

R A D I U M
in
Boulder County.
By
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NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Colorado State Planning Commission,
313 C. A. Johnson Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

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RADIUM IN BOULDER COUNTY.

Prior to 1918 the principle mining in the vicinity of Jamestown was for gold. There was no vein formation and the values were recovered from pockets. All of the territory in that locality had been honeycombed by miscellaneous working. Some of these workings were in fluorspar. At that time I was working for the Golden Age Mill. The mill purchased fluorspar from these workings and by concentrating it so that it contained less than $\frac{1}{2}\%$ silica, was able to sell it to the steel companies. A part of my duties were to analyze the ore for fluorine content and in the event of any question about the values in the ore to make a 100% analysis of the ore to determine all the values it contained. During one of these 100% analysis, I discovered the presence of Pitchblend, lead uranium oxide. Knowing that radium would be present in proportion to the uranium, I made the Madam Currie Photographic test and established the presence of Radio-activity. I then took a sample of the pulp to the Government Radium laboratory at Golden where Dr. Lund had it tested and confirmed my findings. I then secured a half interest in the C.H.B. claim which lies on a contact between the fluorspar and granite where the pitchblend occurs in greatest quantities, and where the fluorspar is of poorer grade. In the following years much mining activity resulted from my discovery but no quantity of pitchblend of commercial grade was mined. The radium content in the best of the pitchblend ores was worth about \$5000.00 per ton but treatment costs were prohibitive.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Richard G. Place,

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