

MANGANESE DEPOSITS IN CUSTER COUNTY

A. F. Reiter, 1920.

During the progress of the recent war, at the suggestion of the U. S. Geological Survey, the writer made rather extensive survey of Custer County, investigating rumors of the presence of manganese ore in this region.

The first location investigated was the NW. 1-4, sec. 20, T. 13N., R. 16W., where a rather irregular deposit was found. Every fault and crevice in the soil and rocks above and below the deposit was filled with either discolorations due to manganese or with layers varying in thickness from near traces to an inch or more.

The next location investigated was the SW. 1-4, sec. 31, T. 13N., R. 17W., where at a depth of about 30 feet a vein of 8 inches was found. Like striae were found from this vein clear to the surface.

In the SE. 1-4, sec. 23, T. 13N., R. 17W., and the NW. 1-4 sec. 24, T. 13N., R. 17W., were found discolorations and small veins of manganese in canyons from the surface to a depth of about 20 feet.

In the SW. 1-4, sec. 30, T. 13N., R. 18W., at a depth of about 16 feet was found a vein about 18 inches in thickness with smaller veins penetrating all crevices up to the surface.

These deposits were discovered by the early settlers and thought to have been a cheap grade of coal and many wagon loads were hauled away to the sorrow and disgust of the early settlers. It exists as a fine black powder very closely resembling cheap coal. Except for the depth, this manganese could be very cheaply mined as it scoops easily from the veins. It exists as almost pure manganese carbonate.