

PLATINUM. sensed of a greater specific gravity, is a whitish metal which at first
Occurrences. was thrown away under the impression that it was worthless. For
considerable time no definite idea could be procured as to its value.
Mr. Jenson, of Granite City, who forwarded a sample to a cousin of
his at Manchester, England, for analysis has kindly supplied me with
the desired information. The metal is principally platinum, contain-
ing small quantities of iridium, osmium, and palladium. Its value
depends on the percentage of platinum, which varies in quantity and
may be considered as worth about 32.50 per ounce. The selling price
at Granite City was 50 cents per ounce; so the purchasers will reap a
handsome return for their investment.' The following year he esti-
mates the production to have reached some 2,000 ounces, which com-
manded from \$2.60 to \$3.00 per ounce.

Platinum has been found in many places in British Columbia in
association with gold, in alluvial deposits, an annotated list of localities
being given below, but the region of the Similkameen and Tulameen
rivers (north fork of Similkameen) is by far the most important.

The origin of the platinum found in the placers of the district, has
not been definitely ascertained; Dr. Dawson in his report on the
Mineral Wealth of British Columbia expresses himself as follows:
The metal (platinum) occurs in notable quantity in the region of
the upper Similkameen and Tulameen, in minute scales where the
gold is "fine" but increasing in coarseness to small pellets and nuggets
in places where "coarse" gold is found. Coarse grains and pellets
of platinum have so far been found only on Granite, Cedar and
Slate creeks, all entering the Tulameen on the south side. In certain
claims in these creeks, the platinum has been found to equal half
the weight of gold obtained Though above
referred to as platinum, the metal so named is alloyed with several
other metals of the same class, of which osmiridium is the most abun-
dant. Specimens of the native platinum from Granite creek have
been subjected to careful examination and analysis by Dr. Hoffmann,
who states that the material "having the composition of the ore here
in question would, at the present time, be worth, from \$2.90 to \$3.65
per ounce troy in the English market." Osmiridium is employed, on
account of its great hardness, for tipping the nibs of gold pens. "For
this purpose it is necessary that it should be in the form of natural
grains, and these are very carefully selected, the requirements being
that they should be solid, compact and the proper size and shape.'
This was not however found to be the case with the grains present in
the platinum from Granite creek.