

Mohave County Miner.

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Story of a Sulphur Mine.

"There is only one sulphur mine in the United States," said Huber Oser of New Orleans. "The existence of the mine is known to but a few and was known to hardly any one until recent years.

"The mine is said to contain about 37,000,000 worth of pure sulphur. It is located near Lake Charles in an almost inaccessible region. It was discovered by a famous mineralogist, according to one story, while another has it that it was found by a party of hunters who had shot bears in the vicinity and found the coats of the bears to be filled with a black, greasy oil. They were curious to know where this came from and tracked bruin one night, going through an almost impenetrable marsh and coming out on a wooden knoll where the oil pit was discovered.

"Little was thought of the matter until a few years before the civil war, when an attempt was made to sink a shaft to get the oil. The war broke up the business, but in 1868 another shaft was sunk, this time with 122 huge steel rings, each twelve feet in diameter and five feet wide. They were imported from France and rolled across the country to the oil pit. Thirty-eight of them were sunk in one shaft 193 feet deep, but it filled up with oil and it was found that nothing could be done with the enterprise. A fortune was sunk in the attempt.

"Later the Standard Oil heard of the oil and came down to examine the ground. Borings were made and it was found that below the oil was a stratum of pure sulphur rock from 125 to 250 feet deep. Various expedients were tried to mine the stuff, but all failed until one of the engineers thought up a scheme to extract the sulphur by melting it and pumping it to the surface. Borings made a mile either way showed the stratum to be about 200 feet thick in every direction and the worth of the mine was estimated at nearly 40,000,000.

"A unique and intricate process is used to extract the sulphur. Huge iron pipes are forced into the bed and hot water pumped into them at 350 degrees from a battery of 100 boilers. After about ten days the melted sulphur is pumped to the surface and flowed into hung vats, where it is allowed to cool."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Lands to be Thrown Open for Settlement.

A Washington, D. C. dispatch says: One of the best of the few remaining tracts of Indian lands is soon to be thrown open for settlement: This tract is located near Lawton, in Comanche Caddo and Kiowa counties, Oklahoma. It comprises something over 500,000 acres, and is known locally as the "big pasture."

The big pasture consists of lands originally set aside for grazing the cattle of the Kiowa, Apache and Comanche Indians, and it is to the survivors of these tribes that the proceeds of the sale will go—or rather it is to them that the interest at 5 per cent will go, the principal being held by the interior department in trust.

The big pasture lands are not to be had free, or even for a nominal price. The plan on which they will be disposed of is a combination of settlement and sale. The law provides that none of the lands can be sold for less than 5¢ an acre, and it is the plan of the department to sell to the highest bidder. But whether the bidding will be at auction or by sealed bids has not been determined.

Neither has the date of the sale been determined; only that it will come some time before December 5—probably about November 15.

Of the half million acres 25,000 acres are woodland. The rest is rolling pasture, exceedingly rich and well suited to all forms of agriculture. It is expected that some of the lands will sell for as high as 25¢ and even 30¢ an acre.

The law provides that purchasers of these lands must be actual settlers in order to secure title. The least time a man can live upon the lands and secure title is fourteen months, and the normal time is five years.

Some of the lands are now leased, and these are to be sold subject to the terms of these leases. In addition to which the law has given lessees at first call on the lands, so that they may buy the lands covered by their leases at a value to be fixed by appraisers, if they so desire.

Purchasers will be required to pay one-fifth of the purchase price at the time the bid is made, and the remainder in four annual installments.

With the deductions for Indian allotment and other purposes there will be about 3,200 quarter sections on which to homestead. If there are on an average of three bidders for each homestead, there will be some 10,000 persons in the game.

Prospecting in Honduras.

