

**THAT WHITE SWAN DEAL.**

**Letson Balliet Writes Sensibly on the Subject.**

THE MINER has received a letter from Letson Balliet, dated at San Francisco, which demonstrates that he has plenty of sense, whatever else may be said of him. In the first place, he repudiates all connection with the Mining News, of Des Moines, Iowa and ridicules its nonsensical statements regarding his fabulous wealth and its transparently exaggerated accounts of his operations in connection with the White Swan mine and the proposed smelter at Baker City. Regarding the latter, the letter says that he expects to erect one of 100 tons capacity; not 10,000 tons capacity, as stated in the Mining News.

The letter goes into detail regarding the affairs of the White Swan, the purport of which is that his company has bought up the indebtedness against the property; the old company has some time in which to pay and redeem the property. Some man named W. W. Woodard, of Des Moines, is making an effort to raise this money. The literature he is sending out in an effort to sell stock is self condemnatory. In the meantime the Balliet people remain inactive. All this being true, Letson Balliet, doubtless knows that the best thing he can do, is to have his fool friend, the Mining News, "ring off." The following extract is from the letter:

"I enclose you some circular letters which were sent out by a man who was the secretary of the old White Swan Mining & Milling company and I understood they are making some extensive advancement along this line, I have nothing to do with this as it is an Iowa concern, and my company, which is simply idle and ready to begin at any time, is a California company, and my company is not selling stock. We simply hold the debts of the old company, from which we infer that they will make an attempt to redeem.

"I also enclose you a clipping sent out on April 1, by the same party who signs the literature that I have enclosed, in which he said that the old company was \$150,000 in debt, and that Mr. W. W. Woodard, president and treasurer of this company—I suppose the Western Development company, managed to raise \$25,000 to pay off \$150,000 indebtedness. There are more peculiar statements made in this letter which I enclose.

"The statements which you reproduced from the Mining News in regard to the smelters, were entirely unauthorized and inasmuch as we have not offered one dollar worth of stock for sale, I think you have unintentionally done me a little injustice and the Mining News was too enthusiastic. To be candid with you, I do expect to build a smelter in Baker City, but I do not expect to put in any 10,000 tons capacity in the beginning; I think 100 tons capacity would be a paying investment for a starter, but I would seriously avoid any such gigantic capacity as you quoted from the Mining News, with the present development in Baker county.

"I, myself, am interested in some claims in the Sumpter district and I would be the last man to rip Sumpter up the back in the manner the Mining News did.

"It is true that the claims which I have beyond Sumpter are undeveloped and idle, but nevertheless I think they are worthy of doing the assessment work upon.

"Now, my dear sir, you know that distant fields look green, and when I left Des Moines, I left without any money whatever, and I happened to be somewhat successful in mining operations in Colo-

rado and Utah and in this state, consequently when I have occasion to make a visit to Iowa, I get considerable free advertising from the daily papers, and of course, a mining paper in a town so remote from the mining regions and filled with mining stock companies, would naturally make the most of what little I had done, in order to excite others and get them to invest in stocks that they are selling. There is no doubt whatever, but what the reports circulated there have been greatly exaggerated, simply to stir up excitement; still, like all mine owners, I have great expectations and hopes for my properties.

"When I was in the east, it would be a common occurrence to pick up a daily paper and read an article like this: 'Mr. John Smith, well known in Springfield, who went west some two years ago, is now the owner of the Little Maria mine in Arizona. He has recently struck rich ore and the mine is said to be worth two or three million dollars.' Thus would the eastern papers print it, but if you go to the far western states and look up Mr. John Smith, the probabilities are that you will find him with overalls on working in the bottom of a forty-foot shaft in which he will then concede that the ore might assay well, but it lacks a whole lot of being a million dollar mine, so that when I had the good fortune to become interested in a mine that has been paying a small profit, the eastern papers stirred up considerable sensation over it. I am made out as a millionaire with all kinds of statements and the advertisers of all other companies take advantage of it."

**Rich Strike on the John Day.**

A rich strike has just been made in the Homestake and Nonpareil claims by the owners, Wilson, Robinson, Johnson and Beason. The new discovery is situated on the north fork of the John Day river, six miles west of Lawton, on a due line north of the Red Boy and Concord mines, and is supposed to be an extension of that belt. Returns from the surface ore give values of \$8 per ton. The ledges are large and well defined. The ledge on the Homestake is seventeen feet wide, while that of the Nonpareil is from eight to twelve feet wide. Much excitement prevails and people are outfitting preparatory to going into the district.—Special from Lawton to the Baker City Democrat.

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