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REVIEW

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TELLURIDES.

Telluride ore is the general term applied by miners to a series of minerals into the composition of which the rare element tellurium enters in considerable proportion. Tellurium, itself, presents many analogies to sulphur, and forms with many of the metal compounds known as tellurides, strictly analogous to the sulphides. There is, however, this curious fact about tellurium—that it is the only known mineraliser of gold—that is to say, that native compounds of gold and tellurium exist, although gold is not found in nature combined with any other element. We are quite aware that certain authorities consider that gold occurs in combination with sulphur, but the evidence in favor of such a compound is far from clear, and upon the whole it seems more probable that there is not a native sulphide of gold than that there is. On the matter of tellurides there is, however, no doubt possible. We have, for instance, the mineral sylvanite, also known as graphic or graphic tellurium, tin white to steel gray, brittle mineral, consisting of gold and tellurium only in its purest form, though it contains at times small or large quantities of silver and lead. The other telluride minerals are.

Calaverite—A yellow grey brittle telluride of gold.
Nagyagite—A soft blackish grey mineral, consisting chiefly of tellurium lead and gold and some sulphur.
Hessite—A telluride of silver, with some gold.
Petzite—A telluride of silver with much gold.—
Black Hill Mining Review.

DEFINITIONS OF ASSAYS.

The assayer usually expects to be called on to answer an unlimited number of questions, says the Engineering and Mining Journal, but in one case at least we find that he has taken a step in advance by putting in type answers to some which are likely to be asked him. Messrs. Jones & Jones, assayers and chemists, of Denver, have issued a slip giving the following definitions of a specimen assay, a control assay and an umpire, which are convenient for readers:

A *Specimen Assay* is made to determine whether a piece of rock, mineral or other material contains gold, silver, etc. No sale of ore is made on the assay, and it is therefore unnecessary to make a number of check assays.

Control Assays are made on samples prepared from and representing a lot of ore which is for sale, and are usually either checks on the assay made by the assayers of sampling works, smelters or mills. Four checks are always run, and if the sample is not perfectly homogeneous, often many more; also, as not infrequently happens, if a repeat is required, because assays do not agree, no extra charge is made.

Umpires are assays made to settle differences between other assayers, as often thousands of dollars depend on the result. Often eight to ten checks must be made, as the trouble is frequently due to coarse gold or non-homogeneity of sample.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

The time to invest in a gold mine is now.

Gold mining is the only business that never suffers from hard times.

Neither drouth, grasshoppers nor floods can destroy the product of the miner for gold.

It is the large supply of paying quartz and not the extraordinary richness of small pieces that makes the great mine.

Most of the best mines have had very rich rock, and the best specimens have come from mines that are now worked.

The farmer, the manufacturer and the coal miner live in constant dread of over-production; but not so with the gold miner. As long as civilization endures, his product will be in demand.—Mining News.

GOLD IN THE LAURENTIANS.

The most recent news of gold in Canada is that the precious metal has been found in the Laurentian mountains in the Province of Quebec. This is startling news, as it has been considered to be a geological impossibility for gold to be found in the Laurentian range. But geological impossibilities are more rare than they used to be and the veriest scientist today hesitates to use the word "impossible." We hope that the report may prove true and that the northern side of the province may prove another gold-bearing district.—Mining News.

The great results promised from the gold mines of the British South Africa Company's territory—generally known as Rhodesia—have so far failed to materialize. A recent statement compiled at Salisbury, the chief town of the territory, and published by the Rhodesian Times, which has every reason to present the best possible showing, gives the total production from 1890, when the country was first opened, up to the end of 1896, at 7,047 crude ounces only, probably about 6,000 fine ounces. The returns of ore mined and crushed are not complete, but the average result seems to have been not far from 0.67 ounce per ton.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

According to l'Echo des Mines, of Paris, small veins carrying platinum have recently been found in syenitic rocks in Hungary. Platinum has also been found in veins of maganese ore existing in altered or decomposed syenites near Santa Rosa de Usos in Colombia.

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