Foreigners are granted the same prospecting and mining rights in Honduras as natives, says Consul W. E. Alger, at Tegucigalpa, and are subject to no tax for prospecting, and will find ample provisions such as beans, rice, plantains, corn, and fresh meats at any of the small towns or settlements. Prospecting tools should be brought along. Saddle mules cost 125¢ to 250¢ Honduras money (a dollar worth 38 to 48 cents United States currency), and pack mules 80¢ to 125¢. The Olancho region can be reached either from Amapala on the Pacific or Puerto Cortez on the Atlantic. A guide, who acts as servant, can be secured at 50¢ to 1\$ per day, or 10\$ to 25\$ per month and board. A prospector with experience stands a good chance for success. There have been many failures of mining companies in Olancho, but nearly all have been of the wild-cat class, the money never being used for actual development.

\$300,000 Payroll.

A Goldfield dispatch says: Never were times better in this camp. Its streets are no longer filled with the excited, jostling crowds that characterized the rush of 1905, when thousands thronged the thoroughfares and the gambling houses. There is a fine air of life about the camp, however. Its merchants and brokers are rushed with business, and nearly all the mines are going, all of which goes to show that Goldfield is settling down to a genuine business basis, and that from this time on she will continue to prosper in spite of the occasional stampedes to other districts. The monthly payroll is today over 300,000\$. There are about 2,000 union miners in the camp, and the records of the secretary show that 1,400 of these are working. The others are principally in the hills surrounding the camp looking for gold.

A Bee Story.

It frequently happens that mines are forced to suspend operations temporarily because of water or because of lack of immediate funds, but it has remained for Mohawk to bring forth a new cause for a suspension of mining operations, says the Tucson Citizen. Millions of bees there swarmed down on the water supply of the Red Cross mine, which Colonel George W. Norton is operating, and set themselves up as rulers. The mine is located in the Mohawk mountains, five miles from Mohawk summit, on the Southern Pacific. There are millions and millions of bees that swarm in these mountains. The water supply is short at present, and the bees have discovered that the best place to secure water is at the Red Cross mine. Almost famished by lack of water, the bees visited the camp this week by millions. They swarmed on the canteens until these cooling vessels looked like immense balls of bees. In the water barrels the bees swarmed six inches deep. As a result of this visit the miners could obtain drinking water only at the risk of being stung to death, and it was decided to shut down the mine temporarily until some means could be found for getting rid of the bees. These bees have their hives in crevices in the rocks, and prospectors who have found the mesquite honey, declare it is of the finest quality. It is believed that many of the bees come miles for water, and al-

though thousands of them are drowned, there seems to be a never ending stream, and until the rainy season sets in the bees will have the mine to themselves.

Santa Fe May Double Track Entire Line.

A dispatch from San Francisco says large increases in the business of the Santa Fe railway have resulted in the decision to double track the entire main system to San Francisco. Already there are many miles of double track between the wheat fields and the Chicago terminal, and the main line east of the Mississippi also is double-tracked. Plans have been approved for the extra track as far west as Albuquerque, but there remains 1,200 miles between there and San Francisco, double-tracking for which probably will be authorized by the board of directors in a few days. In addition to these improvements it is believed that the Santa Fe is about to obtain another shipping outlet by connecting with Galveston from Albuquerque. It was reported several days ago that the system had obtained control of the Gulf and Midland lines, and this corroborates the rumor.—Journal-Miner.

