

THE CONDITION OF MINING IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

Developments as Shown in the Report of Inspector John Byrne—The Production of Gold, Silver, Copper and Lead—The Coal Mines.

The following from the report of Mine Inspector John Byrne shows the production of gold, silver, copper and lead in the state and the condition of mining property in several counties of the state:

Production of gold, silver, copper and lead in the state of Montana from the year 1862 to 1897, inclusive:

Table with columns: Years, Gold, Silver, Copper, Lead, Totals, Inc. Rows from 1862 to 1897.

*Decrease, Silver is quoted at coinage value.

Lewis and Clarke County.

The mines which come under the inspection laws in this county are: The Belmont, Cruise, St. Louis and the Little Dandy. All situated at Marysville, 18 miles northwest of Helena; the Daisy, Little Dandy and Old Amber, located at York, 24 miles northwest of this point, and the War Eagle, operated at Butler, 14 miles to the west.

The Belmont is owned by the Penobscot Mining company, of which John Longmaid is president and J. Henry Longmaid superintendent. A mill has been erected on this old property and is now in operation. The success of the process introduced in this mill will have a marked influence on the mining interests of the Marysville district as well as on that large area of territory adjoining, the extent of which is of the same character. The process consists of a combination of amalgamation and cyanide. The quartz, after being crushed in the 20-stamp battery and passing over the plates, in which passes 50 per cent of the ore, the large residue is crushed, and the value contained in it, is conducted in the form of tailings into large settling tanks, where they are subjected to the action of the solution and practically all the values remaining after passing over the plates are extracted. The mine is developed by three tunnels. No. 1 is 500 feet; No. 2, 600, and No. 3, 1,200. From the level of No. 3 tunnel at its face to the apex of the vein is 350 feet. Between these points the large body of ore, in which can be mined at a moderate cost. An upraise was being made to connect the three tunnels, which will serve for ventilating and escapement purposes.

The Drum Lummon mine, owned by the Montana Mining company, limited, has done development work on its shafts, winzes, upraises, drifts and cross-cuts aggregating 7,538 linear feet during the year, in the course of which several large bodies of ore, which were uncovered. Both stamp and cyanide mills were operated to their full capacity. The result of the year's work shows a handsome balance. The ventilation of the mine has been improved, connections have been made at points which benefited the mine in this respect. The safety and comfort of the employees is receiving the usual care and attention from those in charge. On account of the heavy rains which have prevailed in the 1,600 it was found necessary to reinforce the pumping plant by the addition of a 500-gallon per minute Reidler pump. In all other respects the mine is in the same excellent condition as noted in my previous report.

At the Cruise mine, situated at Bald Mountain, the main tunnel was extended 150 feet, making now 1,100 feet. A two-compartment vertical shaft is sunk 150 feet from the level of the tunnel. The Cruise gives promise of developing into a large producer. The fissure is strong and well defined and shows every evidence of permanency. A 35-horse power engine, one-inch steel rope and a cage comprise the hoisting equipment.

At the St. Louis work has been confined to stopping out the ores discovered in the previous year's development. A new upraise was made since my last report, which has supplied excellent water which needed ventilation, besides a separate outlet for the miners.

The Daisy mine, owned by T. J. Walsh and others of Helena, is being worked by John Rowand & Co., who have a lease on the property. The mine is developed through two tunnels of 400 and 250 feet in length respectively. The ore is gold and silver bearing and occurs in a flat vein between granite and slate. The mine is timbered with tunnel sets and stulls. The ventilation is very good and there are two outlets.

The Little Dandy mine is situated at York and is owned and operated by John Rowand & Co., with John Fletcher as foreman. The vein is exposed for 75 feet on its dip by an incline shaft. The ore and other material is hoisted out of the latter with a whim, 3/4-inch wire rope and car. Gold is the principal metal found in the ore. The ventilation is good. A 10-stamp mill is running continuously on the ore furnished from the mine.

At the Old Amber mine, at York, a small force of miners, under the direction of G. M. Kerr, has been engaged during the latter half of the year through a new tunnel 325 feet long. A large section of the vein has been tied up on account of litigation between the Monitor and Revenue companies. I am informed that negotiations are now pending looking to an early settlement of the matters in controversy. The vein dips to the west with a trend northeast by southwest. The formation is granite. Seventeen men are employed. The general condition of the mine is good.

