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Ohio Mining Journal

Title: Miners' Sunshine and Its Uses

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Issue Date: 1894

Citation: Ohio Mining Journal, no. 22 (1894), 82-86.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/32657>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio Mining Journal: Whole no. 22 \(1893 - 1894\)](#)

MINERS' SUNSHINE AND ITS USES.

BY WILLIAM B. RENNIE.

President, Secretary, Gentlemen, and Fellow Members of the Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers.

All of you are familiar with the war our Chief Inspector, Mr. Haseltine has waged on the compounders of miners' oils, or rather on the oils themselves in the state of Ohio. Less than two years ago our mines were flooded, not with light, but with objectionable odors and intense smoke. Through the efforts of our Chief much of this has been overcome and the miners of the state are beginning to realize the efforts that have been made in their behalf. You all know by experience that the very best oil that can be secured for miners' use is more or less objectionable on account of offensive odor and the smoke they throw off. Within the past year and a half efforts have been made to overcome these difficulties and a new and better light has been discovered, and I herewith submit to your presence the New Miners Light, called Miners' Sunshine. A smokeless, odorless, and clean, pure, white light and cannot be adulterated without being at once detected by any one without instruments. The Miners Sunshine is hard and dry and takes but two minutes longer to light the lamp up in a cold morning. But as the wicks do not char nor gather any hard crisp on the point of light, the miner soon overcomes the lighting of his lamp, as he does not need to be trimming the point of his light every few minutes as with the Oil Lamp.

The Miners Sunshine is cheaper for the miner, and less injurious to his health, besides of great value to the mine operator keeping his workings pure and clear during the day. In one of the extensive mines in Pennsylvania, the mine boss says the "Sunshine" with Rennie lamp is as good as 5,000 cubic feet of extra air and also gives a written statement to this effect.

The Paraffine wax was first discovered to my knowledge by a poor chemist, Mr. Young, fifty years ago, who afterwards became very rich by leasing what was called the Torbinhill mineral, near Bathgate, Scotland, and a very small area was ever

found of his minerals as Mr. Young got 80 gallons of oil to the ton of the Torbinhill mineral and came out in blocks like a gas coal, but it was so full of oil that the proprietors tried to break Mr. Young's lease and take it from him, but Mr. Young gained the suit and afterwards became very rich.

Now Gentlemen, I will present to you the lamps burning with Miners' Sunshine, also with the Miners Oils, one with pure Winter White Cotton Seed Oil; another with pure Summer White Cotton Seed, also one with Miners Lamp Oil, a compound of 24-gravity as in compliance with the Mining Laws recently passed; also one with Miners' Sunshine which makes a lovely light as you will see for yourselves.

And now, gentlemen, if upon investigation, you are satisfied that what I have said regarding Miners' Sunshine is true and that you have an opportunity to recommend and use an article that will overcome many objectionable features in the oils we have been obliged to use in the State of Ohio, I most earnestly ask your assistance and co-operation in bringing relief to the miners in our state by the speedy introduction of Miners' Sunshine.

Thanking you President, Secretary, and Fellow Members for your attention, etc.

THE CHAIR: Now, Mr. Rennie's lamps have been burning for some time and I presume they are in shape. If it is your pleasure, I would suggest that you now take up the discussion of the oil in those lamps. Are there any questions that you would like to ask about these lamps. They have been burning some time and you have a fair comparison of them.

MR. DALRYMPLE: I have not had much experience with Mr. Rennie's, what do you call it?

THE CHAIR: Miners' Sunshine.

MR. DALRYMPLE: But from the appearance of the lights I think it would be a valuable thing for the miner. You notice the smoke from the oil lamps and that smoke in a tight place soon mixes up in such a shape that it makes the air very bad and unfit for a miner to breathe. If that Sunshine is an improvement, I am in favor of giving it a thorough test and I would be in favor of this institute endorsing and encouraging the intro-

duction and use of Mr. Rennie's Sunshine until it is thoroughly tested.

