

ON CRACKER CREEK.

Everybody "Sawing Wood" and Saying Little.

BOURNE, Ore., June 18—There have been no startling strikes made in this district recently in the mines. By this I mean that no one seems to think he has a bonanza on tap and to order; all engaged in mining or prospecting knowing that the ores here are not in the specimen line, and at best are rather low grade, but more than average milling propositions. The developed mines pursue the even tenor of their way—say little—but keep industriously at work. Peospectors are equally close mouthed about the condition of their holdings, but they keep "sawing wood."

There is a perfect cannonading on the hillsides and ravines, day in and day out. Once at work on their claims they remain there, going to town but seldom, and stopping there but a short time when they do go, and saying little that will enlighten the outside what their prospects are. In fact, I believe there is less blow and bluster in this camp than in any I know of, and yet I feel sure there is more development work going on in Cracker creek district than in any other in the county, and I know that there are several valuable ledges being developed that will swell the list of producing mines in the near future. The woods are full of prospectors, and as to stakes, there are enough to keep a good size town in firewood through a long and hard winter.

There is perhaps as much recklessness, or possibly carelessness, in staking off claims here as elsewhere in eastern Oregon. One thing can be said about residents of this end of the state, they are not backward about staking locations, whether there is a ledge in sight or not. It can be said about locators in this district that will not apply in most other sections, and that is, that a large number of them believe it necessary to do work on a claim in order to hold it—though the exceptions are numerous.

Among all the delvers in the hills at the present time there will be some valuable properties opened up. The season has just fairly opened in many parts of this district. The snow on the high hills has only been off a couple of weeks and some of the hills on the northern side are yet covered with several feet of snow. Inside of a few months you will hear of something good from "Cracker," and I hope to be the carrier of the news.

OCCASIONAL.

Pilot Rock Coal Mines.

The discovery of coal in small quantities, at least, seven miles up Birch creek from Pilot Rock seems to be an assured fact. Four men have been working for some time on the vein and have run a tunnel 50 feet in length into the hillside. The tunnel is 4x6 in dimension and face against four small veins of coal. The veins lie flat and slant downward beneath the mountain. On the bottom of the tunnel and lying on hard rock is the principal vein. It is 12 inches thick. It remained but two or three inches in thickness and of a soft character until a few days ago, when it began to grow deeper and harder. The slate rock is also growing harder, which is considered a good indication. The other three veins in the tunnel are about two inches in thickness. Above them are sandstone and shelving slate. The tunnel must be carefully timbered as the work progresses. A few days ago a small cavein came very near catching one of the workmen. The incline is about 20 degrees and the coal and dirt is drawn up out of the tunnel in a car by a horse and pulleys. One of the workmen says that

there are distinct indications of oil on the water that accumulates in the tunnel at night. The odor is also very discernible. —Pendleton Tribune.

LE ROI SUIT FOR \$520,000.

J. T. English, of the Golconda, one of the Plaintiffs.

Tuesday, at Victoria, before the supreme court of British Columbia, the trial will begin of a case which, if it results in favor of the plaintiff, as prayed, will bring to this city about \$500,000. The case is brought by F. L. Williams, trustee for the former majority stockholders of the Le Roi mine, against the British-American corporation, the present owner of that famous property.

The suit grows out of the purchase of the mine by the defendant corporation. At the time C. H. Mackintosh, representing the British corporation, negotiated at Rossland for the purchase of the majority holdings, he conducted the deal with Col. I. N. Peyton, of this city.

Colonel Peyton represented 260,000 shares of the 500,000 in the old Le Roi company. It is these holdings which are represented in the suit. Colonel Peyton was the heaviest stockholder, the others (in this interest) being Valentine Peyton, J. M. Armstrong, D. W. Henely and L. F. Williams, of Spokane; C. L. English, J. T. English and others, of Danville, Ill.

It is claimed that in conducting the negotiations it was agreed that \$6 per share should be paid for these 260,000 shares, which was done. Colonel Peyton pointed out that he had the control, and that he and his friends would not part with it except upon a further consideration, and this is the basis of the suit.

He claims that C. H. Mackintosh agreed and subsequently several times admitted an agreement to pay the majority stockholders the same price per share paid for the minority holdings. The latter were purchased at about \$8 per share, and under the agreement the majority holders demand about \$2 more per share, or about \$525,000.

Preparations for the coming trial of the case have been in progress some time. E. V. Bodwell, a prominent barrister of Victoria, who will be leading counsel for the plaintiff, has made several trips to Spokane in connection with the case. Depositions have been taken from Senator Turner and others of the minority, who are said to strongly favor the contention of plaintiff.

Colonel Peyton and J. T. English, of Danville, will leave here Friday for Victoria to attend the trial.—Spokesman Review.

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