Current Comment on Utah’s Mines and Prospects

The passing of the comet, evidently, has had no serious effect upon the mining industry of the state. As a matter of fact, conditions show decided improvement in almost every camp and district in Utah. Where operations are conducted on a regular scale nothing especially new presents itself for comment in these columns. Still, the outlook grows more and more encouraging, and conditions continue to improve. From time to time the statement is made that money is “tight” when it comes to mining investments. But we notice that if a sensational discovery is reported, there is always a rush to get “in on the ground floor,” and that money for the purchase of a prospective bonanza comes out with a rush when an exceptionally good thing presents itself. Also, that if an important strike is made in a property whose stock is listed on the local board, some active trading is engaged in.

In Tintic District.

“Tintic will always be a mining camp,” is the remark recently made by a prominent mining man, and the opinion is general that the district has been barely prospect ed, as yet. Occasionally a feeling of discouragement is noticeable among the operators of Tintic, but it is not long before a feeling of optimism again reigns supreme, for hardly a day passes but that some important disclosure is recorded in some of the mines of the district. Take Iron Blossom, for instance. There are those who have been feeling somewhat skeptical regarding this property, and yet a recent arrival from Eureka states that it is greater and bigger than ever before. In fact, that it is really two great mines in one, and that the stock of the company should never go lower than a dollar a share. The decision to deepen the Victoria shaft and to operate through this avenue is a notice to the mining world of the high esteem with which this property is held by the company; and the Victoria should re-enter the dividend-paying list at no distant day. The Old Mammoth has been making a great record, of late, and especially so in the production of high-grade ore. Since our last issue the company has shipped seven car-loads of gold ore going from $60 to $70 to the ton, and it is stated that the ore bodies are opening up in a most gratifying manner below the 2100-foot level. The assessment levied on Beck Tunnel Con. has caused a raid on the stock of the company, and some speculation is being engaged in as to the ultimate outcome of this enterprise. Still, according to a well-known mining man, there are two chances left wherein the company may still make good. One of these is based on the possibilities connect ed with the great quartz vein exposed in the east drift from the 1100-foot shaft, and it is held, by some, that by sinking still deeper, and then cross-cutting for the vein, a great ore body will be uncovered. The other possibility is embraced in the probable extension of the old Humbag vein through Beck Tunnel ground. This ledge is now being profitably worked by Uncle Sam, and is being sought by the Utah Consolidated. The Utah Con. is reported to be working in very lively ground, and, if it catches the old Humbag vein, and it proves to be as rich as it is in the Uncle Sam, the Beck will be in clover, as it embraces 900 feet of the vein within its boundary lines.

At the Lower Mammoth conditions are extremely favorable. On the 2000 the drift to the south is in shipping ore, and the winze, on the same level, is also being sunk in a fine body of pay mineral.

Activity in Bingham.

In no other camp in the west, almost without exception, is there to be found such feverish activity as that which characterizes operations at Bingham from day to day. The gigantic work being done by the ponderous steam shovels, the regular traffic of the aerial tramways, the piling of dozens of locomotives, and the continual passing of long ore-trains is almost bewildering to the visitor. And this is kept up so constantly that were operations to cease, entirely, for an hour, the impression would prevail that the end of time had come, so accustomed are the residents of the camp to the continual roar and ear-splitting sounds.

The big porphyry producers of Bingham seemingly go in extent and magnitude as development work progresses. The Utah Copper, for instance, has something like one hundred and fifty million tons of available ore in sight, and adjoining properties are constantly adding to their tonnage. The Utah Metal is pushing work in its big tunnel project; and the Utah Consolidated (Highland Boy) will soon be making regular delivery to the International smelter. In the deeper workings of the Utah Con., also, it is stated that the showing of fine ore is not only gratifying, but also surprising. The United States is also looking well, as will be seen from a report on company affairs elsewhere in this issue; while something is continually doing at the Ohio Copper.

Usual Conditions at the Park.

At Park City the big companies are keeping up their usual rate of production, and nothing of a sensational nature has transpired there, of late, unless the letting of the contract for the Snake Creek tunnel, by the Daly-Judge company, might be catalogued in this manner. This tunnel enterprise, however, is one that is calculated to work great benefit to the mining interests of the Park, and, in its magnitude, will compare, very favorably, with the great Ontario drain tunnel, with the difference, between the two, that the Daly-Judge project is more than likely to open up some wonderful ore bodies before it reaches its objective point.

The Silver King Coalition held its annual meeting a few days ago, and re-elected its old board of directors, as follows: David Keith, president; Thomas Kearns, vice-president and general manager; John S. Bransford, second vice-president; W. S. McCorinck, treasurer; James Ivers, W. Mont Ferry and Windsor V. Rice. The company is now installing an electric haulage system in its mine and other improvements are being made; and yet there has been no reduction in the working force.

Here and There.

The Utah mine, of Fish Springs, is reported to be in fine physical condition, and has consigned three carloads of very fine ore to the smelters during the present month.

The Shamrock, of Marysville, it is reported, is destined to break into the dividend-paying column at no distant day, as it is stated that this property has six feet of solid shipping ore blocked out in its workings, from which a carload is being sent to the market with pleasing regularity. From all accounts the Shamrock is likely to grow into one of the big things of the state. In the same district is the Dalton, a gold proposition which has been long neglected. As the company has just levied an assessment, however, it is quite likely that work may be resumed again in the development of this property.

Word comes from Alta that the Columbus Consolidated is in a body of $100-ore. The orebody, it is stated, is four feet between walls. Shipments from the new strike are being made.

Arrangements are being perfected so that the Burro mine, on Black mountain, near the head of City Creek canyon, north of Salt Lake, can enjoy better transportation facilities. Bridges are being thrown across Mill creek, and shipments, via, the way of Woods ‘Cross, will soon be the order of the day. A telephone line is also being run to the mine, whose only fault lies in the fact that it is located too near Salt Lake City to be fully appreciated.