

Mohave County Miner.

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Desert Water Holes.

There are few who have not traveled on the great deserts of the southwest that appreciate the importance of serviceable water in journeying across the wastes. There are numerous springs in the valleys and in the canyons or gulches leading into the verdureless hills and mountains. In some places these springs and water holes are many miles apart, in others there may be several of them in comparatively close proximity to each other.

If these springs and water holes were rendered prominent by reason of the growth of clumps of trees about them, or by verdure-fringed streams, the traveler would recognize their whereabouts at a long distance, but usually they are small, obscure, and sometimes difficult to find, even when the traveler has a description of their locality.

One of the largest springs on the Mojave desert is Old Woman's spring, 15 miles east of Victorville, in San Bernardino county. This spring flows about three inches of tepid, but serviceable water. The spring gushes out of a single place from beneath a bed of basalt. Approaching from the eastward the willows about it can be seen for ten miles or more, but from any other direction the traveler could pass within a few yards and fail to see it at all.

About twelve miles north of the mining village of Calico, and on the north side of the Calico mountains, is a large dry lake. On the south shore of this lake is a well known water seepage called Coyote holes. It is only a short distance west of the old Death valley immigrant road that has been traveled for more than half a century. Far out on this dry lake near the northerly shore, and about midway between its east and west ends, is a water hole known to only a few who pass that way. It is obscure, marked by a stunted tree, not over six feet high. The water is brackish but it will save human life. Not larger than a half barrel, it is invaluable to those who need water. There are, perhaps, a hundred or more such obscure water holes in the desert.

In the Cargo Muchacho mountains in southeastern San Diego county, water is obtained from one of the old shafts of the Padre y Madre mine, but it is not available to those who have no means of raising the water in cans from a depth of 30 feet or more.

There is no handicap to prospecting on the desert so serious as this almost universal lack of water. In all, or nearly all, the dry lakes, water may be obtained by sinking, but often the water is charged with various mineral salts and it is unfit for use, though in many places serviceable water is obtainable from those wells.—Mining Review.

Zinc Mineral Little Known.

The worst abused and least understood mineral on earth is zinc, says the Globe Mascot. Not a prospector or miner in the district that doesn't fear it worse than the plague. And, like the woman afraid of a man under her bed, they are always looking for zinc. The first thing they do when they get their smelter assay certificates is to scan the zinc column. The silica and moisture columns attract no such concern, although really they are the most to be feared. The smelters used to charge for an excess of zinc of over 8 per cent; now they only charge when it exceeds 12 per cent., which covers all the real danger. But who has ever heard of them being any way lenient at all in silica and moisture! Indeed, moisture is the main thing upon which smelters retrieve their losses. They always charge them up to that, until the miner sighs and wonders how his ore came to be so wet.

But in relation to zinc—and there is some zinc in the Globe district, carbonate and sulphide: Zinc mining is as good mining as there is in the world as a main product. All the trouble has come from trying to make it as a by-product. Find zinc ore good and big enough and it will pay, but no

matter how much gold and silver or lead there is in it, you must not try to save anything but the zinc. You must be content with zinc alone. All other values have to be thrown away. Trying to save them along with the zinc causes all the trouble.

Zinc is profitably mined at Hanover, New Mexico, but only by losing 4¢ per ton in gold and silver in the ore. No attempt is made to save anything but the zinc. None dare be made. The ores are shipped to the company's works at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and smelted. They consist of sulphides and carbonates. The carbonates of zinc—the dry bone—is the best and resembles, in everything except shape, perhaps, the glistening and bleached bones of animals.

Propose to Amend the Law.

At the coming American Mining Congress, to be held at Joplin, Mo., in November, an effort will likely be made to effect a change in the present United States mining laws relating to annual work on claims. It is proposed to amend the laws so that a claim-owner may either do one hundred dollars' worth of work annually on each claim; or, if he so elect, pay the government fifty dollars in cash, each year.

In a business way, this amendment would result in reducing the amount of money spent for assessment work each year at least seventy-five per cent—for practically all non-resident claim-owners, and a large proportion of the resident owners accustomed to hiring their annual work done, would send their fifty dollars out of town, to the land office, instead of spending one hundred in the camp. Thus the volume of business would decrease.

In a mining way, there would be less development done, and consequently fewer ore bodies discovered—for it is this pegging away constantly at annual work that finally results in the making of mines. Many mining camps waiting on capital for development—dependent on annual work for their being—would be wiped out of existence.

Prospectors and small mine owners would continue to do one hundred dollars' worth of work rather than pay the government fifty dollars in cash. But those desiring employment as miners could not then secure as much work as at present. The only ones benefitted would be the land offices and those who do not care to develop their own mining claims.—Paradise Record.

Tombstone District is Prosperous.

