

# Some Utah Mineral Deposits and Their Metallurgical Treatment.

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THE following paper by Prof. R. H. Bradford was read before the sessions of the American Mining Congress in session at Pittsburgh, Dec. 2 to 5. It is in condensed form, a resume of the subject of minerals and mining in every phase of the field. In the comprehensive paper on the "Mining and Mineral Resources of Utah," read at the Denver meeting of this congress two years ago, by our esteemed director of Utah, Mr. John Dorn, the mining resources of the state were fully outlined. It will be the aim of the present paper to give briefly the present status of Utah's mining and metallurgical industries, with especial stress upon the developments of the last two years.

## UTAH'S STANDING AMONG THE STATES.

In the production of the four important metals—lead, silver, gold and copper—during last year, 1907, Utah stood third in lead, third in silver, fourth in gold, and fourth in copper, among the states of the Union, having made a decided advance in copper output over former years, with an advance also in lead and silver.

## BINGHAM MINERAL DEPOSITS.

As a preface to the consideration of some of the larger mines of Bingham, I quote from the summary on the geology of this area in the monograph on Bingham by the United States Geological Survey: "Between carboniferous and late tertiary time monzonite intrusives invaded the country on the Bingham area, metamorphosed them, and introduced metallic elements, which replaced marbled limestone with pyritic copper sulphides. After the superficial portions of the intrusives had cooled to at least partial rigidity, they and the enclosing sediments were rent by persistent northeast-southwest fissures."...

## THE UTAH COPPER COMPANY.

This company owns about 200 acres of ground in the heart of Bingham between 1,000 acres near the mouth of Bingham canyon and 100 acres in the south. The ore bodies of the property in central Bingham consist of an altered siliceous porphyry containing small grains of copper minerals, very uniformly disseminated throughout the mass both in fracture seams and in the body of the rock. The ore averages about 2 per cent copper, .15 of an ounce silver, and .90 of an ounce of gold. The primary copper mineral is chalcocypite, but as a result of secondary enrichment from above practically all of the copper sulphide minerals are now present, the principal one being malachite. The developed area covers 72 acres of ground, and although the thickness of the ore body has not been fully determined, yet existing developments show an average depth of at least 30 feet. This area and depth of ore figures up to the equivalent of 1,000,000 tons of ore per acre. Below the depth indicated in the above estimate is a zone of lower grade ore averaging about 15 per cent copper, and containing about 40,000,000 tons of ore as indicated mainly by diamond drill holes. Besides these 72 acres now developed or partially developed, there are 88 additional acres of undeveloped property in the company's property that is undeveloped, although a portion of this area is known to contain ores of profitable grades.

## METHODS OF MINING.

Open cut work with steam shovels is employed in the extraction of 30 per cent of the tonnage of the property of ore per day; the remaining 70 per cent being taken out by the underground caving system, although costing slightly less than 60 cents a ton of ore produced. The caving system is, however, possible in favor of steam shovel work. In great part the benches of ore need but little shattering by blasting, as much of the ore is already loose through soft direct shovel work.

## EQUIPMENT.

At the mine the company has in operation 15 locomotives mostly of 100,000 pounds weight; 125 stripping dump cars of six yards capacity; two 40,000 pounds electric locomotives; three smaller electric locomotives and the necessary cars for underground haulage; six steam shovels; and about ten miles of standard gauge railway laid with 65 pound rails; a 200 horse-power compressor plant; a completely equipped machine shop, capable of handling and repairing the heavy locomotives and steam shovel work; besides the commissary offices and quarters for employees.

The concentration of this ore is a simple matter as the copper minerals are not so finely disseminated as the rock as they are in the porphyry of the neighboring properties. The absence of any clay or talc decompositional products of the rock make this a simple matter, the mill tests have given an extraction of 75 to 80 per cent of the values.

A concentrating plant of 2,400 tons per day capacity has been built at a distance of three miles to the east for treating this quartzite. The main features of difference between this plant and those of Utah Copper and Boston Consolidated plants are: (1) The difference in the ores. This mill will crush all ore to mesh only, and will make its principal savings with the copper minerals in larger pieces, using jigs and shaking tables; (2) The mill, as it is, however, provided with plant with settling tanks, slime tanks, and puddles. The ore is extracted by the caving system and dropped through chutes into the grinding tanks. The built 1,000 feet underground just above the transportation tunnel, which reaches the property 1,000 feet below the bottom of the Bingham canyon. This tunnel carries 3,000 tons of material per day on the east base of the Ogish mountains, where the concentrating mill is located. The ore is transported at a cost of 15 cents per ton mined (30 cents, and concentrated for 15 cents per ton. With an output of 15 cents per ton net income per day on 2,400 tons of ore is estimated at \$3,564, or an income of \$1,400,000 per year.

