

Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXV.

KINGMAN, ARIZONA, JULY 27, 1907

NO. 43.

The Leadville Downtown District.

High up among the peaks of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, more than 10,000 feet above the sea, in a terraced basin at the very head of the great Arkansas river, stands the city of Leadville, covering with its rectangular system of streets and contiguous smelting works an area of over 500 acres. On the hillslopes back of the city are the mines, which since 1860 have year by year added immense amounts to the world's metallic wealth. In the early eighties it was estimated that this district's annual product of silver alone exceeded that of any silver-producing country in the world except Mexico, while its lead product nearly equaled that of England and was surpassed only by that of Spain and that of Germany—all mined from an area not over a square mile in extent. Today—more than twenty years later—the Leadville district is still a marvel in its metallic production. In 1906 its mineral product, surpassing all its own previous records, as well as those of every other mining district in Colorado, amounted to nearly a million tons of ore. Zinc, silver, lead, gold and copper, in the order named, were dug from these treasure-holding hills, whose store of mineral wealth is still apparently inexhaustible. It is a notable fact that zinc, once despised by the miners, now leads in value.

The history of the discovery and development of the Leadville ores has been told many times, but its interest may justify a brief restatement. Gold was discovered in California Gulch on April 26, 1860, and the news spread with amazing rapidity, notwithstanding the difficulties of communication in this wild and inaccessible region. In three months over 10,000 persons were in the camp, and it is said that over 2,000,000 were taken out during the first summer. The climax was soon reached, however, and within three or four years the population was counted by hundreds instead of thousands. In 1874 the now famous carbonate deposits were discovered. The first smelting furnace was erected in 1877, and the subsequent growth of the city has kept pace with the development of the region. The most notable recent undertaking in the district is the wonderful Yak tunnel, probably the greatest mining enterprise in the United States. The works already comprise a main tunnel from which extend miles of laterals, provided with electric lights and telephones and equipped to handle a thousand tons of ore a day.

Early in 1880 the United States Geological Survey, then but a year old, sent to Leadville a party of geologists and topographers, headed by S. F. Emmons, to study and map the district. A preliminary report of this investigation was published in 1882 and an extended report was issued four years later. The editions of both these publications were long ago exhausted.

At the close of the survey field work in 1881 underground exploration was practically confined to a zone about 1,000 feet wide along the eastern or upper edge of the camp. Within recent years mining operations have been carried westward under the city into what is called the "Downtown district", and revised and extended maps of the whole district, showing underground workings, are now being prepared for publication.—Denver Mining Record.

Sets Record in Tunnel Work.

A Jerome dispatch says: Considering the many difficulties encountered and numerous obstacles overcome, no greater headway has been made in the past four months in any similar mining operations in the country than the running of the lower tunnel into the United Verde mines at Jerome.

July 1, only 117 days after the first pick was stuck in the ground, the tunnel had reached a point into the mountain a distance of 1,058 feet from its mouth, showing an average headway made of nine feet a day, although only hand drills were used in the first 400 feet. Two eight-hour shifts are now using two machines each, with three shifts of muckers, and a still better

record is expected by the management. The rock is hauled out in mule cars, the mule trains being kept on the move incessantly. It is possible that the mules will be replaced later by electric locomotives, similar to those used in the mine.

The tunnel will be 7,000 feet in length, and will tap the mine at a depth of 1,000 feet. It is braced with heavy timbers throughout and is seven feet high, nine feet wide at the bottom, and seven feet wide at the top in the clear. Underneath the floor, on one side, there is a drain carried along, about two feet deep, to accommodate the water flow. The workmanship throughout is first class in character. At the present rate of progress being made it will take almost two years more to complete the job.

The mouth of the tunnel is located along Bitter Creek, about a mile below the town of Jerome. In its course for the first five hundred feet it passes under a water course only twenty-five feet above, and for that reason it was wisely decided by the management to use only hand drills for the first 400 feet, for the reason that the heavy explosions attendant upon the operation of machines would be liable to jar the rock in the bed of the creek above and allow the water to percolate through.

The Silver King is a Copper Mine.

John McCabe is in town from the Pinal county mining district, says the Phenix Republican. He says there was a strike the other day on the Queen mine that seems to be worth while. Anyhow, the leasers have dug up a seven foot body of copper glance ore that runs better than thirty per cent and that is good enough to talk about in anybody's mine. Previous to that the leasers had shipped about thirty carloads of ore that netted from five to ten thousand dollars a car and that wasn't a bad showing by any means. One car that he has specific knowledge of, returned 10,200\$ in velvet and that is going some. Mr. McCabe has no interest in the Queen, other than a public interest in all Pinal county mines, and says he don't know anything about company affairs, but these little things mentioned above can't help but make somebody feel good.

Asked about his own operations, Mr. McCabe said he wasn't setting the world afire yet, but he will make a little smoke after while. He is interested in a number of holdings in that section beside the old Silver King, which he has bought, and the San Rival property adjoining, which he still controls until the interests purchasing it perfect their contracts and take charge.

