

COMMITTEE SUBMITS FAVORABLE REPORT GREAT MINERAL WEALTH

The Salem Statesman of Tuesday has the following article concerning the Santiam mines on the Little North Fork. It will be seen that Salem is enthusiastic in its backing of the mines, and wide awake as to their importance in the upbuilding of Salem and the Santiam district. Every statement made by the Salem board of trade concerning the beneficial results to Salem, applies with even stronger force to Stayton, which would be benefitted to a much greater extent than Salem or any other point. When the road is finished and work on the smelter begins, the stock of the three mines having contracts with the Smelting Company for the reduction of their ores, will go up to many times their present value, making these stocks not only a splendid investment but, from a speculative view point one of the best opportunities ever offered Stayton people. The Statesman says:

The meeting of the committee of the Salem board of trade appointed a short time ago to devise measures for assisting in the securing of a smelter in the Santiam district was held last evening at rooms of the board, to hear the report of the sub-committee.

There was a good attendance of the committee and the report of the sub-committee was received with enthusiasm and satisfaction.

After discussion, August Huckestein presented the following resolutions in regard to the report, and they were adopted:

Resolutions of Committee.

"Whereas, It is the sense of this committee that the opening up of the Santiam mining district will be of incalculable benefit to the city of Salem and to Marion county as a whole, and will provide many opportunities for profitable investment for our citizens, be it resolved,

"First—That we accept in full the report of the sub-committee on investigation and heartily endorse its recommendation that the board of trade lend every possible aid and assistance in raising the one hundred thousand dollars necessary to put the mines in first class producing shape.

"Second—That whereas neither the smelter company nor the three mining companies ask anything in the way of bonus or subsidy, but desire simply at this time the authoritative approval of the honesty and reliability of this enterprise, feeling sure that the proposition can stand on its own merits, and that the desirability of investment in the mines themselves will provide the funds necessary at present:

"Be it resolved, That we heartily congratulate the mining companies upon this independent stand, so different from the usual course in such case, but we earnestly urge upon every business man in this county the necessity for the good of the entire community as well as for his own sake to give this project his careful attention, and above all, his financial support.

"Third—That we return our thanks and appreciation to said sub-committee for the time and trouble spent in their examination and in preparing their exhaustive report.

"Fourth—We recommend that this committee be continued as a committee on ways and means to devise plans to assist in raising funds in case it should develop that more direct aid should be given these mines.

"Fifth—Be it further resolved, that the report of said sub-committee and a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Salem board of trade and kept on file in its records, and further, that the same be published in the daily papers of this city."

Discussion Was General.

There was a general discussion, lar-

gely informal, indulged in by nearly all present, and many facts of vital importance to the project in hand were brought out.

It seems that all of the three mining companies which have contracted to deliver ore to the proposed smelter are having very fair success in selling stock to the people of Salem and to others. Their officers feel encouraged so much so that they believe that, with the moral support of this community, they can dispose of enough, on a pure investment basis, to insure the erection of the smelter, and that next spring. There will then be no question about the rapid development of the district. And the stock of these mining companies, now being sold at 10 to 15 cents a share, in order to raise the money to insure the erection of the smelter, will when it is in operation and their ore being delivered and worked, readily sell at five to ten times the present prices, for the very good reason that it will be worth that much more.

The stockholders of these mining companies who have risked their own money in quite large quantities in doing the work that has so far been accomplished, do not feel like putting the proposition on a begging basis. They want to sell their stock on a basis of a good investment proposition for any one who has money to invest.

It is to be hoped, however, that every business man and property holder of Salem will give the men who are selling the stock respectful hearings.

It is highly important for the good of Salem that they should succeed—that they should secure, soon, enough money on stock sales to insure the smelter.

In fact, every Salem booster should go to work and help in the stock sales. Do not wait for a representative of the companies to call on you. Whatever you can spare in helping along the project you should subscribe voluntarily. There is nothing at this time that will contribute more to the fame and the lasting prosperity of Salem than the securing of this smelter in the Santiam district.

The following is the report of the Sub-committee that was appointed to go and make the investigation at the mines:

The Committee's Report.

To the committee of the Salem board of Trade Appointed to Investigate the Mines and Smelter Project.

