

The special liquidator appointed by the Scottish session court to represent the capitalists of that country owning the Oregonian narrow gauge railway lines in the Willamette valley, has filed in Salem a quit claim deed conveying the property to Andrew K. Deventer, who, in turn, has transferred the road to the recently-incorporated Oregon Western Co., which is supposed to represent Southern Pacific interests. This last transfer was made for a consideration, including bonded indebtedness, of \$1,270,000. The Southern Pacific some time ago obtained control of the Portland & Willamette Valley, and the new purchase gives that company entire control of the railroads of the Willamette valley, except the Oregon Pacific, extending across the valley from Yaquina bay. The Oregonian railway includes a line from Ray's Landing through the east side of the valley to Coburg, in Lane county, a distance of ninety miles, and from Durdee, on the west side of the river, to Airlie, in Polk county, a distance of fifty miles, besides a branch four miles in length from Sheridan to Ballston.

The first matting furnace in Idaho is now in successful operation at Mineral, in the Seven Devils copper district. It has been at work all this month and the results thus far attained show that to be at least equal to the lead smelting process. The works have a capacity of smelting thirty tons a day, which capacity may easily be doubled. The company pays cash for ores. Mineral is the only camp in the northwest that has a local cash market for its ores. In the process of matte smelting the ores are first mixed in the right proportions to form a proper slag and a suitably rich final product called matte, and are then fused in a blast furnace, using coke as fuel. The matte produced by this Porphyrite company is said to be the richest made in this manner in the United States, carrying as it does the valuable metals from many tons of ore concentrated into one. The matte is shipped eastward for final separation, and is purchased by refiners at so much per ounce for the gold and silver contents.

A rich strike of silver ore has been made in the San Gabriel canyon, Los Angeles county, California. The assays are of a fabulously high character. The discovery of a good quality of bituminous coal at Elsinore, San Diego county, is confirmed. Three men took \$21,000 in two weeks out of a mine at Chip's flat, Sierra county, which had been abandoned by the former owners. The Idaho mine, in California, has declared regular monthly dividends for twenty years. The Big Bend mine is now definitely announced to be in a solvent condition. The most glowing accounts are given of a discovery of placer and quartz mines in White Pine county, Nevada. The Mammoth mine, in Arizona, has been sold to an English company on the strength of having a million tons of \$15 ore in sight. The placer and quartz mines along the Colorado river above Yuma are reported to be doing well. Good reports come from many of the Arizona districts.

On the Homestake lode, in Park canyon, about three miles to the eastward of Butte, Montana, a shaft has been sunk 250 feet. At or near the bottom of the shaft a vein of copper ore six feet wide has been cut, which is a strong argument in favor of the copper belt on which the Anaconda, Butte & Boston and Boston & Montana properties are located, extending across the flat. So firm has this belief impressed itself upon the owners of the Butte & Boston, that they have decided to sink a shaft on the flat beyond the Silver Bow mill to determine the matter. It is not known just how deep this shaft will be sunk, but in all probability it will be sent deep enough to settle the much talked of question of belt continuance.

Finally the contract binding the Boston & Montana company to erect the big copper smelting and refining plant at Great Falls, Montana, has been signed. The agreement covers all the matters connected with the site and water power improvements. It includes the construction of an immense dam at the Black Eagle falls, which is to be completed by September, 1890. The Boston & Montana company, on its part, agrees to erect both a copper smelter and a refinery, each of which will be of large capacity. It is estimated that the enterprise will involve an expenditure of \$1,500,000. The new enterprise will retain in Montana millions of dollars which might otherwise be expended for refining Montana copper in Baltimore, Newark, N. J., and elsewhere.

Beginning with January 1st next, the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D.D., will become one of the editors of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, of Philadelphia. The famous preacher will have a regular department each month, written by himself, with the title "Under My Study Lamp." His first contribution will appear in the January number of the *Journal*. Dr. Talmage's salary is said to be one of the largest ever paid for editorial work.

The Silver Mountain Mining Company has been incorporated in Montana with capital stock of \$3,000,000. The field of operations will be in Madison county, near Melroe, and the head office in Butte. The Elliston Fluming Company, of Deer Lodge county, has organized a scheme to build a flume through nine miles of mountain country to float 1,000 cords of wood per day to the Anaconda smelter.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation Co. has let the contract for the construction of a new steamer to ply on Puget sound. She will be a screw propeller about 245 feet long and thoroughly modern in every particular. She will have a capacity for 300 passengers, and a speed of twenty miles an hour. The boat is being built in Portland. She is expected to be ready for service early next summer.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation Co. has made a proposition to build a branch line from LaGrande to Elgin, in the Grande Ronde valley, Oregon, a distance of about twenty miles. The proposition to the citizens of LaGrande to pay \$7,000 to the company to build this line has been accepted and all the money raised. The branch is expected to be in operation early next summer.

Anent the prospective admission of Idaho to statehood Boise City is asking for a federal building. The post office receipts there now exceed \$7,000 per annum and when the amount reaches \$8,000 that office will rank as a second class office.

Germania is the name of a periodical recently established at Manchester, New Hampshire. It is designed to aid in the study of German language and literature, and is published fortnightly, the subscription price being \$3.00 a year.

The Great Northern, formerly the Manitoba railway and its connections, will have engineers in the field all winter selecting a route west from its line in Montana, so that active construction work may be begun in the spring.

Electrical mining machinery is being introduced into the Wellington collieries of Vancouver island. Some other improvements are being adopted from the Pennsylvania collieries.