While the depression in copper stocks has thrown most all of the producing camps of Arizona into a delirium of ataxy, the Tombstone mines continue in an even tenor. About the same number of men continue on the payrolls, development is the order of the day and ore shipments go forward undiminished. The T. C. M. Co. is raising 5,000,000 gallons of water per 24 hours which serves to drain the several workings and permit of systematic exploitation of virgin territory, the exertion being liberally rewarded by high-grade ores sufficient to keep forty stamps constantly dropping, the run being 200 tons every twenty-four hours. The usual shipments continue to the El Paso smelters, numerous workings in the prospect stage contributing to swell the output of the Tombstone district.

It is worthy of mention that most of the development of prospects in the near vicinity of Tombstone is being carried on by old-timers of the district—not venturesome spirits—men who have delved to the water level; and their ventures now are guided in part from information gleaned while earning a wage in the depths of T. C. M. And it is no doubt a pleasure to the horny handed miner to realize that his judgment has not failed him. While he has not as yet uncovered a "home-stake", he is faithful in the belief that the coveted cache is not far distant, and while he continues to sink, and garner coin at the same time, his neighbor joins him in his belief that he will "strike it rich" soon. The

miner is certain that there is wealth beneath the surface of the Tombstone district, to gain which requires muscle and perseverance only.—Prospector.

Morenci Mine Holding Off.

The fact that the shipments of the Gold Belt have ceased temporarily is in no way occasioned by any effect that the drop of copper has had upon the property with the exception of the desire of the management to hold their ore on the dump until they can realize a better price for it, says the Morenci Leader. Work at the mine continues with even a greater force than formerly and the ore is being held at the mine until such a time as it will pay the company to again resume shipping. The fact that the company has plenty of money in the treasury with which to continue their development makes it possible for them to fully ascertain the extent and condition of their ore bodies. Aside from this the gold and silver values in their ore fully warrant extensive development and gives this company the advantage of not having to rely on the copper, for as a gold proposition it has already proved to be a winner and there is already enough ore blocked out and on the dump to operate a large mill. At the 200 feet level the development work is most gratifying in its results and as soon as the water at this point can be handled the vein will be fully tested and prospected. While the water in the shaft is causing some trouble at present it will be a great advantage in the operation of a mill and will save large expense, in overcoming the necessity of pumping from the river several miles distant. The management is at present looking into the cost of the erection of a mill and as soon as the estimates are completed, the details will be decided upon and provisions made for its speedy erection.

Rich Strike Made Recently.

News reached this city this afternoon that a strike of 45 per cent copper ore had been made in the Sibley mine in the Copper Creek district, sixteen miles from Mammoth.

A four foot ledge of ore was uncovered recently and a smelter run test of the ore proved that it carried an average of 45 per cent copper, which is beyond the wildest dreams of most prospectors and mining men. The Sibley in the past has been worked on a small scale by eastern people, being purchased more as a venture than anything else. Now, however, since this remarkably rich strike has been made, the owners are paying more attention to their mine, and the gentlemen who arrived in town today from there, stated that by the first of the year five hundred men at the very least would be working on the property.

This is by far the richest strike that has ever been made in the Copper Creek district. In fact a four foot ledge that runs 45 per cent copper is among the richest in the territory, and it is a foregone conclusion that mining men and mining experts will soon be swarming to that section of the county.—Tucson Citizen.

Rich Strike in Old Mine.

A Reno, Nevada, dispatch to the Chronicle says: The greatest strike in the state of Nevada today is that just made on the old Independence mine of Silver City, which has uncovered a ledge sixty-three feet wide, averaging 30¢ a ton in its entirety, leaving no waste. The discovery was made at the 3000-foot mark in the big tunnel at the 250-foot level, and is sulphide ore. This same ledge at the 77 foot level, some fifteen years ago, produced 77,000¢, or 10.90¢ a foot, and has altogether in the past produced 500,000¢.

The former owners sold the mine when water was encountered, and the present close corporation has been working steadily on the tunnel for several years. The importance of the strike is in the fact that it demonstrates ore identical with the Ophir of the old Comstock in the old Silver City property. Judging from the depth of the Comstock ledge, the new discovery will reach to great depths.

Proven Value at Matulera Mine.

Officials of the Greene Gold-Silver Company say their mining engineers have thoroughly demonstrated that the Matulera mine at Ocampo in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, is a great property. Three immense chutes of ore, each 15 feet thick, 100 feet long on the vein, and 500 feet in depth, now are proven. In one of those chutes the general average of the ore is 25¢ gold to the ton, in the other two about 15¢. All of the ore carries some silver. For several months the development of this mine has been progressing under the superintendence of W. E. Pomeroy. It is a tunnel proposition and the mine can be operated most economically. When the lower tunnel is completed the ore can be delivered from it right at the El Salto mill. This tunnel will give 400 feet more in depth on the three ore chutes mentioned. The tunnel already is in more than 700 feet and will be extended 600 feet further.