Thomas Clemmons, one of the original discoverers and owners of the first wolframite mine in the United States, is in the city on business. Mr. Clemmons is still the owner of a wolframite mine in the Dragoons which yields good returns of this valuable mineral, and he has a method of mining which is absolutely unique in Arizona and which is probably not duplicated in any mining section. Wolframite is a metal which is not found in many places. There are mines yielding this ore in Arizona, in Colorado and in two or three other states. Normally the ore brings 400\$ per ton. It suffered a slump several months ago and fell to 160\$ per ton but the price has again returned to 400\$. It was about seven years ago that wolframite was discovered in Arizona. The original mines were sold to the Primus Chemical Company of Primus, Pa., who ship the ore to their plant in Pennsylvania, where it is converted into tungstic acid. This acid is used in the process of making Harveyized armor plate and in toughening steel tools so that they will hold their temper when heated to a high degree. Wolframite is found near the surface in blanket deposits. The separate deposits play out quickly, but they are numerous in a section of the Dragoons. Realizing this, Mr. Clemmons located new ground in a little gulch in the mountains where there were outcroppings of wolframite. The natural features are such that he does not need a concentrator or miners. Nature does the work for him during the hard rains which fall frequently in the Dragoons, the ore, which is not firmly imbedded, being loosened from its bed and washed down the gulch and concentrated at the bottom by the water. A heavy rainfall concentrates two or three tons. This is probably the only mine known where nature brings out the mineral for its owner.—Tucson Citizen.

Copperas is produced principally as a by-product in the wire and sheet steel industries. The wire rods and sheets are given a bath of diluted sulphuric acid to clean and brighten the metal. This bath is used until it accumulates numerous loose particles of metal, etc., when it is replaced by a new solution. The waste pickling liquor is permitted to flow away whenever possible, but at times it is saved and utilized by iron and steel makers in the manufacture of copperas. The waste acid is collected from the different pickling rooms into tanks or reservoirs, later removing it in lead lined tank cars or by gravitation through pipe lines to the works. These works are far from the town, because of the injurious acid fumes. The liquor is run into large boiling tanks for evaporating the excess of water; this requires several days before the proper strength for crystallization is obtained. The hot liquor is then drawn off into

large vats or crystallizers and cooled. Crystals of copperas then collect on the sides of the vats or on iron rods suspended therein, requiring 3 to 8 days to form. The crystals are detached and undergo additional drying to evaporate all moisture, and are then ready for market. Copperas is used in inks and blues, in polishing plate glass, dyeing cotton and wool, etc.—The Mining World.

Shipments were commenced last week from the Ash Peak mines to the Shannon smelter. It is expected that between four and five hundred tons monthly will be shipped to the Shannon. The value of the ore is in the silver it contains, though its principal value to the smelter is for the silica it carries, being crushed and used for converter lining. The company is now in a position to produce a much larger tonnage than that taken by the Shannon, hence it is likely that shipment will be made to Douglas, where silica is also in demand, being shipped in from Globe. The Ash Peak company is now in a position to develop its property from the income derived from ore shipments. It is also likely that the company will soon commence the erection of a cyanide plant, whereby it will be able to treat all of its low grade ores without the expense of shipping. The company has been operating several years and has a well developed property, and is pushing exploration work as fast as possible. In addition to its low grade ores it also has a mine which is producing ore that will average from 40\$ to 400\$ per ton in silver.—Phenix Republican.

The output of blister copper at the Copper Queen smelter at Douglas this month will be considerably more than that of last month, according to Superintendent George B. Lee. The output last month was about 7,750,000 pounds and this month it is estimated that it will be almost 8,500,000. No. 9 furnace, the latest addition to the battery of furnaces at the big reduction works, will be ready for business early next week, but the superintendent states that it will not be placed in active commission until September 10. A heavy production is expected for September, as all nine furnaces will be kept in operation most of the time. Mr. Lee stated that about 500 tons of slag are being received daily from the old Bisbee dump. In addition to making room in Bisbee, the slag is resmelted at a profit to the company, as it runs as high as 3 per cent in copper and at times higher.

The North Butte is hoisting 1000 tons a day and will not increase the amount materially for some weeks, or until the skip chutes are put in. The company has for some time been working on the 1100-foot level, the deepest portion of the mine, which has proven by far the richest level.

The ore chute is much longer than on the 1600 level, is much richer, and just as wide. The ore mined averages 7 per cent copper, very little second class being mined. All the mining is being done in the Jessie claim, and none in the Speculator. The company will, soon begin the north cross cut to the Belin claim, which has been long contemplated.—Bisbee Review.