The most interesting thing Mr. McCabe has to announce is that the Silver King is really a copper mine. The few millions in silver that the former owners took out of it was only a by-product. All that black formation that was supposed to be lead, too low grade to pay to work, he says is black copper and black copper in this day and age is only another name for gold, after the smelter man gets through with it, or greenbacks secured by gold, which is equally as good. Mr. McCabe says he has a great deal of fun poked at him about that little 20-ton smelter he put up at Rice's station as a sampler. He intimates that the man who laughs last laughs best, and the little smelter is all right when the time comes. It has never produced anything yet to be sure, but that's his business and he insists that he hasn't been asleep a minute only when he was in bed. He has been forced to let the little sampler lay idle by the urgency of more important business, but in the meantime it has been taking root over there and one of these days it will sprout and grow some. When he gets the Silver King in shape and gets to hauling that black copper ore down to the railroad track, people will see smoke in the smelter stack. He calculates that the little 20-ton furnace will answer the purpose of its projector until he gets in position to add a 150-ton equipment and do things on a larger scale.

As for the Superior, which is right in the same section, all that he can say, or anybody else on the outside, is that the property is being unwatered, operations are being resumed on a large scale under the management of Superintendent Hoar, the stock has jumped from 7 to 16\$ and everybody is happy. When everybody is happy nobody ought to be kicking.

Yavapai County is Experiencing a Boom.

Sheriff J. R. Lowry of Yavapai county was in Phenix today on business, and declared that among most lines, business had never been better in Prescott and the surrounding country. Mining is going forward with vim and vigor, but there have been no sensational strikes of late. Development work goes steadily forward and every day brings the time so much nearer when some of the biggest producers in the territory will be opened up and will begin to ship ore.

"Everyone can obtain work and all have plenty of money, yet it has never been duller in my line. I don't believe that I ever saw the county any more orderly than it is right now. We seem to have about as many saloons as before the territorial license law was passed, but somehow they don't do as much business as they used to. They are either selling a poorer grade of whisky or else people are not drinking so much of it."

"He spoke enthusiastically of the showings made in the mines of McCabe, Mayer and other camps. Greenwood, a new camp, is showing up finely, and a new company, recently organized, intends to open up its properties there just as soon as possible. The Oro Belle, an abandoned property that was once a most promising claim, has again been filed on and the new owner will push development work.—Phenix Review.

Arichise Copper Company Makes Another Payment.

The Arichise Copper Mining Co., owning a group of twelve claims north of the city, made another fairly good-sized payment on the properties on Monday which makes the third since the contract of sale was made. The twelve claims were originally held by that number of individuals, and when they were purchased the holders agreed to take so much money at stated intervals, which is equally prorated on pay day or shortly thereafter.

The Arichise tunnel is now in over 500 feet, and the main vein will soon be encountered. General Manager Carpenter was at the mine on Monday and is well pleased with the outlook. He feels confident that a big mine will eventually be exposed and is pushing work as rapidly as possible. The company is at present doing its own development and is employing a force of about ten men. The main vein, which it is expected will soon be cut with the tunnel, was opened at the grass roots and a shaft was sunk on it for a distance of 100 feet, uncovering a well defined ledge of copper ore, which will run better than 10 per cent. The tunnel will cut this vein 400 feet under the bottom of the shaft and an upraise will then be made.—Safford Journal.

While occasion for enthusiasm as to the future of Cananea district has grown steadily since the beginning of active development work on its mineral zone, it can be said without qualification that there was never so much to warrant highest optimism as exists at this time. Greene Cananea's establishment of the fact that it has ore of excellent commercial grade at depth of 1050 feet through the recent development in the Capote, must be put down as the biggest thing ever brought about in a single operation for the general advantage of the district. The meaning of this development is of the widest kind possible to the advantage of a mining section. An additional thing which the strike brings out strongly, and which in its bearing is of no less importance than the discovery of ore at depth, is the demonstration carried of the fact that Greene Cananea management is vigorously after the goods all along the line.—Review.

Seeking Big Judgment.

In a suit filed recently at Tombstone one of the largest judgments for advertising charges ever sought against an Arizona mining company is brought to light when the advertising agency of Albert Frank & Co., of New York, filed a complaint against the Bonanza Belt Copper Company, of Johnson camp for 40,623.21\$, alleged to be due them for advertising, and attaching the mine of the company in lieu of the money.

In the complaint which was filed with the county clerk a few days since, Frank & Co., through James Roscovan, president of the corporation, allege that on May 1st they entered into contract with the Bonanza Belt people to secure for them publicity to a large extent in various papers over the country. This they claim to have done, the advertisements being for the purpose of selling stock. They claim that they made claim for the amount of their bill to the company July 1, as that was the date on which it was payable, and that the Bonanza Belt management refused to pay. With the complaint a bond of 40,700\$ is filed.

Deputy Sheriff Ned White made the trip from Tombstone to Johnson camp shortly after receiving the papers in the case and attached the mine. The case will probably be heard during the present term of the district court.—Wickenburg Miner.

Rich Ore from Maricopa Mine.