In addition to these three ore chutes Superintendent Pomeroy says he has discovered a fourth one on the surface and the history of the mine is that the values all go down. The El Salto mill has 20 stamps and two Boyans. By the addition of a cyanide plant practically all of the values can be saved. The company has enough water power to run its mill for nine or ten months in the year.

Smelters Suffer Heavy Loss.

It is estimated that the various smelting companies operating in the United States, particularly those doing a large percentage of custom work, have lost about 5,000,000¢ in the recent rapid declines of copper from 25 cents to 18 1-2 cents a pound. Most smelters are obliged to keep several million pounds of ore on hand constantly, irrespective of the outlook of the market. As settlements are made with the ore producer at the market rate prevailing, 24 hours after the sampling is completed, a rapid decline in the price of the metal leaves the smelting companies that handle custom ore in a position of being unable to obtain for their smelted product what they were obliged to pay to the producer.

In an ordinary declining market the smelting companies are able to protect themselves in a measure by demanding a discount, owing to an unsettled condition of the market. When the decline is as rapid as the last one, representing a break of 4 cents a pound at short notice, there was no alternative left to them but to foot the loss.

Ajo Mines Sold for 70,000¢.

The time-famous Ajo mines, in Pima county, just over the Yuma county line, have been purchased by the Fendell Ore Reduction Company for 70,000¢. The stockholders of this company are mostly Philadelphia capitalists. Several carloads of machinery are now at Gila Bend, where it will be hauled by wagon to the mines. A shaft will be sunk and systematic development work at once started.

The Ajo property was one of the early day producers and though only crude mining has heretofore been done more than 300,000¢ worth of ore has been taken out. In the early days the ore was freighted in wagons to San Diego, by the way of Yuma, and thence to San Francisco by boat. As only the richest ore was "gophered", there were several rich cargoes.—Yuma Sentinel.

More Than a Thousand Copper Mines in Mexico.

A Mexico City dispatch says: The Department of Interior of Mexico has completed the compilation of statistics showing that there are more than one thousand copper mines in this country producing only copper ore. There are many other mines in the Republic which yield copper with other ores. The copper mines are scattered through twenty-one of the twenty-seven states.

All of the larger and more productive mines are owned by Americans. It is estimated that nearly 100,000,000¢ of American capital is invested in copper mines in Mexico.

Bricks From the Tailings.

A new industry is to be established at the Washoe smelter at Anaconda, Montana. It has been a problem for years what to do with the tailing of the smelter and concentrator. They have been tried for various purposes, but the latest scheme is to make bricks and building blocks from the tailings. The bricks require no burning, but when steamed for 10 hours and dried for 24 hours are ready for use. It is the purpose of the management of the smelter to install a plant for the manufacture of these bricks. When the plant is first installed it will have a capacity of 2,000 bricks a day. Thousands of brick are used at the smelter and these could take the place of the old brick in the furnaces and for buildings. If the scheme is a success it will do away with a great deal of waste material and create employment for several hundred men.

The Gold Belt will not be affected by the recent decline in the price of copper, except that extensive shipments will be discontinued and the ore piled on the dump for future reference. As has always been contended by the Era, the Gold Belt does not depend alone on its copper values, and will be one of the biggest gold propositions in the territory. Development work at the 200-level of the gold shaft is furnishing most gratifying encouragement. An abundance of water has been encountered and under present conditions is a nuisance, but will be a great advantage when a milling plant is installed. The management of the company is now satisfied that enough gold ore is in sight to warrant the erection of a mill of 50-ton capacity, and the values run high to insure good returns. The mill is now being figured on and if it is decided to have it, no doubt there will be a new issue of the stock placed on the market for its erection.—Copper Era.

A. K. Wright stopped off at Cram's mine, nine miles north of Goff's, on his return last week from the coast. He reports large doings there and every indication of heavy production in the near future. Water has been piped in a distance of six and one-half miles at an estimated cost of 20,000¢. A big reservoir is under construction and a leaching plant, the latter for copper matte. The stock of this mine, now operated as the California Gold & Copper Co., is said to be in demand at 3.50¢, which is marked evidence that this well known property is "going some." It is capitalized for 500,000¢. The latest important strike was made only last week. In crosscutting at a depth of 350 feet new ore was entered which assayed 20.98 per cent copper and 3¢ in gold. Its extent had not been determined.—Searchlight Bulletin.

DR. PRICE'S

Cream Baking Powder

Made from cream of tartar derived solely from grapes, the most delicious and healthful of all fruit acids.