

The Dolores News.

JONES & HARTMAN,
Editors and Publishers.

RICO, COLORADO.

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TREATING LOW GRADE ORES.

Promising Wonderful Results in the Way of Cheap Treatment.

In the mining industry, the great metallurgical problem of the age has been the successful treatment of low grade ores. The mining production of the world has been limited, not so much by natural scarcity, as by man's inability to extract at a profit the smaller quantities of gold and silver from the mass of base metal. Untold millions of dollars have lain upon the dumps of low-grade mines waiting the progressive step of some metallurgical genius who might invent a cheap process whereby the almost boundless stores of low-grade ores could be successfully manipulated. The age of theoretical mining and milling is fast drawing to a close and the dawn of practical, legitimate mining business, for the contents of the mines rather than the speculator's pocket is placing the mining industry on a more solid, permanent basis of intrinsic values, and the ore is increased in actual value in proportion as the cost of treatment is reduced, and the net profit per ton correspondingly increased. The wealth of all mineral countries lies almost entirely in their large bodies of low-grade ores. Knife-blade streaks of mineral, immensely rich in assay value, are generally found in camps where people wait and hope, but the output of bullion is "nix." For speculative purposes these camps are probably best, but for the legitimate pursuit of mining, commend us to that camp that shows large bodies of low-grade ores that can be shoveled out into a wagon and hauled to mills; which supports a number of mills grinding away day and night, and whose activity show positively that there is work going on, and the piles of bullion are evidence in themselves of prosperity. We like to see every company own its mill and do its own work—from developing the mines to extracting the valuable metals from their product. In some cases this is of course impossible, but wherever this method has been employed, it has always proven more satisfactory to the mine owners and to the district in which they operate. The following description of a newly-invented process of treating low-grade ores appears in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* of late date. It is worth the perusal of mill men:

A cheap practical process for the reduction of auriferous sulphides or sulphureted gold ores, or any kind of free, base or refractory ores, whereby the precious metals may be collected through the agency of mercury, has been invented by Messrs. J. W. Bancroft and Thomas Walker. A short time after this invention an experimental mill was erected in Philadelphia, and ore from different parts of the United States was treated with satisfactory results. A large mill of thirty-two tons capacity was built last summer at Crestone, Col., under the leadership of Colonel John F. Carter, to treat the auriferous sulphides or sulphureted gold ores of the Sangre de Cristo Range. Large quantities of low-grade ores from all parts of the State of Colorado have been treated successfully by this mill.

Major E. H. Cooper, of Colorado, who is staying in the city for a few days, is thoroughly conversant with the modus operandi of this new process for treating low-grade ores, and a reporter of the *Inter-Ocean* called upon him yesterday for the purpose of obtaining some facts regarding the same.

In response to a query the Major said: "The ore is first crushed by a crusher into particles about the size of a walnut, and it is then automatically fed into lightening dry pulverizers, where the ore is ground into powder. These pulverizers have a capacity of twenty tons each per day. From the pulverizers the powdered ore is conveyed automatically into the furnace hopper, whence it is again automatically fed into the furnaces. These consist of two tiers of four horizontal five-clay retorts, nine feet in length and eighteen inches in diameter, built in solid masonry one above the other. Inside of each retort is a hollow three-inch iron shaft with ore-conveying attachment extending the entire length of the retort and kept from sagging by means of the circulation of water through the hollow shaft.

The pulverized ore from the hopper enters the upper retort of each furnace and by the revolution of the shaft and ore-conveying attachment is slowly moved forward and subjected to the heated surface of the retort, and upon reaching the opposite end falls to the retort below and is again carried through this retort as above and again dropped to the one below. This heating process is continued until the ore has made the complete transit of the four retorts, gradually becoming heated as it nears the furnace below. It leaves the last retort a heated mass of desulphurized ore, every particle of base metal having been oxidized by the heated retorts.

