

WESTERN PHOSPHATE LANDS WITHDRAWN FROM ENTRY.

Important Order of the President.

The western phosphate lands recently withdrawn from entry by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the President's order comprise portions of Morgan, Rich and Cache counties in Utah; portions of Bear Lake, Bannock, Bingham, and Fremont counties in Idaho; and nearly all of Uinta County in Wyoming—in all about 7,500 square miles of land more or less underlain by phosphate rock and constituting the greatest known phosphate deposit of the world.

Need of Phosphates.

Phosphoric acid is an essential constituent of productive soil. Work at agricultural experiment stations in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Illinois has shown that in fifty-four years the cultivated soils of those States have been depleted of one-third of their original content of phosphoric acid, or at annual rate of about 20 pounds per acre. Even if the loss has been only one-half this amount it would require 6,000,000 tons of phosphate rock annually to offset this depletion in the 400,000,000 acres of cultivated lands in the United States, without allowance for increase in the area cultivated or in the agricultural yield.

Phosphate Rock Produced and Exported.

There were 2,265,000 tons of phosphate rock produced in the United States in 1907, and of this amount 900,000 tons, or about 40 per cent, was exported. The phosphate rock of South Carolina is nearly exhausted, the Florida deposits have reached their maximum production, and although the output of the Tennessee deposits is growing, these deposits, if the increase in the rate of production shown during the last decade continues, will last only about eleven years. There is some phosphate in Arkansas, but it is of low grade. At the present rate of mining the known available supply of high-grade phosphate rock in the United States will last only fifty-four years, and if the increase in production shown during the last decade continues, the supply will be exhausted in twenty-five years. It is therefore evident that the large deposits of the public land States must be depended on to replenish the fertility of the farms of the United States, and the only available method of preventing the acquisition of these phosphate deposits by foreign companies for shipment abroad and of insuring their use on our own lands is apparently to retain the title in the Government and lease the lands under provisions that will prevent exportation.

Lands Designated by the Geological Survey

The list of lands to be withdrawn was furnished by the United States Geological Survey as a result of preliminary examinations made in the field. Further work will be done by the Survey as soon as practicable, for the purpose of making a careful classification of the lands and restoring to agricultural entry such portions as may contain no phosphates.

It is pointed out by the Survey that the situation of this western field is most favorable. The smelters at Butte and Anaconda give off gases, chiefly sulphurous, which are very injurious to vegetation. These gases can be utilized to great advantage by converting them into sulphuric acid, for the manufacture of superphosphate fertilizer, thus transforming a substance that is injurious to vegetation into one that is beneficial.

GOLD AND SILVER IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

First Results of American Mining.

Although gold mining has been carried on in the Philippine Islands for several hundred years and the aggregate value of the product has been great, exact records of production have not been kept. Since the American occupation of the islands, however, there has been much prospecting and considerable development of gold and copper deposits, principally of the former; but until 1907 the production was confined chiefly to placer washing and gopher mining for gold by the non-Christian tribes of the hills. During the nine years ending with 1907 the annual production by the natives of the islands probably averaged about 1,500 fine ounces of gold, valued at about \$31,000. The total production by Americans and Europeans from 1898 to 1906, inclusive, probably did not exceed 600 fine ounces, valued at \$12,400. The preparatory work which had been carried on by the American miners for several years began to bear its first real fruit in 1907, and statistics for that year, collected by the division of mines of the Bureau of Science at Manila, are now available.

The total production of gold in the Philippine Islands in 1907 is given by the division of mines as 4,540 crude ounces. At the average fineness of 0.850, this would represent 3,859 fine ounces, valued at \$79,773. The production of silver is given as 83 fine ounces, valued at \$55.

Although gold occurs in many islands of the group, the production of 1907 is credited to but two—Luzon and Masbate. In Luzon there are two producing provinces—Benguet in the northern part and Ambos Camarines in the southeastern part, on the Pacific coast. Masbate Island, southwest of Luzon, is part of the province of Sorsogon.

Report by Geological Survey.

