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SMELTER NEGOTIATING FOR SAMPLING WORKS.

Deal on to Take Over Plant at Baker City and Believed to be Practically Closed.

It was learned today through reliable sources that negotiations are pending and all but completed whereby the Oregon Smelting and Refining company will take over the Baker City Sampling works either by purchase or lease. Details of the deal are not known as the principals are unwilling to make their plans public at this time. It is admitted, however, that there is something in the report. The presence of Bela Kadish, owner of the Sampling Works, in the city yesterday and his long conference with Dr. Ed W. Mueller, manager of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, lends color to the statement, and it is believed that the deal, if it is not already consummated, will be within a few days.

The importance of such a transaction and the advantage which will result from it to both Sumpter and Baker City can hardly be gathered from the bare facts by one not conversant

with the situation. In the first place the Sampling Works in Baker City would furnish a depot and warehouse for transfer purposes and for the reception of all ore consignments in less than carload lots destined for the smelter; and again it would place the Oregon Smelting and Refining company on the main line of railroad and in a position to reach ore supplies, not only in this, but in other states, thus bringing Baker City and Sumpter, the points of transfer and consignment, into closer touch with each other as far as their relations to the Smelting company are concerned.

From The Miner's information at hand it is believed that the deal is practically completed.

The smelter is now finished and can start operations as soon as the railroad siding is completed. It could start work any day. Work on the siding is being pushed along as rapidly as possible, and it will be finished before long.

PRESIDENT DAVISON IN SUMPTER.

Will Visit His Property, the Snow Creek, Tomorrow.

R. J. Davison, of Bath, New York, president of the Oregon Mines Exploration company, operating the Snow Creek property, accompanied by Charles M. Brown, of Denver, arrived in the city this afternoon. They missed the train at Baker City and drove through the country in company with several others who happened to be in the same fix.

President Davison comes to make an inspection of the Snow Creek mine and will leave with Superintendent Smith tomorrow for the property. Mr. Brown is a Denver mining man and is here to take a survey of the district.

Mr. Davison is well pleased with

the work being done at Snow Creek, and is confident that this is one of the coming mines of the district. He says that Sumpter is well known throughout the east and great faith is expressed in the mining operations here.

WORKING BIG FORCE.

Olive Creek Placers Employ More Men Than Any Other in State.

D. T. McCoy, superintendent of the Olive Creek placers, operated by the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, was in the city this week for an additional force of men. The water is now running in the ditches night and day requiring another shift.

The company now has twenty men at work, probably the largest

placer force employed in eastern Oregon. Superintendent McCoy says the ground is very rich and that gold can be seen in the gravel as it is picked up. Three giants are playing night and day. There is yet three feet of snow on the ground, which assures a plentiful supply of water and a long season.

WORK AT FORTY-NINE JIMMIE.

Colonel Topping Here to Get Machinery to Take Care of Water.

Colonel E. S. Topping, who recently took a bond on the Forty-Nine Jimmie, in the Greenhorn district, came in yesterday for machinery to take care of the water which was collecting so rapidly as to threaten a suspension of operations. Colonel Topping is working three shifts and is fast developing the property.

He is very sanguine over the prospects of the Forty-Nine Jimmie, and expresses the opinion that it will soon be among the producers of the district. It is a rich telluride proposition, with assays running into the thousands of dollars.

RICH SHOOT AT HIGHLAND.

Message Received From Neil J. Sorensen That Fine Body of Ore Has Been Encountered.

Just before press time today a telephone message was received from Neil J. Sorensen, president of the Highland Gold Mines company, who left Monday for the property, stating that another rich ore body has been encountered.

The shoot, the message stated, is three feet wide, and has been entered for some distance. While no assays have yet been made, the indications are that it is a very fine quality of ore. The property is getting better every day as development work progresses, and promises to be among the best in the district.

Independence Started Up.

A. Burch, of Spokane, who recently took a bond on the Independence, near the Magnolia, visited the property this week and returned yesterday to Spokane. Work has already been started at the mine and is to be continued right along through the season. A contract for 400 feet of tunnel has just been let.

PURCHASED THE VICTOR.

Big Cash Consideration Put Up For Property.

WORK HAS STARTED.

Mr. Hanauer, of Spokane, Completes Deal—Mine Taken Over by Him and Eastern Associates—Compressor Plant Will be Put in—Other Machinery as Needs Require—Big Proposition—Ablly Financed.

Adrian G. Hanauer, of Spokane, who has been in the city several days perfecting the deal for the Victor group in the Cracker Creek district, left on this afternoon's train, after completing the transfer. The property has now passed into the possession of Mr. Hanauer and eastern business associates. No sum was named but it is understood that the transfer represents a large cash consideration. Mr. Hanauer goes directly to New York on business connected with his company, and Albert Geiser, of Geiser & Hendryx, assumes charge of the property, and will, as the superintendent, carry on the development operations already begun.

The Victor group represents five full claims situated in the Cracker Creek district, and contains a continuation of the Cracker Oregon ledge. A tunnel will be run on the Cracker Oregon extension for a distance of over 800 feet to tap the vein, and a shaft is also being sunk. At a depth of from fifty to 100 feet the ledge will be crosscut and the ore bodies thoroughly explored. The ledge shows fourteen feet of solid ore between walls, averaging \$12 to the ton.

A compressor plant will be put in shortly, sufficiently ample to take care of the development work contemplated, and other machinery will be added as the needs require. Superintendent Geiser has the work well in hand, and will concentrate his energy toward the rapid development of the property. The company has able financial backing and is in a position to make the Victor one of the big properties of the district.

Sacking Ore at California.

The management of the California is still continuing to sack its rich ore until the roads are in a condition to allow shipment.