The B. & L. mine, situated on Meadow creek, is a new property operated under bond by Messrs. Haywood and Holmes. The mine is not developed to any extent, yet ore bodies of sufficient size have been exposed to justify the erection of a 10-stamp mill, modern in every respect. Eight men have

its high percentage of iron, though it carries a little gold.

The Montana mine, located at the head of Wisconsin creek, operated by the Montana Mining company, Frank Wright superintendent, has done considerable development during the year, consisting of the running of several short tunnels and open cuts. A 10-stamp mill was erected during the year. Twelve men are employed. This mine gives promise of developing into a large producer.

The Mayflower mine, situated about 12 miles southeast of Whitehall, a two-compartment shaft was commenced and sunk from No. 3 tunnel at a point 500 feet from its entrance. The sinking of this shaft has demonstrated be-

been engaged driving tunnels and in putting the mine in condition to supply the tonnage required to keep the mill in constant operation.

At the Kennet mine, located on the Madison divide, five miles east of Virginia City, W. B. Millard owner, a 60-stamp mill equipped with all modern appliances was completed and started operating in January of the present year. In the month of April the road between the mine and the mill became impassable for teams, necessitating a shut down. Operations resumed in September with from 20 to 40 stamps dropping. Since my last report many improvements have been made in the mine in the interest of the employees. An escapement outlet was made and a safety cage substituted for the bucket, as well as important changes for the better in the system of timbering. Thirty-four men find employment. The formation is eruptive granite. The fissure has an easterly dip with a northerly and southerly strike.

The Lucky Boy mine is also owned by Mr. Millard and is the extension of the Kennet. Developments are carried on through a two-compartment shaft, timbered with 10x10 timbers, 250 feet deep, 100 feet of which was sunk in 1898. The hoisting plant consists of a 3x12 Otumwa engine, 1 1/2-inch round rope and bucket. Both mines are in charge of James M. Davey. Eleven men are employed.

At the Easton mine, near Virginia City, from 10 to 20 men are employed, the number being regulated by the season. The lower workings of the mine, which are reached by a two-compartment shaft 318 feet deep, were discovered two years ago. Since then the work done has been confined to stopping out the ores remaining above the tunnel level. This section of the mine has produced a large quantity of high grade ore during the year. The interests of the men are carefully attended to by the management.

The latter mine, situated on Wisconsin creek, eight miles east of Sheridan, is under the management of J. H. Treise. The working of the old mine was seriously interfered with during the latter part of the present year, owing to the heavy flow of water being encountered, causing a suspension for several months. A two-compartment shaft was sunk 150 feet on one of the adjoining claims, opening up an extensive body of ore of fair grade. Forty men have been on the pay roll. The condition of the mine meets every reasonable requirement of safety.

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IS GOING TO PORTO RICO

McKinley Planning a Trip to the New Colonies.

AN OLD FICTION REVIVED

An Absurd Notion That the President Forgets His Office by Leaving the Boundaries of the United States—Will Visit Cuba.

New York, Dec. 10.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: A report that the president intends to visit Cuba and Porto Rico at the first favorable opportunity has become known in the state, war and navy departments and was quickly made the subject of serious speculation among various officials on account of the exceedingly interesting questions it raised.

Among other things, there was a spontaneous revival of the fiction that the chief executive could not pass the boundaries of the United States without forfeiting his office. It is peculiar, how persistent is the notion, even among higher officials, that some constitutional or statutory restriction confines the executive to American soil, when, as a matter of fact, although none of President McKinley's predecessors have ever left the country during their terms of office, the restrictions alone exacted were consideration of propriety or precedent which no one could hold to apply in the present instance.

It was generally recognized the president might naturally wish to make a personal tour of inspection to those islands as soon as he could spare the time from pressing public business in Washington and that no valid objection could stand against such a tour as he was understood to contemplate. It is pointed out, however, that it would be practically impossible for him to spare the time requisite for such an extended voyage to Porto Rico before congress adjourns on March 4, which is, fortunately, about the best time of the year to make a short stay in the tropics.

