

PRESIDENT RIDPATH.**Good Mining Man at the Head
of the Blue Bell Co.**

Colonel W. M. Ridpath, of Spokane, one of the best known mining men in the Northwest, and one of the most extensive and successful operators has become interested in a property in the Sumpter district. He was all through the gold fields of eastern Oregon a month or six weeks ago, going down over the line of the Columbia Southern to Prairie City and thoroughly inspecting the country from there here, in company with officials of the O. R. & N. He was evidently pleased with what he saw, for he is now president of the Blue Bell Mining company, the property of which is located between here and Granite.

J. N. Van Dorn, who prospected in this district last summer and fall, returned to Sumpter a few days since, having spent the winter in Iowa and Spokane. He organized the Blue Bell company, with some of the best mining men in Spokane as directors and officers, with Colonel Ridpath at the head of the enterprise. Ample capital has been provided for the development of this property, work on which has already been commenced. Mr. Van Dorn is now on the ground personally superintending development. He located these claims, the Blue Bell and the Greek Slave, last fall, and at that time did some work, which revealed a strong ledge of good ore.

Colonel Ridpath will be in Sumpter in a few weeks. He will put in some time at the mine, laying out work for the season.

Hoisting machinery will be put in before fall and other machinery added as it is needed.

MINING CONGRESS A FAILURE.**Few Real Mining Men Were in Attendance
at Milwaukee.**

The International Mining congress, held recently in Milwaukee from which so much was expected, and for which such elaborate preparations were seemingly made, has held its session and adjourned. The mountain has brought forth a mouse. A session that had been expected to do much for the mining interests of the country has left behind it a feeling of soreness that it will take a long time to heal. Here is what a delegate said on the eve of his departure for home, and it fairly represents the sentiment of those who were present:

"Thirty-five delegates came on in a party from Colorado and when we got here we found an attendance of about 250, with 150 of them from Wisconsin, and in the other hundred few actual mining men. In fact, I can truthfully say, generally speaking, that there are no mining men here. The delegates here represent so many varying interests that for the purposes of the convention they practically represent nothing. We had been told there would be a big attendance, and that is why we came. I don't know where the blame lies for the failure of the meeting, but there has been bad management somewhere."

The very fact that the congress adjourned a day before the fixed date in the program emphasizes its failure. It has been suggested that the system of appointing the delegates was defective, but delegates who took the trouble to talk about it at all, expressed the opinion that the fault laid with the local managers of the congress.

The formation of a permanent organization, with ex-Governor L. Bradford Prince of Santa Fe, N. M., its president for the first term, and the selection of Boise City, Idaho, for the congress of 1901, were the important steps taken in

the last session, though there were also some interesting discussions bearing on the work of the congress and its future.

Permanent organization was effected by the adoption, with a single additional amendment, of the report of the special committee of seven, which has had the subject in charge. No provision was made in the report for incorporation, though it was explained that the executive committee will take steps to file articles before next year's meeting. The report provided that the name of the organization should remain the "International Mining congress," with its objects "the fostering of fraternal relations among those engaged in mining and kindred pursuits, the advancement of mining interests, the improvement of mining laws," the establishment of a national department of mining, and similar aims; while the membership shall be made up of representatives appointed by state executives and authorized organizations, and of individuals interested in mining who shall pay the annual dues of \$5. Meetings shall be held annually.—American Mining News.

WANT CHANGE OF MAIL ROUTE.**Should go South From Shaniko Instead
of Heppner.**

The advent of railway mail service marks an epoch in the history of our county. It also makes vast changes in the letting of mail contracts in the interior, and increases the importance of the Shaniko postoffice. New contracts have been awarded and still others are to be let changing the routes to the interior to give more satisfactory service in the future.

Apropos, this point can deliver the mails for Canyon City eleven hours quicker than the stages do at present from Heppner. Canyon City is only 125 miles from Heppner, while it is 140 from Shaniko. The Shaniko and Heppner trains arrive at their respective termini at the same moment—5:20 p. m. But the stage leaves for Canyon at 7 a. m. next morning from Heppner, while in Shaniko the Canyon stage could leave at say 6 the same evening. It seems that a night run from Heppner is impracticable on account of the bad roads. We have good roads here, and the stages can and do run all night. The proposed change would give Canyon people their mail at least eleven hours quicker, and possibly even more than that.

Added to this, we understand that Senator Stiewer has written to parties over here stating that great dissatisfaction was manifest in the present route from Heppner to Canyon City; that the stage man on the line had defaulted, and that his bondsmen were now operating the line; that more satisfaction would be given the service and the people if the Canyon mail could be handled from Shaniko. In our judgment also it would.

Then take the Arlington-Fossil mail. Fossil is 65 miles from the Columbia, while it is but 41 from the Columbia Southern at Shaniko, and instead of leaving at 7 in the morning and arriving at Fossil at 8 o'clock in the evening the next day after reaching Arlington, it could leave Biggs at 2 p. m. and arrive at Fossil at 5:30 next morning, a gain of 13 hours or more.

We think it the best thing in the world to get our letters as soon after they are written as possible, and in this everybody will concur. Take for instance the interior papers. The Miner, published at Prairie City, is presumably printed on Friday, and it reaches Shaniko the following Thursday—five days later—and covers more than 300 miles in its travels. Should the route be changed as we suggest, we would receive that newsy little sheet at least three days earlier. Is not this improvement worth striving for?—Shaniko Leader.

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J. B. STODDARD, Manager.

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W. S. BOWERS
ABSTRACTS

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained

Years of experience in Baker County Records.
No. 2104 Court Street, Baker City, Oregon.

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and Mines....**

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