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MINING.

THE OCCURRENCE OF PLATINUM IN CANADA.

Written for the Engineering and Mining Journal by J. F. Donald.

Platinum in small quantity has been detected in association with alluvial gold in Eastern Canada, but no attempt appears to have been made to save it. In Ontario it has been discovered in the Sudbury district. Sperrylite (PtAs) is found in placers in the Sudbury district resulting from the decomposition of portions of the ore of the region. It is associated with silicates, and pasticles of pyrrohtite and copper pyrites, from which it may be freed by treat-ment with squa regia and hydrofluoric acid. Sperrylite forms minute grains with brilliant crystalline faces, is of a tin-white color and has a specific gravity of 10.6 Some months ago a refiner of platinum in Newark, N. J., informed the writer that a New York dealer in platinum ware had sent him a quantity of aporrylite, and that he had successfully smelted it and returned the product in the form of wire. The presence of steenic does not off-r any serious metallurgical difficulty. Sportylite brings a high price as a rare mineral.

A notable quantity of platinum has already been obtained from British

Columbia. One firm in the United States claims to have purchased within the last year or two fully 2,000 oz.

An increased output may be expected as the Tulameen Hydraulic and Improvement Co. have made preparations to carry on hydraulic mining on a large scale. This company has erected a saw mill, having a capacity of 5,000 ft. per diem, and has constructed about two miles of flume, 5 ft. at have 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high and a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high and 20 in high an all a standard or called between 20 in high and 20 in high an all a standard or calle base, 20 in. high, on sills placed on solid bed about 7 ft. wide, and having a grade of 1-in. in 12 ft. The water is taken from Eagle Creek, about 14 miles above Granite Creek, the only creek capable of giving the necessary quantity of water and pressure. In addition to this flume the company has on the ground, and ready for work, about 400 ft. of iron pipe and a monitor, which, where work is to be commenced, will work with a pressure of 900 miner's inches, and a drop of about 160 feet.

It was expected that this plant would be in active operation during the summer of 1892, but owing to a combination of circumstances but ittle actual mining has been done. In the first place the spring was late, and when it did open it was found that some repairs on the plant were required. Then again in the early summer negotiations were entered into with an English company for the sale of an interest in the Tulameen platinum mines, but owing to unavoidable delays it was not until the latter part of July that the mining engineer who was asked to report on this property was ab'e to make his inspection. As a result of his examination very valuable data have been obtained. After "cleaning up" the results of the work slready done in the earlier part of the summer and making an examination of the berches lower down the stream the engineer concluded that work had been commenced in an unfavorable spot, the amount of gravel being small in comparison with that composing the large benches on the company's property lower down the river. These latter benches were tested under his direction and resulted as follows:

No. 1 Bench gave a return of 62 grains of platinum per cu. yd. and a few small colors of gold.

No 2 Bench test gave a return of 1560 grains gold per yard and 7.80

grains platinum.

No. 3 Bench test gave 5 90 grains per yard, mostly gold, both gold and platinum being very fine.

It will thus be seen that the proportion of gold and platinum varies, the average being about one-third platinum to two-thirds gold.

The results of the first "clean-up" were not as good as in the above tests (for the reason before stated), and as may be expected when the works are extended to the lower benches; it averaged about eight cents per yard, about three-fourths of this being platinum.

Numerous individuals are washing on a small scale in this Tulameen region, obtaining both gold and platinum.

The prospects are that the hydraulic company will operate vigorously during 1893, and a notable output may be expected from this the only important platinum district yet known in British Columbia.

This Tulameen ore varies greatly in size, some of it being exceedingly fine, while on the other hand nuggets of considerable size are not infrequently met with. The writer knows of several ranging in weight from one-fourth of an ounce to one ounce. According to the writer's experience metallic platinum constitutes about 70 per cent. of this ore.

The following statistics of the production of platinum are taken from the report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
1887	1,400 oz.	\$5,600
1888		6,000
1889		3,500
1890		4,500
1891		10.000

The statistics for 1892 and a thorough article on platinum will be found in the Mineral Industry soon to be published.

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