Current Comment on Utah's Mines and Prospects

Although everything indicates a period of great activity in the mining camps of Utah during the present year, the unsettled condition of the weather, so far, has interfered with a resumption of extensive operation in a number of the "skyline" camps, included in the number being Park City, Big and Little Cottonwoods, and American Fork canyon. Up at the Burro mine, also, near the headwaters of City Creek canyon, travel is difficult, and snowshoes are still a necessity. In the camps of lower altitude, however, such as Bingham, Tintic, Stockton, Ophir, and the districts of Beaver county, a large amount of work is going on, although, in some localities, the roads are still soft as a result of melting snow and spring rains and freshets. With settled weather a heavy tonnage may be expected from almost every section of the state, to take care of which the three independent smelters of the state are making ample preparation.

The stock market has been unusually active during the past two weeks, and the volume of trading has been large, while prices have advanced nearly all along the line, small fortunes having been made by those who invested in low-priced stocks less than two months ago. Beck Tunnel, for instance, which almost went a-begging hardly three months ago, has since been selling up to 42 cents, although profit-taking has reduced this figure, somewhat, during the past week. Other stocks, including Iron Blossom, Colorado, Victoria, New York, Bonanza, and Silver King Consolidated, have been favorites with the investing public, and the trading in these, and quite a large number of mining securities on the local board, has been active and heavy.

Tintic Mines Are Popular.

Tintic is all agog over the wonderful ore discoveries which have been made, of late, in a number of its leading properties. The Uncle Sam is showing up better and bigger than ever. Beck Tunnel is in a most interesting stage in its new development, owing to the fact that a series of caves have been encountered in virgin ground, in which a good showing of shipping ore is reported. The new vein of the Beck, according to all reports, has an existence of at least half a mile within company boundary lines. The Colorado expects to pick it up and is now working in its direction. It is estimated, also, that the new avenue of wealth extends as far south as, and into, the old Carisa. In the Victoria, also, a good showing is being made, and, of late, the company has been sacking ore going $1,600 to the ton. The Victoria ore body is mammoth in its proportions, and is a thing of joy to Superintendent Jerry Sullivan, one of the large stockholders, and to every member of the company, as well. At the Carisa, it is stated, preparations are being made for an active campaign of development. The Chief Consolidated, which might well be termed "the baby of the camp," is looking extremely well, and is making some remarkable fine shipments, one of which, comprising forty-three tons, recently brought the company over $7,200. The Colorado is looking exceedingly well; and, as for the Iron Blossom, its shipments, in point of tonnage, a week ago, exceeded that of the great Centennial-Durekas, the bonanza of the district. The May Day has doubled its mill output, of late, and the recent strike in the mine workings is showing up well. Some great ore has recently been opened up in the Ophongo, and its neighbor, the Gold Chain, is making a record in the way of ore shipments that is astonishing as well as most pleasing to company shareholders. The United Tintic Mines company, recently incorporated, and which absorbed the holdings of the Tintic Empire, Tintic Combination, and the Bullock Mining companies, is preparing for a campaign of extensive development and exploitation, and has a most favorable outlook.

Park City Looks Good.

Park City mine owners are most hopeful. For a year or two just passed the most enthusiastic miner in the camp had no call for any great hilarity. But, things are coming his way, now, and it cannot be long before this grand old district and splendid dividend-paying portion of the state will come into its own again. According to all reports the Daly-Judge and the Daly West are in much better condition than they have been for sometime past; while, in the wonderful Silver King such magnificent ore-bearing zones have been uncovered, of late, that it seems as if the King would more than duplicate its past record. The Daly-Judge has begun the shipment of lead ores to the Tooele smelter, under a most favorable contract. The New York Bonanza is reported to be in a most favorable condition; while good things are expected this season, from the American Flag, and also from the dealers on the Ontario. At the Little Bell work is being pushed in the blocking of ore, and, according to reports from this property, it is now looking better than it has for a year or more. An east wind has been blowing Zionward, of late, and with it has come whisperings of great moment to Park Cityites, and to Salt Lake people, as well. The import of the wireless message is to the effect that "something is doing" between the King Consolidated, and the King Consolidated. There may be nothing in all this, but, certain it is that King Con. stock has been eagerly sought for, of late, even if quietly, and at an advance over previous quotations. It looks as though this would be a good year for Park City.

Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Big Cottonwood canyon, also, is slated for rejuvenation this year, and already considerable activity is noticeable within the environments of this richly mineralized section, much to the gratification of the good people and business men of Murray, which is the commercial entrepot of the canyon. An old saying has it that "all roads lead to Rome;" but, this is in error, for the road down Big Cottonwood canyon leads to Murray, and Murray only. The road problem is a serious one in any mining camp, and the volume of business depends, very largely, upon its condition. The canyon road is generally good, but, to make it better, the business men of Murray are going to improve it, and thereby improve their business; killing two birds with one stone, as it were; good shooting, and good business policy. A few miles up Big Cottonwood is the old Maxfield, an ancient dividend payer. The mine is now being worked by lessees and, already, is making ore shipments to the valley smelters, via Murray, of course. Up in the South Fork a veritable beehive of industry will be noticeable this season. The Utah Mines Coalition company expects to resume operations by April 1st. The work on the Kennebec will also be taken up at a later date, while, at the old Baby McKee, a heavy tonnage output is sure to be recorded before potatoes are ready to harvest again or the wildfowl of the north trek to the sunny south. At the Cardiff matters are in a flourishing condition, and it is reported that another important strike has recently been made in the mine workings. A great deal of prospecting will be done in the canyon this year, from its mouth clear to the Alta and Brighton divide.

Bingham Buzzing Like a Bee.

A few weeks ago, one night, tremors were felt in the air, and some imagined they could hear the earth shake and quake. For sometime the impression prevailed in Zion that another slip had taken place along the great Wasatch fault. Investigation revealed the fact, however, that the commotion was caused by the tremendous blasts or shots being fired at Bingham in the endeavor to disrupt the great mountains of ore for which the camp is so justly famous; while the tremors were nothing more than echoes of rumbling ore trains, busy tramways, and the general traffic of the camp; a camp that, from one mine, alone,
is sending more than 10,000 tons of ore, daily, to valley mills, while other mines, also, are sending out huge shipments. Bingham is looking well in every branch of the mining industry. Work is progressing favorably in the construction of the Bingham-Garfield railroad, and the Utah Consolidated tram is conveying the usual tonnage over the divide to the Tooele smelter. The Silver Shield is now shipping from its new ore discovery, while a most important strike is reported in the Utah Apex. The United States is maintaining its regulation output, and, it is said, is increasing its silver-lead shipments.

Other Camps and Districts.

The outlook for the Marysvale district is particularly promising this year, and a large amount of work will be done in that region. Work is progressing, in a modest manner. In the development of the Deer Trail, a mine with a most satisfactory past history, and possessed of great possibilities. On Red Mountain, north of Marysvale, a shipment of a carload of iron ore is being made, daily, to the smelters, for fluxing purposes. At the Silver King, between Deer Creek and Kimberly, some very fine ore is being disclosed as work progresses. Another carload of high-grade ore is being shipped from the Webster in Bullion canyon. The Annie Laurie mine, in Gold Mountain district, north of Marysvale, is to be sold at receiver's sale today, and it is hoped the mine will fall into able hands, as it is a proposition of dividend class. The Shamrock, of Bullion canyon, recently consigned another carload of rich ore to the Salt Lake smelters.

The Columbus Extension is reported to be looking exceedingly well, and recently made important disclosures in its long tunnel, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

In Lucin district, on the west side of the Great Salt Lake, renewed activity is noticeable. Leasers on the Salt Lake Copper are shipping. A new and important strike is reported in the Black Warrior and the Mineral Mountain company, is pushing work. The company recently held its annual election, George Austin of Salt Lake, being named as president. C. F. Whipple, of Ogden, is managing director.

It is reported that the rejuvenation of the old La Plata district, in Cache county, northeast of Ogden, is under way, and that a strong Boston syndicate is expending considerable money in the development of the Sunrise, one of the leading properties of the camp.

Considerable interest is being taken in the Dream mine, near Salem, under the direction of J. H. Koyle.

The Utah mine, near Fish Springs, continues to send in high-grade ore, and is in condition to make a most excellent record this year.