

## FREE COINAGE MILL.

### Twenty Stamps to Be Put In This Fall.

Three Portland men own the Free Coinage claim, one of the most promising mining properties in the Cracker Creek district. They are: Edward Cannon, president of the Northwestern Electric Engineering company and president of the Sumpter Light and Power company; V. A. Schilling, city passenger agent of the O. R. & N. Co., and Whitney L. Boise, a lawyer, formerly chairman of the republican state central committee. The Free Coinage adjoins the Mountain Belle, owned by the Standard Oil company, on the north and the celebrated Golconda on the southwest. It is said that the Standard Oil company has made a substantial offer for the property and that the Golconda company stands ready to take it any time it is put on the market. It would make a valuable addition to the resources of either the Standard Oil or Golconda properties. Messrs. Cannon, Schilling and Boise have rejected all offers looking to the sale of the Free Coinage or stocking it. Satisfied that they have a good property, they are developing it, with the intention of getting out of it all that is in it for themselves.

The Free Coinage people are developing their property on lines approved by experience. Their tunnel and crosscut, together with some stoping, have demonstrated that they have a good prospect. They are now sinking to find out what is in the ground. Not a dollar's worth of machinery will go up until the shaft determines the class of machinery best suited to the ores. It is dangerous, if not suicidal to spend money for machinery in eastern Oregon until development has proved the kind of machinery that is needed. The Golconda owners learned this to their cost. They spent thousands of dollars for a bromide-chlorine plant, only to find after the machinery began running that the ore susceptible to treatment by the process pinched out in 35 feet. The Free Coinage people will spend between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in sinking a shaft and blocking out ore. They expect when they get down 500 feet to know whether or not they have a mine. They know now that they have a prospect, but it is depth that makes the mine. This is the method that is being pursued by the Mountain Belle and other properties. It is extremely costly, but it is safest in the long run.

Mr. Cannon bought the Free Coinage from Val C. Johnson and Burt Rust on September 20, 1899. Previously he had put in two weeks scouring the entire Cracker Creek district and a considerable section of the Greenhorn mountains for a first class prospect. Tunneling and cross-cutting to the amount of 520 feet have been done. The tunnel is 480 feet, developing a depth of 268 feet. In the drifting there have been developed two large chutes, one of which is 131 feet wide and the other 87 feet wide. In the smaller chute free milling ore running as high as \$216 a ton has been found. The average gold values are \$21.32 per ton.

More work is being done on the Free Coinage than on any new property in the Cracker Creek district. The owners are putting in a galus frame and hoisthouse and machinery, sufficient for sinking to 1000 feet, is on the ground ready for installation. The shaft is down nearly 75 feet, and pay ore was struck at the bottom of the shaft. Between 650 and 700 tons of ore is on the dump.

The Free Coinage owners have ordered a sawmill of 10,000 feet capacity per day to cut lumber for a stamp mill. If

the claim pans out as expected, a 20-stamp mill will be built next fall, or in the spring of 1901.—Portland Mining Review.

#### Powder River Irrigation Project.

On last evening Captain C. H. Thompson and Frey S. Lack, shareholders in the Powder River Land and Irrigation company, and prominent promoters of an enterprise that will prove of incalculable benefit to this community in adding wealth and population, took their departure for Portland to confer with the capitalists in that city who are to become interested in the project. Captain Thompson and Mr. Lack take with them maps and full detail of the proposed canal and reservoir and are prepared to give all information necessary. It is understood that Portland capitalists have assured the promoters of this irrigation enterprise that when a survey and maps were made they were ready to become interested and would furnish the money necessary to carry the project to a successful termination. This visit to Portland is for the purpose of interesting capital and there is little doubt that success will result. It is expected that on the return of Captain Thompson and Mr. Lack to this city they will be accompanied by a party of capitalists to look over the canal and reservoir survey and the lands to be irrigated.—Baker Democrat.

#### Expensive Gold Saving Experiments.

It is often asserted with reference to mining that more money has been put in the ground than has ever been taken out. This statement is absolutely true. A great deal of money has been spent in foolish enterprises by men who did not understand the mining business, but such money can hardly be said to have been put in the ground. It is also true that the experiments which have led up to our present development in the science of saving gold values have been costly; but it is general results which are reckoned in economics. If the results as a whole have been satisfactory, then the machinery as a whole which produced it must not be condemned. Its defects should be pointed out, the knowledge coming through experience should be utilized and grander results thereby accomplished. Many wealthy men in the west are in evidence that more money, yes, very much more money, has been taken from the mines than has been spent in their development.—Mining Reporter.

#### Iron Dyke Sold for \$85,000.

The Iron Dyke mine was sold under the hammer Monday at Union by Attorney Wallace McCamant, of Portland. It brought \$85,000, of which sum \$10,000 was paid down. It was not really a sale, as the amount was paid for an option to purchase. The mine had been bonded for \$40,000. Two payments, one of \$2000 and another of \$4000 had been made. The price of \$85,000 was paid for the option to pay the remainder—\$14,000 for the mine. Included in the sale are tools and a smelter not yet set up. T. J. Price was the receiver and C. L. Warner the purchaser. It is hoped that under the new regime this valuable mine will be more rapidly developed.—La Grande Journal.

#### Bucket Full of Gold.

A miner's dinner bucket nearly filled with very coarse gold nuggets was on exhibition last Sunday in John Day. It was a pretty sight and proof conclusive that Grant county has some wonderful placer as well as quartz mines. The specimens came from the mine of Messrs. Johnson and Cannon and, with the exception of two small bars of bullion shipped below a day or two previous, represented a thirty days clean up of their placer claim on Mule gulch, and worth \$7000. The ground is practically unworked, and greater results are looked for.—Grant County News.

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## W. S. BOWERS ABSTRACTS

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained

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