MR. LOVE: Mr. President, it is getting late, I don't want to say very much about the oil. A year ago last summer I had a paper on light I believe, the first that was brought before the institute. My duties at that time were inspector and seeing the effect of the adulterated oil was what caused me to bring that matter before the institute, which I believe has resulted in good so far. Now I have had some experience with this parafine, I call it, and I believe that is what it is, but I won't go into any chemical detail, for that I cannot do, but it has a much different effect to any of the oils that I know of. I think from a practical view that the same smell is not there. The adulterated oils have a peculiar smell and it is very offensive. It gives one the headache in a short time, where there is much adulteration, while this parafine does not. I admit that it smokes a little, but that smoke is principally from the cotton, but if the smoke is only from the cotton it is not injurious, but if it is from the material that is burned on the cotton it is. I am very much in favor of the Sunshine as it is called here, because I know that wherever it is burned in the mines of my district, it has invariably a good effect.

MR. MORRIS: We know that we have been for a long time trying to get something that would be of benefit to the miner in the way of oil. A great deal of credit ought to be given to Mr. Haseltine for the great effort he has made to improve the oils that are burned in the mines of Ohio to-day. We know that the oil that has been burned has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction for a long time, especially in those mines where there is a great deal of powder used. It causes so much smoke and it was necessary for to have a great deal more of a current of air present through the mine than the law asked for, so that it would clean the smoke out that came from these oils. I think that after a little while, it won't take a very long time either, you will see a great deal of good coming from this new oil or parafine or sunshine, at it is called. I believe that it is going to be a good thing

for our mines. In the first place it don't smoke anything like the other oils do. Also it is sure to be healthier. It will be a great benefit I think, both to the miner, the operator, and the inspector.

MR. TURNER: Mr Chairman, I might state from practical experience, that I have used the oil for several months, have used it in my work as inspector, and I think it is the finest thing I can carry through the mine. There is a great difference between the light of the parafine and the light of the oil. My light attracted attention. One would say "Is that electric light you have?" Another said "Is that a sperm candle you are burning?" A great many miners in my district are using it now. One told me the other day he would not use anything else as long as he could get that. He said it was a little bit easier to put out. He said he carried an oil lamp, going in and coming out, that this would not stand a strong pressure of air like the other, but he used the sunshine in his room always and intended to That it had no offensive smell and I can readily notice that in going into the rooms. While talking upon sunshine, I want to state, along with Captain Morris, that the improvements that Mr. Haseltine, through his efforts, has made on the oil, don't give the sunshine the advantage it would have had before. That is, a year ago, when we were burning the poor oil. I am satisfied, that in my district our oil now is one hundred per cent. better than it was when he issued his first circular against the oil.

There is another thing about the oil which most of us old miners would appreciate. When you go home and upset that oil, you don't have your wife after you with a broomstick. There is nothing to disturb you. I carry it in my pocket with my papers and it is perfectly clean. I believe it will eventually come into use. It is like all new inventions at the beginning. I remember when triple F powder was first brought in, it was too quick it kicked our coal off too quick. We were using the same sized cartridge that we did with the double F. Eventually we learned to gauge the triple F according to our shots and we could fire our coal as well as with the other. I believe it will be

profitable to the miner. I believe it is equally as cheap as our best oil and undoubtedly it makes less smoke than anything I ever saw burned in a coal mine.

THE CHAIR: I want to say one word in closing. I have been twitted a little about speaking of drumming up papers. I think drumming is a good thing.

MR. MORRIS: Mr. President, I move you appoint a committee of three to report on the oils in use with special reference to the qualities of the Miners' Sunshine Oil or Parafine Oil.

The motion being seconded, prevailed.

THE CHAIR: The chair will appoint on that committee Captain Morris, Mr. Rennie and Mr. Dalrymple to report on these oils at the next meeting.

SECRETARY HASELTINE: I move we extend a vote of thanks to Mr. Rennie for his paper on "Minres' Sunshine" and the exhibition he has given us and also to Prof. Brown for his valuable paper.

The motion being seconded, prevailed.

SECRETARY HASELTINE: I would like to thank the gentlemen who came forward and helped us out with their able papres and I hope that we will have in the future as good papers and as many of them as we have had at this meeting. I move you, Mr. Chairman, that we now adjourn to the summer meeting, which we will determine on in the course of time.

The motion being seconded, prevailed, and the convention adjourned.