## SMELTING THE CONCENTRATES.

The concentrates from the monzonite ore form a very desirable smelting mixture. It may be smelted directly in the reverberatory furnace or roasted preliminary to smelting. The fine concentrates containing high sulphur values are roasted in pot furnaces or in mechanically rabbled furnaces for the partial elimination of the sulphur. If the pot furnace is used the roasted product is in a sintered but porous condition, hence in good form for smelting in a blast furnace. Matte and slag are run from the blast furnace continually and those separate from each other by gravity in a large settler. The slag is run off and mechanically rabbled and discarded and the matte is further treated to obtain metallic copper.

## THE UTAH CONSOLIDATED.

The Highland Boy mine of the Utah Consolidated company was one of the early producers of the high grade sulphide ores. The ore of this company were smelted for a number of years at the Utah smelter, but in 1907 it was purchased by the American Smelting and Refining Company. The ore averages high in copper and the output of the smelter in copper bullion was large for the ore treated. The high grade ore and the favorable conditions of smelting and smelting were indicated by the dividends disbursed. These amounted to more than one million dollars per year. Since the Utah Consolidated plant by the junction by the farmers of the valley, the ore has been treated by the American Smelting and Refining Company's plant at Garfield.

## THE YAMPA MINE AND SMELTER.

One of the large producers of the sulphide ores of Bingham is the Yampa mine. The ore is practically self fluxing with the exception of needing a small amount of limestone. The mine is now putting out a tonnage of 7,000 to 8,000 tons of ore per day which is transported about one and one-half miles to the Yampa smelter in Bingham canyon, the cost of transportation being seven cents per ton. The smelter treats the total tonnage of the mines besides about 200 tons daily of custom ore. The furnaces of the plant consist of three reverbatory roasters, three reverberatory furnaces, two having dimensions 17 feet by 55 feet, and one 17 feet by 45 feet—three blast furnaces, two 42x100 inches and one 42 by 18 inches. The plant has stands with six converter shells of 84 by 136 inches dimensions. The production of metallic copper by the Yampa smelter is slightly over 1,000,000 pounds per year.

## THE UNITED STATES PROPERTIES.

The extensive properties of Bingham canyon owned by the United States Mining Company are producing a large output that is all smelted at the United States smelter at Bingham Junction, in Salt Lake county. Their ores are transported by aerial tramway to the Rio Grande Western railroad cars at the Bingham terminus and then hauled to the smelter.

## THE TINTIC DISTRICT.

Tintic has achieved and still holds the enviable distinction of having more dividend paying mines than any other district in Utah. Eighteen of these mines are credited with having paid dividends of \$17,000,000. The exact figures of bread money distributed are hard to ascertain as many of the mines have been operated as joint stock or close corporations, concerning whose income the public has learned little or nothing. The Centennial Eureka, one of the richest mines of the United States, is owned by the Eureka Hill company, has of late years been the heaviest shipper. The Bullion Beck, one of the oldest producers of the district has recently gone over into the hands of the United States Mining Company and is being exploited even more actively in the future. The Eureka Hill leasers have been very active during recent years and have produced large quantities of good grade ore. The Mammoth and Grand Central seem to show limit to the depth at which they obtain very profitable ore.

## THE OHIO COPPER COMPANY.

This property adjoins the Utah Copper on the east and the Boston Consolidated on the north, and covers an area of 120 acres. The ore is quartzite mineralized with copper and iron sulphides. The ore is largely composed of a siliceous mass of monzonite porphyry of the two adjoining properties. The ore is much shattered and broken. Disseminated throughout the shattered rock, siliceous and metallic minerals form stringers and veinlets of rich copper sulphide.