Gentlemen: We, your sub-committee, after a thorough examination of this Santiam Gold Creek district and an exhaustive investigation of all business matters connected with the proposed erection there of a 100-ton custom smelter, respectfully submit to you the following facts and conclusions arrived at by us:

The committee, consisting of the three members whose names are signed hereto, left Salem Wednesday evening, September 23, and arrived at Gates (the railroad station nearest the mines) at 12:30 Thursday. From Gates we drove, by means of "Jim" Church and his mules, to the present end of the wagon road, some twelve miles, arriving at that point about 3:30 p. m.

Good Mountain Road.

This we consider an unusually good mountain road. The district has levied a 10 mill special tax and the road is being graveled and otherwise improved. Two of the bridges for which the county has appropriated funds are already built and two more are under way, each being 43-foot span. A large force of men is now engaged finishing the road toward the smelter site and an excellent donkey engine is in use.

We found also that the road crew has a very complete camping outfit and all necessary tools. A remarkable piece of work has just been completed: 600 feet of dangerous rock work around Powder Point, extremely well done, which took seven men fifty-three days to complete.

This road is being built by four of

the chief mining companies of the district. The United States government has appropriated \$250 for powder, as the road leads into a government reserve. Marion county has appropriated several thousand dollars in all for the bridges; contracts have been drawn up between the mining companies which insure the completion of this probably by December 15 as far as Horn creek, at which point the nearest of these mines is located.

From that point to the smelter site [about one and a half miles] expenses of building will fall upon the remaining three mines alone. From the end of the present wagon road to the smelter site and on up to the camp of the Gold Creek mines where your committee was entertained, we "hit the trail" and arrived for supper about 7 o'clock.

Our Investigations.

All next day, Friday was spent in examining the ledges, tunnels, cross-cuts, water power, timber and all the facilities for mining belonging to the three mining companies who alone have contracts with the smelter company, namely, The Electric Mining Company, the Freeland Consolidated Mining Company and the Gold Creek Mining & Milling Company, named here in the order in which they are to be found ascending the creek from its junction with the river.

Power Plants.

Two dams for power plants are now being built which will readily supply all the power needed at the three mines and from which the smelter company will purchase its power for electricity, hoisting, etc.

The water power is abundant, more than could be required for years to come by the district, and can be utilized at very moderate expense on account of the rapid fall of the stream and the narrowness of the canyon, which necessitates only short dams.

Extent of Claims.

The three companies, together, hold in all thirty-two mining claims 600 feet by 1500 feet each, a total of 640 acres all very heavily timbered (probably 50,000,000 would be the cruiser's report)

Enormous Ledges.

There are estimated to be some 15 or 20 great ledges carrying copper, gold and silver in this Santiam district. The main ones of these (perhaps ten or twelve) run through the property of one or more of the three companies. The ledges in some cases are miles in extent and the outcrops we examined show on the surface from ten feet to as much as sixty feet in width. We understand the geologists and mining engineers who have examined these properties for the smelter company and for others report that the formation here is not broken up, but is all in "place", thus insuring a continuous supply of ore for generations to come, so far as the universal experience of the past copper mines can tell.

Tunnels.

Some 2500 feet and more of tunnels have been run at different levels, chiefly for the purpose of simply exposing the rich deposit in these various ledges in order that mining experts might be able to see, when they finally came to the mine just the character of each ledge.

Values and Extent Increase With Depth.

The ledges of the district seem in all cases to widen with depth, the walls of the veins being farther apart the lower down they can be seen. The assay report from the present tunnels (opened up as they are at different levels) shows greater values as one descends.

Comparison With Other Property.

Your committee met while on the trip, Guy M. Vail, mining and civil engineer, a graduate of the Colorado

school of mines, and for the past six or eight years, we believe, with the Guggenheim interests in both the United States and South Africa. He has lately resigned the mine superintendency of the great Braden mine in Chile, and, on a recent trip to Portland, heard of and became interested in this district. He informed your committee that the ore of the Braden mine, which ships by boat clear around Cape Horn to the Guggenheim smelter at Baltimore, averages \$3.50 per ton. And he gives his opinion that there will be no difficulty whatever in these three mines of the Santiam district sorting out and delivering to the smelter easily over 100 tons per day of ore running \$22 per ton and up in gold, silver and copper.

The Smelter Site.

The smelter will be built at the junction of gold creek and the Little North Fork of the Santiam river, near the bottom of the ridges in which all three of these mines lie. All ore will be delivered by gravity alone at a cost, it is estimated, of only a few cents per ton, when the aerial tramways have been built.

The Great Need of the District.

