

lication in the newspaper published nearest the claim, for at least once a week for ninety days, and if at the expiration of ninety days after such notice in writing or by publication such delinquent shall fail or refuse to contribute his proportion of the expenditure required by this section, his interest in the claim shall become the property of his co-owners who have made the required expenditures, upon recording a copy of such notice, together with an affidavit showing personal service or publication, as the case may be, of such notice with the recorder of the mining district in which such mining claim is situated, and if there be no such officer, then with the recorder of deeds of the county in which such mining claim is situated."

The principle laid down in this amendment, if adapted to the requirements of our Mines Act, would be a boon to our miners, and tend to keep properties in the possession of those who had the courage of their own convictions and were willing to work or pay, and to eliminate those mean enough to hold back until their more courageous associates had either struck it rich, or the gold leads grew high enough above the ground to save the expense of prospecting.

I am Sir, yours truly,

AS-ESMENT.

Another matter to be brought to the attention of the Local Government is the granting of a bonus to the first discoverers of gold at a depth of 1000 feet or greater. To prove the benefits of deep mining we could cite the experience of all the great gold mining countries of the world, but will for the present content ourselves with mentioning that *El Callao*—the great Venezuelan gold mine, which for a time ceased producing gold has now again become productive at a depth of 965 feet. At that depth in August last a vein of quartz was developed rich in gold and about ten feet thick. If it is once demonstrated that our gold mines are not mere shallow deposits, the argument that prevents thousands of dollars from being invested from abroad will be refuted and capital in unlimited quantity will be obtainable.

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.—Fully ninety-nine persons in every 100, if asked to name the most precious metals, would mention gold as first, platinum as second and silver as third. If asked to name others, a few might add nickel and a very few aluminum to the list. Let us see how near to the truth they would be. Gold is worth about \$240 per pound, troy; platinum \$130; and silver about \$12. Nickel would be quoted at about sixty cents, and pure aluminum \$8 to \$9 to the troy pound. We will now compare these prices with those of the rarer and less well-known of the metals. To take them in alphabetical order, barium sells for \$975 a pound, when it is sold at all, and calcium is worth \$1,800 a pound. Cerium is a shade higher—its cost is \$160 an ounce, or \$1,920 a pound. These begin to look like fabulous prices, but they do not reach the highest point; chromium brings \$200, cobalt falls to about half the price of silver, while didymium is the same price as cerium, and erbium \$10 cheaper than the ounce than calcium, or just \$1,680 per pound. If the wealth of the Vanderbilts be not over-rated, it amounts to nearly \$200,000,000. With this sum they could purchase 312 tons of gold and have something left over, but they couldn't buy two tons of gallium, that rare metal being worth \$3 250 an ounce. With this metal the highest price is reached, and it may well be called the rarest and most precious of metals.

Glucinum is worth \$250 per ounce; indium, \$158; iridium, \$658 a pound; lanthanum, \$175, and lithium \$160 per ounce. Niobium costs \$128 per ounce; osmium per-adium, platinum, potassium and rhodium bring respectively \$640, \$400, \$130, \$32 and \$512 per pound. Strontium costs \$128 an ounce; tantalum, \$144; tellurium, \$9; thorium, \$272; vanadium, \$320; yttrium, \$144, and zirconium \$250 an ounce. Thus we see that the commonly received opinion as to what are the most precious metals is quite erroneous. Barium is more than four times as valuable as gold, and gallium more than 162 times as costly, while many of the metals are twice and thrice as valuable. Aluminum, which now costs \$8 or \$9 a pound, will eventually be produced as cheaply as steel. When this can be done it will push the latter metal out of a great many of its present uses, as it possesses great strength, toughness and elasticity, with extreme lightness of weight.—*Boscworth Brown.*

LAKE CATCHA.—At the Oxford mine there are now some 200 tons of high grade quartz ready for the crusher.

ARDOISE HILL.—There are likely to be some important developments in this district at an early date.

CENTRAL RADNOR.—Prospecting is being pushed on the Northrup properties with most encouraging results.

TANGIER.—The Brunswick Company continue to operate in this district, and as they have in Mr. Patrick Coffey a thoroughly experienced gold miner at the helm, good results may be anticipated.

At present nearly all the copper manufactured at the smelters of the Anaconda is sent to Swansea, Wales, to be refined.

The Anaconda Copper Company will build a large new electric process copper refinery at Three Fork, Gallatin county, Mont.

During the month of April one of Butte's (Mont.) largest mines, the Boston & Montana, produced 2,200,000 pounds of copper.

The Union Copper Mining Co., of Copperopolis, Cal., are erecting large works for casting and leading the many thousand tons of low grade copper mined some years ago.

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