"What is the effect?"
"It is to free each minute particle of gold from iron rust, sulphur, or other foreign substance, leaving the precious metals in a condition to be readily picked up by the use of mercury in the process of amalgamation. From the roasters or retorts the ore enters the automatic cooler, which is a boiler-iron trough, fifteen feet long, inclosed in a water jacket, and having an ore conveyor similar to

those in the retorts. After passing along this cooler the ore, perfectly cool, is carried by elevators to the point leading to the hopper of the amalgamator.

The amalgamator consists of a perpendicular cast-iron cylinder, nine inches in diameter, resting on a furnace. The ore is fed automatically, and as it passes from the hopper into the cylinder it is charged with mercury by an automatic mercury feeder that is geared to feed 100 pounds of mercury to the ton of ore. The mercurized ore then passes down the cylinder, the lower end of which is heated by the furnace. As the ore comes in contact with the heat of the furnace the mercury becomes evaporized, and in the form of vapor penetrates every particle of ore, while the descending column of cold ore above prevents the escape of mercury by condensing the vapor. The ore is then carried by conveyers through a horizontal cylinder, surrounded by a water jacket. In the transit of this cylinder the ore becomes perfectly cool, and so prevents the escape of the vaporized mercury at the discharge. By this process an instantaneous amalgamation is effected with no loss of mercury perceptible and no ill effects by salivating. From the amalgamator the ore is carried automatically to the settling forms, where the mercury is gathered, strained, and retorted, leaving the precious metals clean and in a metallic state.

"Can you call to mind any experiments that have been made?"
"Yes, in one instance ore possessing an assay value of \$90 per ton, produced under the old method of a stamp battery \$4.50 per ton, while under this new process the same ore produced \$29.76 per ton. Another lot of refractory ore from which the stamp battery failed to produce even a trace yielded by this process \$15 per ton, or 96 per cent of assay value, and of the hundreds of tons of ore treated by this process there never was a failure to extract from 80 to 95 per cent of the assay value. The ore being pulverized very finely is easily acted upon in the furnace retorts, where every particle of sulphur, antimony, arsenic, or other foreign substances is extracted from the ore, thus making it submissible to the action of quicksilver, while the perfection of the amalgamation renders it almost impossible that any of the gold or silver should escape in the tailings."

"What is the cost of pulverizing by this process?"
"The cost does not exceed 25 cents per ton, and the cost of roasting or desulphurizing, under the ordinary cost of labor and fuel, ranges from 50 cents to \$1 per ton, according to the amount of sulphur the ore may contain. The automatic character of the process, from the rock breaker to the settling pans, is a great saving over the cost of handling the ore by labor, while the loss of mercury is entirely obviated, so that under ordinary circumstances the actual cost of milling by this process is about \$2 per ton of ordinary auriferous sulphide ores. And the process is adapted to the treatment of all kinds of ore in which it is practicable to collect the noble metal by agency of quicksilver."

Tom Bowen Bounced.

Tom Bowen's business recently called him east and on his return he stopped for a short time in Kansas City. His visit was not a pleasant one, as may be seen by the following extract from the police court report of the *Kansas City Evening Star*. The idea of a former judge of Colorado's Fourth Judicial District and a present bonanza king being mistaken for a tramp, bounced from a depot, arrested and tried in a police court for misdemeanor is a ludicrous one. Bowen must have been amused a little himself:
Old man Monihan, the night watchman at the Union depot, got himself into trouble again last night by being too important. The old man has been there almost a generation, and as his age protects him from injury at the hands of a younger man he has come to think it his privilege to abuse any one whom his childish fancy takes umbrage at. Last night about 1 o'clock he met a roughly dressed stranger in the lull-way of the depot and ordered him out. The stranger—who as afterward transpired was no less a personage than Thomas Bowen, the noted miner and stock man—refused to go, and explained that he came in on the late C. & A. train and was then after his baggage. Monihan would not listen to him however, and would not look at the rebate ticket or checks produced, but collared Bowen and clubbed him with his cane. Bowen held him off until some other parties who saw the two men in this position ran up and struck Bowen under the impression that he was assaulting the old man and he then drew his revolver and gave the old fellow such a rap over the head that he swore in court this morning that the gun flashed in his face but was not discharged. The crowd pummeled Bowen considerably, and it required the best efforts of Officer Hayes to protect him after his arrest, but when the facts of the case came out this morning he was discharged.

