

FACE GIGANTIC FINANCIAL TASK

Within the past two months there have been indications that the West has become wrought up to a point where mining men are contemplating the erection of a number of independent smelting plants in order to start competition for the treatment of ores, give themselves better rates for their product, and rid themselves of the arbitrary treatment which they allege the American Smelting & Refining Company has been giving them.

As stated yesterday in advices from Denver, the American Mining Congress has endorsed this movement and James F. Galbreath, Jr., the secretary of that organization, who is back from Montana, states that a fund of \$100,000 has been raised by miners at Helena, Mont., to build an independent plant. Like steps have recently been taken at Salt Lake and at Reno. This pent-up wrath against the so-called smelting combine no doubt has caused for its origin, but between the injury suffered and the remedy suggested there lies a gap of considerable magnitude.

Mining men who have followed the smelting business are unanimous in admitting that if the independent operators are to get together to push their plans to completion they will have to work in harmony and understand that before they can begin the work they must have a \$5,000,000 fund pledged or else their efforts in that line are bound to result disastrously. Even the sum mentioned would not finance more than a plant of 1000-ton daily capacity if a suitable ore purchasing fund is included in the \$5,000,000. Besides payrolls must be met, supplies secured and many other expenses incurred for some three months before the marketable product has been sold and returns made to the smelter.

In an independent move of this character it would also be necessary to provide a fund to meet competition which would likely develop as an answer to the organization of such a move. As an illustration of the costs of smelting plants and their auxiliary apparatus, figures show that the Washoe plant at Battle cost \$10,000,000. The Garfield plant near Salt Lake cost \$7,000,000; the Steptoe plant, smelter and concentrator, will have cost \$8,000,000 before being completed. Even the smaller plants, such as the Consolidated Arizona Company put up at Humboldt, Arizona, cost over \$1,000,000. Hence it develops that while independent smelters are no doubt a phase of the smelting business that has been much neglected in the past, the trials that such plants have gone through have discouraged many from entering the field. There are some 200 independent smelting plants in the West, whose only remembrance today is expressed by the ruins that mark the sites where they once stood. The successful plants were absorbed by the combine. At the present time there is a big fight on at Cripple Creek between the United Reduction and Refining Company, which is controlled by the American Smelting and Refining Company, and the Golden Cycle Company, an independent. As a result, rates have been slashed, the camp is shipping more ore than ever, but the outcome of the fight must be awaited before a decision can be reached. The greatest difficulty encountered in the smelting business is in that branch which arranges a settlement with the producer over the contents of his ores sold. The big smelting companies are always trying to shave off a profit in addition to the regular treatment rates. There are penalties to be imposed, short weight to be deducted, allowances made for wet or dry ores and other items arranged. The smelter in addition always pays below the market price for the metal in order to protect itself from a declining market, as well as to forestall conditions as they may exist 60 days from date when a final settlement is made.

When prices are low, as they are at present, the smelters are always trying to make rates with the operators based on the less lenient terms that prevail now instead of the better rates that will exist later. In this way the operator gets to look at the smelter as a mineral pawn broker from which he can only get accommodations at a big sacrifice. In many instances he fails to consider the hardships of the other end of the contract.—New York Commercial.

MONTANA CAFE SPECIAL PRICES
Ham and eggs, 35c; bacon and eggs, 35c.

A report on the Greenwater and Ubehebe copper districts will be included in a bulletin on copper mines soon to be issued by State Mineralogist Aubrey of California.

MAKING CHANGES IN SHOSHONE MILL

The big Shoshone mill at Rhyolite is undergoing radical changes and the major portion of the plant will be idle for several days.

The changes consist in the elimination of the plates, the lowering of the screens and elevators and the installation of two additional screens.

This work will require a week and perhaps two weeks. The machinery was closed down Tuesday night and a large force of men, under the direction of Mill Superintendent C. A. Shay, are rushing the alterations so that as little time will be lost as possible.

The process of extraction will be limited to concentration and cyaniding. This change has been decided upon after giving the mill a thorough testing, extending over a period of some months.

The plates have been saving a comparatively small percentage of gold, owing to the character of the ore, in which the gold is very fine. The gold previously secured on the plates will be taken up in cyanide, as repeated tests have shown, so that the operation of the plates is considered a needless expense.

The mill has been saving 90 per cent of the values and will continue to do so under the new arrangement.

The screens and elevators are being lowered about 20 feet, which will also reduce the cost of operating.

Since the first of February, the mill has been crushing close to 200 tons of ore per day, with two shifts working, and Mr. Shay expects to bring the mill up to at least 250 tons with three shifts upon the completion of the improvements now under way.

The cyaniding tanks will be emptied in the meantime, so that the mill will begin operations with a general cleanup from top to bottom. It is expected that the ore will hereafter be crushed in a weak cyanide solution.

The direct shipments of ore from the Shoshone now average 50 tons a day, and would be increased if the L. V. & T. railway would furnish more cars. The last car of concentrates was shipped Sunday. The last cleanup from the plates will be converted into bullion in a few days.—Rhyolite Herald.

