

Medford Mail.

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MINES, MINERS AND MINING OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

(Written exclusively for THE MAIL by a reliable representative.)

The Big Applegate mining property bought by Monroe & Co. of J. P. Atkin, and for which the company failed to pay according to contract, was sold at sheriff's sale recently to satisfy the liens against it, and was bought by the judgment creditor for \$31,050.59. What effect the sale will have on the operation of the mine, THE MAIL has not been able to learn.

Rhoten & Marden Bros., who are prospecting a ledge near Gold Hill, opened into a rich pocket lately from which they took out several hundred dollars in gold. They have considerable good ore in sight, and will push the work of prospecting as fast as possible. Rhoten is the champion pocket hunter of Southern Oregon and may strike something of permanent value yet. The country is full of rich deposits, and no one need be surprised to hear of another Gold Hill, Steamboat or Blackwell being discovered at any time.

The Gold Hill & Bohemia Mining Co. has bought nine claims in the Gold Hill district. The capital stock of the company is \$100,000, forty per cent of which is paid up. The property is listed with the Oregon Mining Stock Exchange, Portland. THE MAIL has been unable to learn anything of a very definite character concerning the company further than its holdings and amount of paid up capital. The fact that its property is listed with the Portland Stock Exchange is evidence of its standing and reliability. THE MAIL has had no information as to the work done by the company in Southern Oregon.

There is a report from the Blue River mines that Yerington & Brewbaker, who own the World claim, have made the richest discovery ever reported in the district. They have opened into a ledge six feet wide, much of the vein matter of which assays \$1200 per ton. The ore is all free milling, easy to work, and the strike is regarded as a remarkable one. The quantity of rich ore in sight, though it should prove to be only a pocket, is sufficient for a neat little fortune for the owners. Among the many rich discoveries being reported it will be strange if a number of them do not turn out greater or less fortunes for the finders.

A rich strike is reported as having been made by Rush & Corlies in the Double Eagle claim on Lucky Queen hill in Josephine County. The strike is a rich strata about two inches wide near the center of the vein. The free gold is all through the ore, which is of such a character as to be easily reduced in a mortar and yields from \$10 to \$15 to the pan. A shaft has been driven thirty feet in the vein which increases in width as the shaft goes down. The ore body at the bottom of the shaft is five feet wide, and said to be worth \$50 per ton. The walls are perfectly defined and the discoverers think they have a valuable property and will develop it as fast as possible.

The developments in the Blue Ledge copper mine, on the head of Joe creek, show a vein 8 feet wide which assays 25 per cent copper, \$4 in gold and \$8.50 in silver, per ton. This is a rich showing and considering the size of the vein, is one of the most valuable discoveries made in Southern Oregon for a long time. It is in the heart of the Siskiyou mountains at an elevation of

about 6000 feet above sea level. The ledge was discovered something like two years ago and a company organized in Del Norte County to prospect it. The company is running tunnels and the property will be developed as fast as a competent force of men can do it. Estimating the copper at 16 cents per pound, the value of the ore per ton, including the gold and silver, would be \$90.50. Copper and copper propositions will continue to increase in value as the mechanic arts demand a larger supply of this metal. Electric machinery has more than quadrupled the consumption in the past few years, and the ratio of increase will not be likely to cease for many years to come. Every year discovers new avenues for its use, and it seems as though in a short time it may vie with iron as one of the great commercial staples of the world.

The Crown Gold Mining Co., of San Francisco, has bought 250 acres of mining ground in Blackwell district embracing the old Centennial claim which was successfully worked about 25 years ago, and has been worked at intervals with more or less profit ever since. The company proposes to put up a dry milling process plant which reduces everything to dust and passes it through air blasts where the gold and all valuable metals are separated from the dirt. The process in detail is somewhat as follows: When the material is taken from the ground it is put through a system of crushers which reduces it to about the size of grains of corn. In the beginning, however, the large rock is taken out by means of screens. After it has been put through the crushers, it is elevated and passed down through a set of rollers running at a high rate of speed which reduces it as fine as flour. It is then run through a steam dryer, and when thoroughly dry goes through the air blasts for separation. This is roughly the process as given to THE MAIL by a gentleman who claimed to understand the method. Of course some of the minor details of treating the material are left out, but enough is given to convey some idea of the process which is entirely new here. The company expects to spend about \$25,000 on the plant and development work. Quartz is put through the same process except that all the material is crushed and it is not necessary to run it through the screens. The company has had one of these plants in successful operation in San Francisco for the past eight months on material shipped from various sources, and results have been entirely satisfactory. It is claimed for the new process that it will save more than 90 per cent of all values. If this method proves a success, as the company believes it will, a few years will see a number of these plants in operation here. The advantages are in avoiding costly ditches and water supplies except for engine purposes.

Geo. McLean, of the mining company of Kelley & McLean, on Sardine creek, was up from the mine the first of the week and reported development work progressing as usual on the vein. It will be some time yet before the force will be able to reach the ledge with the lower tunnel. When this tunnel taps the ledge a level will be run which will afford a large amount of stoping. It is considered that this level will establish in a great measure the value and permanency of the property.

The report that Hon. Theo. and Zack Cameron have sold their interests in the Simmons & Cameron property, at Waldo, is only partially true, if true at all. Senator Cameron informs THE MAIL that he has not sold his interest in the mine and has no thought of doing so. To the question as to whether Zack had sold his, Mr. Cameron said there had been some talk of his selling, but as to whether or not the sale had been effected he was unable to say. This is one among the largest and best mining properties in Southern Oregon, and if sold will no doubt command a big price.

The John L. Farris Co., of San Francisco, has bought 600 acres of mining ground on Kanes creek, Willow Springs district, and will put in steam drills at once to fully test the value of the property, and if found to be satisfactory, will put up a heavy steam dredger and commence operations on a large scale. Many dredgers are in successful operation in California, and there is no reason why they should not give satisfaction here. The one at Waldo which has been in operation the past year, gave good satisfaction, but was too light for the heavy work to be done, and in consequence there were several breakages during the season. The theory is all right and will work, but the machinery must be in accordance with the work to be done. The Farris company was fortunate in securing mining property of such recognized value, and will spend a large amount of money in its development. Jackson County is fast coming to the front as a mining district, and is receiving a small share of the attention to which its vast mineral wealth entitles it. Capital has long been needed to develop large areas without water supply and it seems to be coming this way lately. Much is hoped for the dredger and dry process, because if they prove to be a success the district will be dotted over with plants of this character in a few years.

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