

Elk City Mining News.

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\$2.00 The Year

MINING OUTLOOK

Will Be Banner Year in Central Idaho.

SMALL MILLS WILL PRODUCE

Fine Prospects Developed Near Elk City.

From what can be learned from the mining papers, published in the different mining centers, the coming season is being groomed for a revival of the mining industry, such as it was before the panic of 1907.

Copper, which is evidently the controlling factor in mining at present, has advanced in price where a fair profit can be made, and all the big producers are increasing their output.

Among the silver-lead mines, where the greatest activity has been found the past year, the outlook is not so promising. The present congress is trying to reduce the tariff on lead and lead ore, and should the proposed bill become a law, it will reduce the price of lead to such a figure that some of the large low grade properties will have to close. This bill is now before the senate where it will meet the united opposition of the western senators.

Silver has advanced to a price where it will justify the opening of some of the idle silver mines, as the demand seems to be more than the production of the silver-lead properties.

The outlook for investors in gold properties is even brighter than in any other class of mining. Some of the former big producers are now falling off in their production, and few new properties of any magnitude are being opened.

The great advancement in the metallurgy of ores in the past few years, has been so great that it is only a question of getting tonnage—to extract the values is assured.

In this phase of mining Central Idaho is certainly an inviting field for investment, for with the advent of the Salmon river railroad, the transportation problem will be solved.

It has long been the contention of mining men that Central Idaho has some of the greatest showings of gold ore, to be found in the United States, and only the lack of transportation has kept capital from investing.

In the Elk City district this is especially true, and in the face of these discouragements, a number of the property owners have erected small mills on their claims and are preparing to work them.

Take the Little Butte mine, on Deadwood mountain. One of the owners, Geo. Widmyer, erected a small one-stamp mill last fall, through which he ran enough ore to find out that it would pay handsomely. He is now getting out ore, and putting in supplies, for a long run as

soon as spring comes. On the Last Chance, a mile and a half north of Elk City, there is a two-stamp mill, erected the past winter, that will be started as soon as the water gives a sufficient head. Both of these properties have excellent ore, and have considerable depth on their ore shoots.

The Elk City Mines Corporation, operating the South Fork mine will double their present capacity the coming season. This has more than paid for working and development with 5 stamps.

There are several other properties that are to install machinery this summer, and on the whole the outlook is very bright.

Aside from the properties that will have mills, there are several that are being developed that show remarkable shoots of ore. The Mineral Zone group, owned by Mrs. M. A. Parr, has a shoot of ore opened on the surface for 200 ft., that is very high grade, and pans very free. One shipment of this ore has been put through the Reduction plant, and another shipment is being made. Take the Major group, a good shoot of ore has been opened on this property, and there are several other properties that are showing up equally as good.

In Dixie there is unusual activity in development this winter, and property owners are sanguine that they will experience the best year in the history of the district.

In Buffalo Hump, the Jumbo mine is working a large crew, putting in a cyanide plant, getting in supplies, an otherwise arranging for an active season.

Hard for Road Districts.

All road overseers have received notice from the county commissioners that they must not incur any expense for road work except in special cases. The following is from their instruction recently sent out:

"The recent legislature passed a law whereby the county commissioners must make an appropriation for all expenditures on roads for the fiscal year, and which amount must be within the limits of the rate that can be levied on the taxable property of the county for this purpose, which rate must not exceed ten mills on the dollar. They also reduced the valuation of the county for assessment purposes, to about \$4,000,000. Last year the valuation was about \$10,000,000.

"As the great bulk of the assessable property in Idaho county is now within the Highway districts of said county, the general road fund will in the future, receive only 5 per cent of the road tax to be collected in such Highway districts, to which can only be added the road tax to be collected from property situated outside of such districts.

"In view of these facts, you as overseer, will not perform any work on the roads in your district, that will be a charge against the county, that is not absolutely necessary for the safety of life and limb, but should an emergency arise concerning some road work in your district, you will immediately report the fact to your commissioner, who will advise you how to proceed.

"Of course, any poll tax you

may be able to collect, can be applied on the roads of your district, but it is imperative that you follow the above instructions as there will be no funds to meet bills for labor other than those above stated."

At the Mineral Zone.

The work the past few days on the Mineral Zone has been the opening of a new cut west of any former workings, extending the ore shoot some distance. The ore found in this cut is about the same character, but the gold is coarser, and it is a little more free. They have about 20 tons on the dump ready to be treated.

ELK CITY CO. WILL BUILD MILL

Spokane Mining Men Plan for Big Development.

Arrangements have been made by the Elk City Consolidated Mines company, a Spokane, concern, to install a chilian mill on its property, about six miles from Elk City, and will have it in readiness for operation as soon as spring opens up.

A large amount of development work has been done on the company's property and large bodies of good milling ore have been exposed as well as a considerable amount of shipping ore. A tunnel has been run 200 feet, during the construction of which 300 ton of ore was taken out and milled, giving net returns of \$6 per ton in free gold. The vein varies from one foot to six feet in width and is a high grade quartzite carrying oxides and sulphides and free gold. Assays of the shipping ore show values averaging \$32.97.

The company owns six claims, the Red Wing, Red Rose, Blue Jay, Maude S., Maud and Altmont. They are located between Red Horse creek and Seigel creek six miles from Elk City.—Ex.

A Queensland Waterfall.

