Current Comment on Utah's Mines and Prospects

There is no question of doubt but that there is a decided improvement in mining conditions as compared to the situation a year ago. In the way of heavy work, more is doing in Utah than ever before, and new life has been infused into many small propositions. In looking over the various camps and districts, it is encouraging to note the many enterprises under way. A revival is noted in Tintic district, Bingham and Park City. In other camps, such as Big Cottonwood, Alta, American Fork, Beaver county, Marysville, Sierra Madre, Ophir and in Morgan county a large amount of development work is being done, and with most satisfactory results, and the ore uncovered, in most instances, is of shipping grade, as the smelter returns are beginning to show; as a number of new properties have already entered the producing list. The performance of annual assessment work is also giving additional life to nearly all of the camps in the state, so that a little more color is being given to mining affairs.

In Beaver County.

Beaver county is, and always has been looked upon as being one of the most richly mineralized portions of the state. Heavy operation and immense production characterized mining operations in Beaver county more than a generation ago, and smelters and mills were in commission there when present-day operators were mere boys in school. The mines, in those days, were great, but not better or richer than they are today, and, when this fact is fully recognized, the mines and prospects of this section will receive more attention than has been accorded them for the past ten or fifteen years. The South Utah is now shipping concentrates, regularly, to the Tooele smelter; the Majestic continues to improve, and renewed activities are noticeable at the Horn Silver, an old producer with a dividend record of upwards of $6,000,000.

The new pipeline for the mines of the Star district has been completed, and will furnish a water supply for the Moscow, Red Warrior, Commonwealth, Lady Bryan and Manassas; and it is quite probable that other properties in that section, including the Progressive, St. Marys, Cedar Talisman, Wild Bill and Movita will avail themselves of this opportunity of securing a regular supply.

In the Newton district, east of Beaver, there is considerable real mining going on, headed by the Rob Roy, and this promising region will probably make a noise like a real producing district before another year rolls by.

Bingham Operations.

Bingham is a perfect beehive of activity, and the production of the camp is something marvelous. Of course the three leading companies, the Utah Copper, the Utah Consolidation and the United States are the heaviest operators of the camp, but there are many other enterprises which are plugging along with visible evidences of what they are accomplishing. The Ohio Copper, for instance, it is stated, is earning the interest on its bonds three times over. Its unfinished mill, the unit in commission of which has a rated capacity of 1,500 tons daily, is now treating in the neighborhood of 2,000, and, when the plant is in a perfected state, it is estimated that it can easily handle 5,000 tons per day. President Heinze is now in the east negotiating the sale of $1,000,000 bonds. This sum will pay off the floating indebtedness and complete mill installation.

The Utah Apex continues to show up well with continued development, and the Utah Metal is making splendid headway in the driving of its long tunnel. The Bingham Mines company is now engaged in sinking the old Yosemite shaft, recently unwatered, and should soon be in the ore reserves which were uncovered in the olden days and which were soon after made inaccessible by a heavy inflow of water.

Encouraging for Tintic District.

Heavy operations in Tintic district have led to most encouraging results of late, and Tintic stocks are again prime favorites on the exchange. Iron Blossom is looking extremely well, and has large volumes of excellent ore exposed in a number of places. The Colorado also looks well, and dividend-money seems to be well provided for in its underground workings. At the Uncle Sam a new and important ore body has been disclosed on the 250 level, and the outlook for this property is most encouraging. Beck Tunnel has taken a new lease on life, and its new tunnel, which is being driven rapidly, is headed for the famous old Uncle Sam vein. Beck stock has been on the jump in the past two weeks, and those who bought it when it was down to two cents have made good money. The Tintic Standard, after a long campaign, and after meeting with many disappointments, has uncovered a two-foot body of high-grade ore on the seventh level. At the Centennial operations are now being conducted through the new tunnel, and the company is preparing to sink still deeper. The Lower Mammoth is in good physical condition, and is making regular shipments from the 1,000-foot level. Considerable interest is centered in the statement that the Knight smelter, at Silver City, may go into commission again, and, if this takes place, it means that work will probably be resumed in the operation of the two Swans, which will give new life to that portion of the district. The Emerald, at Mammoth, is the subject of considerable discussion throughout the district, and many are strong in the faith that the next extension of the wonderful Centennial-Euroza ore-bearing zone will eventually be disclosed in the Emerald. Work still continues at the Ophir, and results are anxiously awaited. In North Tintic the Scranton is giving evidence of still greater things. In the last issue of The Mining Review mention was made of the splendid body of high-grade ore recently encountered in Scranton underground workings. Since then another discovery has been made on the surface and at a point much higher up than where heavy operations have been carried on for a number of years. The new find when sunk upon proved to be a good deposit of zinc carbonates. President Theo. G. Wolf of Scranton, Pa., who recently visited the mine, is more than pleased with its splendid physical condition.

Up in Big Cottonwood.

Highgrade lead ore is characteristic of the ore being extracted from Big Cottonwood mines and prospects. The Utah Mines & Coalition company is just now exulting over recent disclosures in the company's property. The new tunnel is progressing rapidly, and, during the week, the face was in a full breast of ore of good grade, while, accompanying the shoot, there is a streak going about fifteen inches in width which will assay 59 per cent lead and 59 ounces in silver to the ton. Sacks have sent to the mine, and it is expected that shipments will soon begin. The Baby McKee, in the South Fork of Big Cottonwood, continues its fine record, and is steadily consigning an excellent class of ore to the valley smelters. Other properties in the same region are responding to development in a most encouraging manner.

Work is being pushed in the driving of the long Snake Creek tunnel, which is to pierce under the divide and drain the Daly Judge and other Park City mines. At the Mountain Lake, above Brightont, work is being vigorously pushed, and it is the general impression that disclosures have recently been made in this property which should cheer company officials and stockholders.

Park City Mines.

An optimistic feeling pervades the atmosphere of Park City operations, and the impression generally prevails that the coming year will be a good one for this great camp. The chief operators, at the present time, are the Silver Coalition and the Daily-
Judge. The Daly West, however, although having somewhat curtailed its production, is giving a good account of itself, and the number of leases recently given by the company has resulted in the employment of quite a number of additional men. The operations at the American Flag, since this property was taken over by F. E. Bodfish and his associates, have been most satisfactory, and it is stated that, quite recently, some very important disclosures have been made in the mine workings.

Up in Sierra Madre district, north of Ogden, one or two mining deals of importance are pending, and some extensive mine developments are under way there. The district will probably be producing ore and operating reduction works early during the coming year.

Operations continue unabated and with most encouraging results at the Burro mine on Black mountain, just over the divide from City Creek canyon, and regular consignments of good ore are being made to the valley smelters.