

NEW MINERAL NAMES

Priceite

W. F. FOSHAG: Priceite from Furnace Creek, Inyo County, California. *Am. Mineral.*, **9**, 11-13 (1924).

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous borate of calcium, $5\text{CaO} \cdot 6\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$. CaO 32.5, B_2O_3 48.7, H_2O 18.8. Insoluble in water, soluble in acids.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHICAL PROPERTIES: Triclinic?, minute rhombic plates with 58° angle.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color white, luster earthy to porcelainous. Fracture conchoidal, brittle. Hd. 3-3.5. G. 2.43. Compact cryptocrystalline. Biaxial, negative. $2V=32^\circ$. $\alpha=1.572$, $\beta=1.591$, $\gamma=1.594$.

Priceite from Oregon and pandermite from Turkey have been shown to be identical.¹ Although "pandermite" was frequently mentioned by the miners as present in borax beds, this mineral has proven, upon examination, to be howlite. True priceite was found only at one locality, at Furnace Creek Wash, Inyo County, California. The first specimens found occurred as nodules and irregular masses, embedded in a soft greenish gray shale associated with colemanite and gypsum (selenite). Later it was found as veins or narrow lenses in shale a foot or more thick and up to 10 feet long. This priceite is compact and broken into numerous angular fragments, due apparently to shrinkage in its change from a colloidal to a metacolloidal form. Other priceite was found as filling cracks in a dark olive green altered basalt hillock near the mouth of Corkscrew Canyon. At both of the latter occurrences the priceite was altered in part to delicate radiating needles of ulexite, or to sharp crystals of colemanite. Still another occurrence of priceite is as amydule fillings in the altered basalts, some of them reaching the size of a large potato.

W. F. FOSHAG

DISCREDITED SPECIES

Molengraaffite

C. E. TILLEY: The identity of molengraaffite with lamprophyllite. *Trans. Geol. Soc. S. Africa*, **41**, 109-111 (1938).

A new partial analysis of molengraaffite from Pilansberg gave: CaO 1.9, SrO 14.4, BaO 1.8. The original analysis, therefore, appears to be in error, SrO and BaO being included in the CaO. This identity is confirmed by a comparison of optical properties.

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¹ Larsen, Esper S., *Am. Mineral.*, **2**, 1-3 (1917).