

FROM

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*Occasionally references may be found to a gypsum deposit near Gypsum station, in the Snake River Canyon. According to Lindgren * 1,800 tons of gypsum was mined here in 1896. There has been no production for a long time, and the large mill built has been dismantled. Lindgren gives the following section of the gypsiferous beds, which occurred near the canyon rim:

	Feet
Gypsiferous limestone and volcanic tuff.	
Gypsum	30-40
Red and green tuffaceous slate	80
Sinteraceous limestone Gypsum	20
Slate and limestone	

The average strike of the beds is N. 60° E. and the dip is about 30° NW. The gypsum was completely mined out by a series of workings, and all that is now left is the unaltered anhydrite. Careful prospecting should have warned the operators of the transition of the gypsum into anhydrite and prevented the loss of capital that was incurred. Prospecting might reveal other occurrences of the anhydrite bed near the surface where weathering would have hydrated it to gypsum. It is possible that the present deposit of anhydrite might be utilized if processes investigated by the United States Bureau of Mines** for the hydration of anhydrite can be perfected. So far as known this is the only body of anhydrite in Oregon. No commercial gypsum deposits are known.

*Lindgren, Waldemar, The gold belt of the Blue Mountains of Oregon: U.S. Geol. Survey 22d Ann. Rept., pt. 2, p. 753, 1901

** Farnsworth, Marie, The hydration of anhydrite: Ind. and Eng. Chemistry, vol. 17, pp. 967-970, 1925