the Paintings.

In his plans for the remodelling of the interior of the City Hall, William M. Aiken, the architect employed by Borough President Cantor, provided for an open lobby at the western end of the main corridor. Mayor Low and his staff have offices in this wing of the building. The entrance to the lobby has an overhead arch supported by two gothic columns. At night when the offices are closed there has been nothing to prevent strangers going into the lobby, which contains several pictures of former Mayors, except the stretching of a plush-covered chain between the two columns. The chain is attached to hooks and more than half a dozen times in the past two weeks Sergt. Billy Kennel has found one or other of these hooks missing. The "souvenir hunters" who stole them are expected to come back for the paintings, and so doors are to be swung on the gothic columns.

TWO DIE OF FALLS FROM ROOFS.

Warm Weather the Cause of Fatal Accidents to Tenement Dwellers.

In crossing from the roof of 123 West Sixtieth street to the house next door, yesterday morning, Joseph Manahan, an expressman, missed his footing and fell to the ground. He was dead when found. Manahan went to the roof to get air.

Timothy Ladder, a laborer, living at 167 East Eighty-seventh street, fell from the roof of his home, where he was sleeping shortly after midnight on Saturday, and was instantly killed.

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