From a report on the production of gold and silver in 1907, published by the United States Geological Survey as an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1907," by Waldemar Lindgren and H. D. McCaskey, the following extracts are made:

"For centuries the Igorots of Lepanto and Benguet have been mining gold, washing it from the streams or recovering it by impounding water in the hills and releasing it in floods over decomposed surface material, in this way procuring auriferous gravel and at the same time exposing the rich and narrow veins, which they worked to slight depths underground. The rich vein material thus procured contained free gold, which was recovered after the ore was crushed in crude stone mortars and washed by hand. The Igorots and later the Spaniards worked extensively the copper ores at Mancayan, in southern Lepanto, near the northern boundary of Benguet. For a number of years considerable quantities of copper were recovered, which did not, however, add to the output of precious metals, although the ores, which are mixed sulphides, arsenides, and antimonides, sometimes carry as much as \$5 to the ton in gold, particularly in the pyrite. Since the American occupation production of gold by the Igorots has continued.

"In the Camarines, particularly at Paracale and Mambulao, European capitalists at one time did extensive underground work and erected modern mills. Their

work was interrupted by the native insurrection of 1896 and has been resumed only in a small way by American miners in the last few years. There has been no production from the mines during the last twelve years. Before the Spanish conquest of the islands the natives of the Camarines worked the placers of these districts and have ever since made an annual production, which in the early years was of considerable importance. During the last year a dredge installed by American and New Zealand capital has made an output of gold most encouraging to the operators, and additional dredges are contemplated for this district.

"In the northern part of Masbate, at Aroroy, many old, abandoned gold mines of the Spanish regime, or of earlier times, have been actively prospected and partly worked by the American miners. The total production to date from Masbate has been small.

"Considerable gold is mined by natives in Mindanao in placer workings each year, but reliable estimates of the output are not available.

"Silver ores occur rarely in the Philippines, the one notable deposit having been found in northern Benguet, near the Lepanto line. This is in part native silver, but the deposit has not been developed. Lead ores carrying silver occur in the islands of Cebu and Marinduque, but they have not yet been developed."

Copies of the report on the production of gold and silver in 1907 may be obtained free of charge by applying to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

MORE PEOPLE WANTED.

Florida Has Room and Opportunity for Twice Her Present Population.

We are a firm believer in State Fairs. As an immigration getter the fair is of incalculable benefit to Florida. A practical display of the State's products does more to convince homeseekers that Florida is a good place to live in than all the newspaper articles and railroad folders that can be distributed.

As proof of this look at the counties that have made creditable displays at the last four fairs held in Tampa; they are the counties that are making most wonderful strides in population and wealth.

Some jealous spirits want the State appropriation discontinued because, forsooth, it benefits Tampa. Bless you, they can't keep Tampa from growing, and the whole-hearted support her citizens give to the fair makes Tampa, the metropolis of the richest county, pre-eminently the place for a State Fair.

BOGUS MINING EXPERTS.

Employment by the United States Geological Survey, for even a short time or in any capacity, appears to have a commercial value that is rated high. Even the cooks and teamsters of the field parties refer proudly to their connection with the Survey and reap the reward of popular credit that attaches to their public service.

The advertisement of such connection after it ceases, however, has sometimes been the source of trouble or embarrassment to the Survey, especially where it is used for the furtherance of doubtful mining schemes, and the Survey desires to give emphasis and wide publicity to the fact, now fairly well known, that no member of its scientific corps is allowed to do private professional work in the United States during the period of his employment. The rules of the Survey are, indeed, so stringent, that no one connected with it in any capacity—whether as messenger, laborer, clerk, or scientist—is permitted to hold stock in any mining company in the United States. The public is warned to look carefully into the statements and the standing of any practicing mining engineer who advertises present connection with the Survey.

The fact that the staff of the Geological Survey is not composed exclusively of geologists is too often overlooked. Of the twelve hundred or more persons connected with it in 1908, not more than 10 per cent are geologists, and not more than 1 per cent are engaged in work whose character implies ability to determine the merits of a mining prospect or enterprise.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

I, the undersigned, having duly qualified as Executrix of the last will and testament of Peter Wm. Baldwin, deceased, hereby give notice to all persons having claims against said estate either as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise, to present the same within the time prescribed by law.

IDA BALDWIN,
Executrix of the last will of Peter Wm. Baldwin, Deceased.
Sam'l W. Fox, Attorney for Executrix.
12-13-8wks.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 30th, 1908.
Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Barnes & Jessup Company, will be held at the office of the company in the consolidated Building in Jacksonville, Fla., on Tuesday, January 19th, 1909, at 3 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of electing officers and transacting such other business as may be properly considered by the stockholders at such meeting. By order of the President.
E. B. WELLS, Secretary.
1-2-2t.

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