The one great fact that impressed your committee (above everything except the immense ledges, the large bodies of ore, the timber and the water power) is the lack of money apparent everywhere. We understand that \$75,000 has been spent in the district in past years, but it has been spent chiefly (and wisely, we believe) in showing up what was there in the way of mineral wealth. A vast proportion of this amount has gone in the exceedingly high transportation over mountain trails and this has been the one fact in the past which has rendered the district non profitable.

Transportation Practically Settled.

The wagon road soon to be finished will largely reduce these charges. The smelter will buy the ores at its bins when delivered and therefore the transportation problem will not affect these mines nearly so greatly in the future.

\$100,000 Needed.

We believe that it will take probably \$100,000 to put the mines of this district in first class shape to produce and market the great values there. Much more could be spent very profitably in building concentrating plants, etc.

Our Recommendations.

Your committee believes that, whereas outside interests are risking a similar amount in building a smelter with their own money, it certainly is sound business for the board of trade to devise plans and take some practical steps to raise at once the funds necessary to insure the opening of this truly remarkable copper district for the benefit of Salem and the entire county of Marion. And we so recommend to your committee.

County's Wealth Would Increase.

We calculate that with the improvements that will come following the building of the smelter, the assessed valuation of the district will be over a million dollars, which of course means more revenue to the county.

Electric Railway.

We feel that the opening up of the mines, the operations of the smelter, backed by the great quantity of fine ripe timber that is up there in the government reserve, will insure a daily tonnage of freight so large that at no distant day the Salem Stayton-Melama electric line will be built and thus Salem will secure a vast amount of business in all lines.

Will Promote Salems Interests.

The payrolls of mines and smelter amounting to hundreds of dollars every day, should and would be spent very largely here. Salem banks, Salem merchants, Salem real estate and every line of business here will reap directly the benefit of this expenditure.

Finally, in closing this somewhat extended report, prepared as it is at the expense of considerable trouble and time to your committee, we wish to urge on every citizen of Salem the wisdom for his own sake, of supporting this project by participating in the direct profits we believe will be made by the mines as well as indirectly contributing to secure this prosperity for our community.

Nothing will so greatly attract the attention of people all over the west and increase our population more than opening up this large mining district. We will thus show that Marion county is rich, not only in agricultural products, in its grains, its fruits and its hops, but that in this territory is to be found also in abundance those precious and those valuable minerals on whose supply all financial prosperity must ultimately depend.

Respectfully submitted,
F J Rice, Chairman.
F J Laffy.
Herman W Barr.

SAYS WEALTH IS DISTRIBUTED.

Chief Statistician of Census Bureau Writes on "The Assets of the United States."

The nation's wealth is not in the hands of a few, according to L. G. Powers, chief statistician of the census bureau at Washington.

Writing on "The Assets of the United States" in the September number of the American Journal of Sociology, issued recently from the University of Chicago press, Mr. Powers has the following to say of the concentration of wealth in America:

"If we start with the value of farms and other homes which are known to be owned by men of small possessions, the savings bank deposits and other known possessions of those of moderate means, and then add the lowest popular estimates of the possessions of our millionaires, we have an aggregate far in excess of the census appraisal of national wealth, and the conclusion under such circumstances is irresistible either that the census estimates are ridiculously small or the popular estimates of the wealth of our millionaires are greatly exaggerated.

"The writer does not find any evidence that would justify either the statement that our national wealth is grossly understated or that our millionaires own so large a share of the wealth as to leave the great majority without property."

COCKRAN ON TAFT.

There is a remarkable unanimity of opinion of Judge Taft in all parties and in all sections. Men pay tribute to his remarkable ability even where party politics may exert such an influence as to demand the espousing of the rival presidential candidate's cause. As an illustration W. Bourke Cockran in an interview at Boston the other day said:

"Yes, I shall support Bryan; he is the best candidate the Democrats could put up. Taft, however, is the greatest and best qualified nominee ever offered in any republic in the world. He is a greater man than Roosevelt, and when surrounded by the same environments that made Roosevelt great will prove a bigger man. Taft is a wonderful administrator, the greatest the country has ever seen, and is a wonderful worker."

Democratic Inconsistency.

The Democratic leaders have been for years making loud declarations against corporations and trusts and railroads and have, nevertheless, instituted no legislative steps in all this time for the purpose of restraining abuses. They are now indignant that the Republican party, in carrying out the promises of its own platform, is putting into practice the principles which they, with a superb self-complacency, claim are really covered by a Democratic patent.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Greensboro, North Carolina.

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