The *Denver Republican* is now writing up and publishing the doings of mining camps in northern and western Colorado. When the *Republican* man visits the San Juan again he will readily perceive the progressive changes we are undergoing, and will see even more than he saw before.
If the sentimental paragrapher of the *Chieftain* will go to Denver and gawk around a few days, and manage to survive the exciting sights he will see, he and his employer may profit from that which the stupid has an opportunity to learn—ordinary manners.
The nomination of Hon. Adair Wilson for Judge of the Sixth Judicial District shows the appreciation of a good solid man, by the people of that district. No better judge could have been chosen by them. His nomination is his election.
It is reported that E. A. Egglestone, the man who murdered a man at Rosita, two or three years ago, was killed by the Indians in Arizona lately. The Arizona Apaches have done the country a service.

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At the Sandown the tunnel and shaft are being run to intersect one another by quite a force of men. The shaft is being sunk along the foot wall of the vein and the latter has been cross-cutted twice during the descent of the shaft. It was found that at a depth of 108 feet the vein was 11 feet in width. Assays from the richest and poorest mineral were made this week, giving results of \$13.24 and \$330.46.
Judge D. D. Gregory, of Afton, Iowa, and J. D. Evans, of Rico, are the owners of the Tip-Top, Undine, Argo and Afton mines, all on Telescopo mountain, and they are being worked under the superintendency of Mr. Evans. Work will be prosecuted all winter. The development shows good veins on these properties. On the Argo and Afton there are shafts 18 and 20 feet deep; on the Undine a 60-foot shaft, and on the Tip-Top are two shafts, 50 and 75 feet deep.
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GREAT excitement prevails at Dublin, Ireland. On the morning of the 13th inst. Charles S. Parnell was arrested on a warrant issued at London on the 12th. Parnell is charged with inciting people to intimidate others from paying their just debts, and intimidating tenants from taking the benefit of the land act. He was immediately lodged in jail. No event in the history of Ireland has aroused Dublin to such an extent. Indignation rapidly gathers force. The Land League Executive Committee is preparing for the worst. Secretary Quinn says there need be no fears as to the ultimate result.
GARFIELD'S remains were taken up at a late hour on the night of the 7th inst. and transferred to an imperishable leaf bronze casket, which was sealed up and placed in the sarcophagus. The remains had changed but little since the coffin was closed at Washington. The opening of the tomb gave rise to the sensational rumor that the body of our late lamented president had been abducted and spirited away from its resting place.

AN Unfortunate Accident.
George Wetherby's leg was amputated yesterday about three inches above the knee by Dr. J. P. Landon, assisted by Drs. W. E. Gallup and P. Roys. This unfortunate young man has been over on the Miguel all summer, working on his property in Marshall and Bridal Veil basins, some of which is said to be quite valuable. He passed through Rico about the first of September on his way to Big Bend, where he took up a ranch on Dry creek. On September 7th he went down to the creek to wash some potatoes and while stooping down to perform that operation, his revolver fell from the scabbard, the hammer struck a stone and discharged the cartridge. The ball entered the leg below the knee and ranged upwards. The wounded man was brought to Rico and placed in Dillon's cabin near the mouth of Horse gulch, where surgical aid was summoned. Probing for the ball proved unsuccessful, and it was feared from the first that amputation would be necessary, but the patient would not consent. The doctors concluded that it must be done to save his life and yesterday his consent was gained. The hemorrhage was great, and almost impossible to check, as the veins and arteries were in an unhealthy condition from the impure blood they had been carrying, but was finally gotten under control. The bone and periosteum were healthy, but the soft parts nearest the wound were not, probably owing to the absorption of sanies pus. After the operation the usual preparations of antiseptic gauze and carbolized silk were applied, and the patient allowed to return to consciousness. The amputated leg (the right) was dissected and it was found that the ball had split, and the larger portion was buried in the lower end of the femur, showing that a knee-joint amputation was impossible. Wetherby slept the latter part of the night and is doing well to-day, but very feeble. We think if he recovers he will do well.
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