Within a few months Phenix may expect to hear great things from the Mazatzal mining district, 55 miles from this city, in the northeast part of Maricopa county. Without doubt, in a short time Maricopa county will have another big producer within its boundaries. The Clark-Munger company is engaged in opening up one of the most promising properties in that district. The Clark-Munger company was organized mainly for the purpose of exploiting mines, and this property will shortly be placed on the market, after the ore body has been more fully developed. A small force of men is now at work and soon ought to prove the existence of a good body of copper ore. At the 43 foot level in the shaft a crosscut has been run and has already shown the ore body to be at least 24 feet wide. The crosscut is being extended as rapidly as possible to find the entire width of the ore body. The ore in this crosscut runs high in mineral values. It is mainly red volcanic rock, heavily streaked with malachite. Two chunks of malachite were taken from different points in the cut and assayed 2 and 33 per cent in copper. Some of the ore is heavily impregnated with lime and is thoroughly self-fluxing. The smelters will reduce it for almost nothing.

An assay made at another point showed 50 per cent copper, 17\$ in gold and 20 ounces in silver to the ton. 20 tons of ore were recently shipped to El Paso and made an average return of 22 per cent copper, 4.18\$ gold and six ounces silver.—Phenix Review.

During the last six months the Burro Mountain Copper company has opened up an extension eastward to the great Sampson ore body. Roughly speaking, the new and additional ore body blocked out since last fall is shown to be 400 feet long and 300 feet wide running from 4 to 5 per cent copper. As in other parts of the mine, the copper in this extension of the ore body is in the form of chalcocite. At no point have the drifts passed through the ore body into barren country rock, and there is no doubt the additional development work in this ore body will continually extend it. Roughly it may be said there is an ore body in the Burro Mountain company's Sampson mines at this time developed, approximately 800 feet long 300 feet wide and from 100 to 200 feet in depth. Developments in the extension of the large ore body of the Sampson mine have proceeded in an easterly direction and have reached a point of about 1,500 feet from the old Virginia mine of the Copper Gulf Development company, with every indication that additional development eastward will greatly extend the ore body. One can

quickly compute, in a rough way the value of this great ore body of the Sampson mine, but it can safely be said that very few people appreciate at this time the amount of labor and time it will take to mine out this ore of the mine and the profit to be derived from it. The Burro Mountain company has also sunk a shaft on the Boston claim about 800 feet northeast from the Sampson and about 1,500 feet from the Old Virginia mine of the Copper Gulf company, and this shaft has penetrated 60 feet of ore and is still bottomed in ore.—Silver City Independent.

12,000,000\$ Deal Recorded.

J. Howard Conrad, of Helena, Montana, has just returned to New York after having completed the largest mining deal ever consummated between American enterprise and European capital. Mr. Conrad has just closed a deal with English capitalists for the purchase of some Conrad claims located near Conrad City in Alaska. The consideration is 12,000,000\$. The mineral veins in this claim average 35 feet and run 80\$ in gold to the ton, it is understood.

The property sold by Mr. Conrad is but a fraction of his holdings. He is master of the entire district and his faith in the property is evidenced by his insistence in retaining a majority of the claims of the adjacent district. Large smelters and costly mills will at once be erected in the vicinity and Conrad City, Alaska, promises to be henceforth one of the busiest and most productive camps of that region.

There appeared in a recent issue of the Boston News Bureau the following, in an interview with one of the directors of the Shannon Copper company: "The Shannon Company is now in excellent condition. After paying the last dividend it had considerable more money on hand than it did after paying the previous dividend. In addition it has been spending liberally for development work so as to enable its mines to meet the increased demands to be made upon them when the new big furnace is blown in. This new furnace will enable the Shannon company to produce 2,000,000 pounds of copper per month. It is also increasing its mill capacity through the installation of additional Wilfley tables. One hears a good deal about high Shannon costs but considering what the management has been doing 13-12 cents has not been high as it covers every cost of development and construction. I predict that Shannon costs will gradually decline to below 12 cents and profits correspondingly increased. The grade of Shannon ore, both concentrating and smelting, has been gradually increasing. The company is now earning at the rate of about 5\$ per share per annum upon its 300,000 shares and copper could go to 18 cents without endangering the present rate of dividends. In August the company will pay off 100,000\$ of its bonds."

The Phelps-Dodge interests say that any reported let-up in business is sentimental, that while there is no legitimate reason why copper prices should be reduced based on either production or consumption they anticipate that the producing interests will agree upon a price of 22 1-2 cents for electrolytic copper for delivery in the next three months. The producing interest have not begun to accumulate copper as yet and there is no apparent let-up in consumption though the consumers have practically used up their surplus copper stocks and will be compelled to reenter the metal market. While the price of electrolytic came very close to the price of the best lake copper, during the famine period it should be remembered that a difference of one-half cent a pound between electrolytic copper and lake copper when the price of copper is 12 cents, should mean a difference of one cent per pound under normal conditions when the price is around 25 cents. It is therefore probable that the Calumet & Hecla price will be above 23 cents if, this month, the electrolytic price is to be made 22 1-2 cents.—Clifton Copper Era.