During the first six weeks of the new year in addition to the continuous executive routine business, the social obligations involved in the programme of public receptions and state dinners would restrict the president closely to Washington and after next week's southern tour, he will hardly find it possible to leave the white house for more than two days at a time before the beginning of Lent, in the middle of February. For the ensuing two weeks, with the rush of legislation, which marks the closing days of a short session of congress, there will be no leisure for the executive and therefore his permanent coasting will be in the harbor of Porto Rico before the middle of March.

With Havana only a single night's run for the dispatch boat Dolphin from Tampa, there might be a chance for the president to spend two or three days there in a week's absence from Washington and remain always in close telegraphic communication with the executive departments so that if a critical emergency occurred he could be in a railway train speeding toward the capital within 12 hours. No thought is entertained, however, of a presidential trip to Havana before the Spanish flag is hauled down on Jan. 1.

Practical opinion could be gathered from the president's visit to Havana as full warrant as his trip to Porto Rico, so long as the American flag flies over Cuba, although a few quibblers may hold that Porto Rico is not actually a part of United States territory until congress has made a declaration to that effect, either in so many words, or by ratifying the peace treaty of Paris. This fine point is not seriously raised except among army officers, and Cuba must be considered identical in view of the fact that they are governed precisely alike, by military officers under the immediate direction of the president and could be considered as a single territory. The chief is expressed that the president would not care to set foot on Cuban soil if it were held to be foreign territory, much as he might wish to see the country, for that might be a perilous precedent in the future, but that no one appears to controvert the right as well as the advisability of an executive visit to the new American possessions, provided it does not entail too long an absence from Washington.

When the president visits Porto Rico and Cuba he will undoubtedly be accompanied by Mrs. McKinley and several members of the cabinet, with the wives, and although the stay of the party in each port visited will not be longer than a single day, an absence of two weeks from Washington would be necessary. It is probable that Secretary Algeo and several army officers will go to San Juan, Santiago, Havana and other points in the island before the president visits those places.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR "HIM."

New Kind of Cigar Case Which is Sure to Please a Smoker.

Nearly every man smokes nowadays. So when a woman is casting about to find some Christmas gift for a male friend or relative she might take a look at a brand new cigar case, provided he smokes. The average cigar case is apt to be regarded as a nuisance, as it is heavy, tears out one's pockets, is always in the way when not wanted, can never be found when most desired, and is generally a sort of white elephant. Now as much with this new case, which is designed for traveling. It is made of very light embossed leather, and has compartments for a dozen cigars. Tucked away in one corner is a cigar cutter and in the middle of the case are ingenious lighting man's comforters. One of the most desirable features about the novelty is that it is impossible for the cigars to be broken.

ADMIRAL DEWEY WILL SAVE THE SHIPS HE SUNK

Washington, Dec. 6.—The important announcement that was dismissed with a few brief telegraphic lines the other day to the effect that Admiral Dewey proposed to raise three of the sunken Spanish vessels that lie at the bottom of Manila bay, instead of allowing the submerged hulks to be disposed of by auction as at first intended, is worthy of much more extended mention than it received. It means that there is a prospect, for Dewey would not propose anything that he did not feel reasonably sure of being able to carry out, of adding these ships to the United States navy, and perhaps at some future time using them to defend the very harbor in which they are at present sunk.

For \$500,000, say reports that have been received here from Dewey, at least three vessels of the sunken fleet can be raised and put in good condition. These three ships are the Don Juan de Austria, the Isla de Cuba and the Isla de Luzon. They are boats that will be valuable to us when properly manned and defended.

The Isla de Cuba and the Isla de Luzon are English-built and are rated as third-class cruisers. They are steel ships of good construction, of 1,040 tons displacement, 200 feet in length, 30 feet wide and drawing 11 feet 6 inches of water. Their armament, which can be most easily raised of any part of the equipment, and which will surely be added to the possession of this country whether the ships are raised or not, consists of six 4.7 Hontoria guns, four 6-pound guns, two 1-pound Nordenfeld guns and three torpedo tubes.