To most people the idea of waterfall in Australia is quite unfamiliar. All Australia, however, in the winter time (May to September) makes a pilgrimage to Australia's beauty spot, the Barron river falls, North Queensland. A surveyor who visited the Barron river falls thus records his impressions:

"The noise of the falls has been with us since the early morning—now humming through the jungle, now rushing like a mighty wind up the gorges, now echoing with astounding clearness on the ridges. A few hundred yards below our halting place the turbid stream rushed among the bluish gray rocks and along its well worn channel, and beyond this gauzy clouds of spray floated up from the brink of the falls, caught the sunlight and were glorified with ever forming, ever vanishing rainbow tints. The water does not fall in a sheer leap into the gorge, but plunges along its rocky and precipitous bed in a series of cataracts."—London Standard.

Fury of Sunstorms.

How can we, who are bewildered and appalled by the fury of our planet's cyclones and volcanic eruptions, form a conception of the terrible energy of natural operations of the sun? Newcomb suggested that if we call the solar chromosphere an ocean of fire we must remember that it is an ocean infinitely hotter than the fiercest furnace and as deep as the Atlantic is broad. If we call its movements hurricanes we must remember that our hurricanes blow only about a hundred miles an hour, while those of the chromosphere blow as far in a single second. There are such hurricanes as, coming down upon us from the north, would in thirty seconds after they had crossed the St. Lawrence river be in the gulf of Mexico, carrying with them the whole surface of the continent in a mass not simply of ruin, but of glowing vapor.—Harper's Weekly.

WAS BIG FIRE LOSS

Two Blocks in Grangeville Destroyed.

THE RUIN IS COMPLETE

Very Little Insurance—Will Rebuild.

Grangeville was swept Saturday morning by the most disastrous fire in the city which entailed a property loss aggregating \$135,600, with reported insurance to the amount of \$46,000.

The fire was discovered shortly after 4:20 o'clock by the night watchman, and at that time three frame buildings occupied by two small restaurants and the Day barber shop were in flames. A fierce wind was blowing, and the absence of water pressure rendered the efforts of the fire department practically useless. The attention of the department was finally directed toward establishing a fire line and protecting the buildings outside the fire zone, but the flames were not brought under control until two blocks in the center of the business district were gutted and fifty-three business men and property owners made victims of the fire.

All of the buildings burned, with one exception, were of wood construction and the flames licked up the frail structures like tinder. By 6 o'clock the fire was practically under control, but during the hour and a half preceding the flames had wiped out the entire possessions of many citizens who are without insurance to return partial reimbursement for their losses.

Many of the losses were small in amounts but represented the total possession of the victims and in most cases no insurance was carried by these persons.

The plant of the Grangeville Free Press was entirely destroyed entailing a loss of \$7,000 with \$2,000 insurance.

In the burned zone were the Arlington hotel, the Grangeville hotel, Pulse drug store and Dunlap's jewelry store, all heavy losers.

The construction of new buildings to occupy the burned district is already being discussed by the property owners who will cover the burned district with modern business blocks.

The Imperial hotel offers the only public dining room service in the city at present, but the Revere hotel has been leased by C. A. Johnson, proprietor of the Arlington hotel, and will be opened to the public within the next few days. The hotel is completely furnished but has been closed for some time.

Depth of Snow in January.

Somewhat more than the usual amount of precipitation occurred during January. That which fell early in the month was in the

form of snow even in the lower valleys and on the open plains.

Later the weather became milder and the snow disappeared from large areas at the lower altitudes, while in the mountains the mild temperatures and attendant rains served to settle and harden the snow. There were no floods, most of the moisture from the rain and melting snow being absorbed by the remaining snow.

There were no unusual amount of drifting but the change to milder weather was attended by many slides.

The present prospects is for a somewhat deficient waterflow in the Wood-Malade system, the Salmon River and in the Lost rivers, an average flow in the Bear, Payette and Weiser rivers and the Owyhee and Seven Devils Mountains, and somewhat more than the usual amount of water elsewhere.

LOOKS BRIGHTER FOR MINING

Everything Points to Revival This Year.

Judging from the standpoint of the steadily advancing metal market the future of the mining industry looks far more promising than was the case a year ago. The most encouraging feature in the gains in metal quotations is the seeming stability of the copper market. It has long been evident that copper is the controlling factor in shaping the destinies of the mining industry. When copper commands a good figure in the market, when the demand evidently exceeds the visible supply, a thrill pulsates through the arteries of the mining industry throughout every section in which the red metal is produced, and a reflex of this satisfactory condition is felt in sections productive of silver, lead and gold. As a matter of fact a good copper market stimulates activity in localities where silver and lead are alone produced.

Almost hand in hand with copper, silver has also greatly enhanced in value during the past two or three months, and, to such an extent that there should be a notable revival in silver mining throughout the country. Lead has been remarkably strong and steady for some time past, and at a figure that permits of reasonably good profits in most sections. The advance of two cents a pound in copper quotations means much more to the producer than most people imagine, and will enable the great copper companies of the west to add immensely to their earnings. The advance of silver, also, will materially increase the earnings of many companies, and add to the regular output of lead, as lead is usually a by-product of silver, or vice versa, so that mines productive of both metal, in combination, are all to the good at present quotations.

It really looks as if 1912 was going to be a banner year for the mining industry. Conditions could hardly be better, and the output of the precious and baser metals, this year, should be greater than ever before in the history of the mining industry.—Salt Lake Mining Review.