BOSTON BUYS BEANS IN FRANCE.
BOSTON, Feb. 22.—Owing to the threatened shortage of beans, a cargo of thousands of bushels is on its way here from Marseilles, France. This cargo is the first ever imported by Boston merchants and is due to the partial failure of the California crop.

GERMANY CONTROLS WIRELESS.
BERLIN, Feb. 22.—The Reichstag today passed to its second reading the telegraph bill, which provides that wireless telegraph stations on board ships and ashore can be erected and operated only with the sanction of the Imperial Government.

SEEK TO CHECK IMMIGRATION.
ROME, Feb. 22.—The Italian government publishes further telegrams from the Italian consuls at New York and San Francisco discouraging emigration to America for the present.

RUSSIANS TO AID RACERS.
ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 22.—Premier Stolypin has given orders to the governors of Yakutsk and Primorskaya to assist in every way possible the contestants in the New York to Paris automobile race as they journey through Siberia.

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ATTACKED AND TACKED.

A Bacon township farmer had been bothered for weeks with a large flock of blackbirds. Seeing them perched on his barn one morning he ran to the house for his shot gun. Quickly proceeding to load it, he discovered that he was out of shot. Grabbing up a paper of tacks he poured the contents into the gun and then hurrying out to the barn yard, he turned loose both barrels upon the flock. Imagine his surprise when he found that he had tacked every last one of them to the barn roof. While calling his wife to see what a good shot he had made, he was again surprised to see the flock of birds fly off with the roof.—Metz (Missouri) Times.

NEW EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The House committee on labor is nearing a report on the Gardner bill to enforce observance of an seven-hour day in all government work. It is believed a majority will report adversely on the bill.

THANKSGIVING TO PUT IN ITS OWN MILL

The development of the Thanksgiving mine has reached the stage that makes it imperative that the management put in a mill to treat their own ore. The immense tonnage now blocked out warrants the installation of such a plant at once and negotiations are now pending with a Salt Lake firm, which will probably result in the early building of Manhattan's fifth mill.

The plans now under contemplation include a milling and concentrating plant capable of handling 25 tons daily, and the Salt Lake people claim they can put in an equipment that will handle at a profit ore of as low a grade as \$5 to the ton.

This would mean that every pound of ore in the Thanksgiving ledge is to carry a profit to the stockholder.—Manhattan Mail.

SACKING ORE ON THE DENVER

The lowest level in the Denver, of the Tramp Consolidated estate, on Bonanza Mountain, continues to make good. Superintendent Charles Garden reports that the drifts are out about 30 feet either way from the winze, and that both drifts continue to expose excellent ore.

A portion of the ore is being sacked while the balance is being thrown on the big Denver dump. Mr. Garden says that no attempt is being made to sack anything that runs under \$125 a ton.

An estimate on the amount of good milling ore on the Denver dumps places it at 50,000 tons, all of which would make a handsome profit if milled on the premises or in the immediate vicinity.

"We are not trying to bring the ore up to a shipping grade," said Mr. Garden, "but the stuff that goes \$125 or better we are sacking, and the rest is going on the big dump, waiting for the mill which will probably be built on the property."

Two shifts are being worked in either drift on the 600 level, while drifting is also in progress on the 500 level, where values have been exposed for 200 feet in driving south from the winze. Mr. Garden reports that the 500 level is also making a promising showing of mineral, and he feels much encouraged over the Tramp development in general.—Rhyolite Herald.

AT THE GOLD BAR MILL.

The Gold Bar mill has been in operation 12 days, with a daily average of 35 tons treated. The plates are saving from 85 to 86 per cent of the values. A cleanup will be made the first of March. The ore is averaging \$15 in gold to the ton. President J. P. Loftus visited the property a few days ago and was much pleased with the mill and the successful operation of the same.—Rhyolite Herald.

KILLED HIMSELF AT HIS DESK.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Colonel Eugene W. Guindon, president of Fuller's Express Company, today fired a bullet into his brain while seated at his desk, and died shortly afterward. His friends believe his health caused the act.

A barb-wire telephone line has been built to connect Gardnerville, Nevada, with Antelope Valley, Bodie and Bridgeport. Connections with fence wires were utilized for nearly all the line.

POST-GRADUATE WORK.

"When you graduate from that cooking school," asked Tess, "do you get a diploma?"
"Sometimes," replied Jess, "you get a certificate for a post-graduate course."
"A certificate?"
"Yes, a marriage certificate."—Philadelphia Press.

JACK KNEW.

Aunt—Jack, do you know your alphabet?
Jack—Yes, auntie.
Aunt—Well, what letter comes after "a"?
Jack—All the others, auntie.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

DISCOURAGING.

A peasant insured his house against fire. When he got the policy he asked the clerk:
"What should I get if my house were burned down tomorrow?"
"Three or four years' imprisonment," was the prompt reply.—Tid-Bits.

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