The Arizona Copper company is putting in a settling tank at Longfellow, near Clifton, for the purpose of handling the tailings from concentrator No. 6, at Longfellow. It is being built on the slag dump at Morenci and will be 300 feet in diameter and about fifteen feet deep. The tailings will be run into it and settled, after which the water will be run off and the deposit removed with an electric grab shovel, handled by a seventy-five horsepower induction motor. The dry tailings will be loaded into cars and taken back to the mines and used for filling. This is an entirely new feature in mill work, and if a success, which it will no doubt be, there will be no more tailings allowed to run into the river at Clifton, thereby doing away with the many complaints from the farmers of the valley. This move has been on foot for many months and will be in operation in a very short time.—Tucson Citizen.

While many rich strikes of gold have been made in the Dos Cabezas range and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on the west side of the range, it has remained for Ed Drew to make the richest strike that has ever been made in the district, says the Graham County Guardian. Ever since the first of the year Hooker brothers and Mr. Drew have been working some claims in Apache Pass, on this side of the range, and have kept a small stamp mill running all the time on a fairly good rate of ore. For some time past Mr. Drew has been crippled. One day last week while waiting for a horse to be brought to him on which to ride he sat down on a ledge of rocks. While sitting there he noticed a piece of gold sticking to the quartz. He put some men to work and followed the ledge in about twenty feet which averaged eighteen inches in width. In four days he had taken out 4 tons of ore that averaged 1,000\$ per ton in free gold. The quartz occurs in large boulders, and between them is found a coarse gravel, and this gravel is very rich in gold and is easily panned. This new discovery has caused considerable excitement, as it is the richest ever made in the range. Several good claims are being worked and the ore successfully treated. It is rumored that the Phelps-Dodge people will soon become interested in a group of claims on the west side of the mountain, principally, it is said for the great deposits of iron that exists there.

The Arizona Commercial Copper Company has resumed sinking on the Blackhawk mine and will put the shaft down 600 feet and open up another level. There has been marked improvements in the fifth level drifts, the east drift especially showing a face of very high grade glance ore. The west drift is also showing up a strong seam of good ore. Development work in the Copper Hill mine is progressing steadily. The eighth level is now being opened up, but the work has not proceeded far enough to show any important results. The third, fourth and sixth levels all look well. Grading for the company's standard gauge railroad is going ahead and the end of the grade has reached the Copper Hill boarding house above the mine, and October 1 should see it completed to the Blackhawk mine. The company continues shipping ore to the Douglas smelter.—Tucson Citizen.

The Arizona-Mexican Smelter blew in this week again after being shut down for several weeks. The roaster has been working steadily all the time since started but the inability of the company to obtain labor has detained the starting of the stack. The great amount of ores which are arriving now have filled the storage capacity of the smelter and the shipments of ores from the Humboldt smelter has necessary been reduced for the time being until storage room can be made by the smelting of the ores now laid on the floors. The work on the copper stack is progressing as rapidly as possible under the conditions.—Needles Eye.

Ely, the great Nevada copper camp, according to Houlder Hudgins, a representative of the Guggenheims, and owner of the White Pine News in Ely, is to have the largest concentrator and smelter plant in the United States, if not in the world, with a daily capacity of 10,000 tons of ore, or 2,500 tons larger than the present record plant of the Amalgamated copper company at Butte, Montana. This means that the Guggenheims have decided to double recent estimates, which limited the Ely capacity to 5,000 tons per day.

Charles Gracy has resigned the management of the Wharton mines in El Dorado Canyon and will be succeeded by Joseph Wharton's nephew, a Philadelphian. The Wharton interests in the canyon represent millions of dollars and include the famous Techatieup mine as well as the Wall Street, Quaker City, Mocking Bird and others. The activity of the new management will therefore be watched with interest.—Eye.