The other vessel for which the government has hopes, the Don Juan de Austria, was, before she came to such an abrupt end, a tight little ship of 1,132 tons displacement, 210 feet in length, 32 feet wide and drawing 12 1/2 feet of water. She is Spanish-built and carried an armament of four 4.7-inch Hontoria guns, four 6-pounders and one machine gun.

Apart from the pride of attaching these vessels to the navy of the United States, a sentiment which caused the government to make such heroic efforts to save the ill-fated Maria Teresa, these three ships that Dewey intends to raise are English-built and are rated as third-class cruisers. They are steel ships of good construction, of 1,040 tons displacement, 200 feet in length, 30 feet wide and drawing 11 feet 6 inches of water. Their armament, which can be most easily raised of any part of the equipment, and which will surely be added to the possession of this country whether the ships are raised or not, consists of six 4.7 Hontoria guns, four 6-pound guns, two 1-pound Nordenfeld guns and three torpedo tubes.

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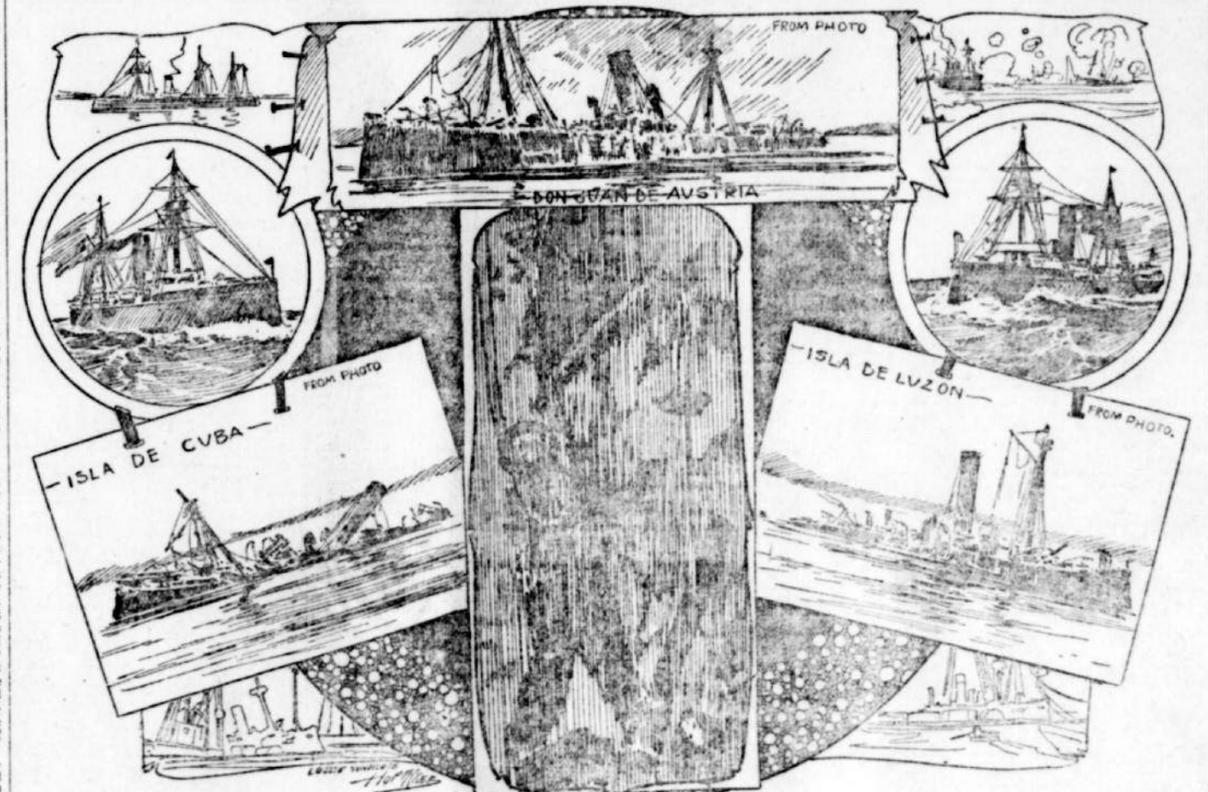
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The cabled announcement that Dewey has abandoned auctioning off these ships and now intends to raise and refit them as American warships has aroused renewed interest in Spain's famous submarine fleet.