

# Inyo County, California, Stone Industry circa 1886

Excerpt from the “California” section of the

*Mineral Resources of the United States*, Vol. 4  
United States Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey  
1887, pp. 545

(This book is available on Google Books.)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=qr0KAAAAYAAJ&dq=%22The+recent+discoveries+of+marble+in+California+have+been+the+subject+of+considerable+comment+during+the+past+year%22&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=qr0KAAAAYAAJ&dq=%22The+recent+discoveries+of+marble+in+California+have+been+the+subject+of+considerable+comment+during+the+past+year%22&source=gbs_navlinks_s)

This excerpt, which begins on the next page, is presented on the  
Stone Quarries and Beyond web site in the California state section.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/california.html>

Peggy B. Perazzo  
Email: [pbperazzo@comcast.net](mailto:pbperazzo@comcast.net)  
August 2011

# Inyo County, California, Stone Industry circa 1886

Excerpt from the

*Mineral Resources of the United States*, Vol. 4  
United States Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey  
1887, pp. 545

“*California.* – The recent discoveries of marble in California have been the subject of considerable comment during the past year.

“In September, 1885, Mr. Israel Luce, now superintendent of the Inyo Marble Company, at the request of members of the Carson and Colorado Railroad Company, visited the marble deposits known to exist in Owen’s valley, 1 ½ miles from Owen’s lake, 5 miles north of Keeler, and ½ mile from the Carson and Colorado railroad. At that time a company was organized for the purpose of developing the beds, but in May, 1886, it abandoned the project and sold out all equipments (sic), etc., to the present owners, the Inyo Marble Company, which since that time has been developing the ledge and putting up a mill for sawing; sand suitable for this purpose being found in the neighborhood. The first car-load of sawed marble was shipped early in the present year.

“The stone is said to be pure dolomite and the greater part of it is white, but a great variety of colored products is also found, including the variety known as moss agate. According to the reports of all experts who have examined this marble it is of very superior quality, being adapted not only for structural purposes, but also for the finest kinds of work.

“The stone appears to exist in three layers; the upper one is from 15 to 20 feet thick, is considerably shattered and strained, and its present position is believed to have been the result of a slide from the mountain above.

“The second layer is 3 ½ to 4 feet thick, apparently, in its original bed, but is also somewhat strained. The third layer has not been distributed from its original position; its thickness is not yet known, but it has been penetrated to a depth of 6 feet. This stone is the only California marble that has proved acceptable to local cutters and dealers. The offices of the Inyo Marble Company are J. M. Keeler, president; H. B. Keesing, vice-president; O.F. von Rhein, secretary, and Israel Luce, superintendent.”