metal market this lead and silver camp... The supreme court of Utah during the last week gave its decision in favor of the state university... COAL... There are four extensive coal fields being operated at present in the state of Utah. These include the Book Cliffs, the Weber River, the Sanpete, and the Iron county fields. The Utah Fuel company operating all the mines of the Book Cliffs field... HYDROCARBONS... The asphalt deposits of eastern Utah are world famous for their extent and purity. The principal minerals consist of Uintahite, wurtzilite, elaterite, ozocerite, and maltha besides a variety of asphaltic limestone, sandstone and shales. Uintahite, or the Gilsonite of commerce, is the most important. It occurs in true veins cutting the sedimentary rocks of the region... IRON ORE... But a description, though brief of Utah's mineral deposits would be incomplete without mention of her numerous iron ore deposits. One out of a number of occurrences will be referred to: The deposit in Iron county in southern Utah occurs as a mountain of ore, 15 miles long and three miles wide. Hundreds of acres of this mountain of ore will require no stripping, and in greater part will respond readily to the steam shovels. Analysis of numerous samples by United States geological survey officials show averages of from 55 to 65 per cent metallic iron.

SALT LAKE CITY AS A SMELTING CENTER. Salt Lake City is at present the most important smelting center in the world. The tremendous ore supply of the three great mining camps so near at hand, namely, Bingham, Park City, and Tintic, giving a combination of easily smelted mixtures; and the unlimited confidence in the continuance of the supply has justified the building of exceedingly large smelting plants in Salt Lake valley. The favorable position of Salt Lake as a railroad center enables the smelters to draw large supplies of ore from all parts of Utah, from Idaho and Nevada and even from California. With the galena and lead carbonate ores from Park City, Tintic, the Co-

tonwoods, from Idaho and Nevada; the copper, from sulphides of Bingham, and Beaver county; the siliceous copper, gold, and silver ores of Tintic and scattered camps and from Nevada, the ore supply is more diversified than anywhere else in the United States. Large custom capacity smelters and lead smelters with their competition for custom work have brought very favorable smelting rates to the ore producer. Nowhere else in this country can the producer dispose of his ores at so favorable figures. The smelters with their capacities are as follows:

Table listing smelting capacities for various plants and companies, including Murray, American Smelting, Bingham Junction, etc.

## SMELTER SMOKE.

The decision of United States District Judge Marshall in favor of the farmers of Salt Lake county against the smelters of Murray and Bingham Junction, whereby the smelters were not allowed to smelt or roast any coal containing over 10 per cent sulphur, seemed a severe blow to the smelters. The decision did not affect the plants at Garfield or Bingham canyon. Two of the smelting companies, the Highland Boy and Bingham Consolidated copper smelters. The former immediately took options on land about 20 miles west, just over the Ogish mountains in Tooele county, and the latter negotiated for land somewhat further west.

## UTAH'S STEADY ADVANCE.

Utah's prominence as a mining state has been gained gradually as a result of the extensive development of ener-

mous medium and low grade deposits. There have been no spasmodic and temporary gains in her metallic output; neither has there been serious losses as the years of prosperity or adversity in mining arrived. No decline in lead and silver or slump in copper has caused collapse. Her advance has been rapid but regular. The prospects are brighter now for increased output in future years than they ever were before. The dividends from her mines and smelters indicate the substantial nature of these industries. For 1907 the reported dividends amounted to more than \$5,000,000, and this was no exception as the broad money distributed for a number of years has hovered around this flattering figure.

## SECURITY OF INVESTMENTS IN UTAH.

There have been fewer labor troubles in Utah than in any mining state in the west. Seldom have the mining and metallurgical operations in the state been interfered with by conflicts between capital and labor. The sentiment of the people of Utah is against strikes and lockouts. Laborers have never demanded exorbitant wages. Mine and smelter managers have acceded to the request for increased pay during especially prosperous years, and the workmen have allowed this increase to be taken off at times of depression. "Capitalists are now appreciating this favorable relation between capital and labor in Utah, and are showing a preference for our state as a place to invest their money."

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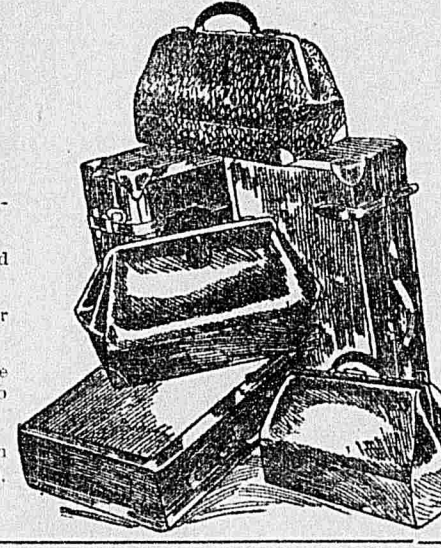
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