

SMELTER BLOWN IN.**First Test Run Thursday a Perfect Success.**

The Sumpter smelter was fired up Wednesday night, for the first time. At 2 o'clock a. m. the first lot of ore was shoveled into the furnace, and in one hour and twenty minutes later matte was running therefrom.

The smelter has experienced much difficulty in securing ores for treatment, some of the mine owners seeming to be skeptical regarding the adaptability of the plant to reduce ores from this district. The run was made merely to demonstrate the fact that the claims of the builders and managers could be made good; that this smelter is capable of treating the ores of eastern Oregon.

Superintendent Laughlin says that the degree of success was beyond even his expectations; that owing to the fact that his ore supply was so limited in quality, he was himself a trifle dubious as to the complete success of the experiment in detail, though he knew, of course, that he could make a good matte. The probabilities are that a test run of this kind was never made under more adverse conditions, owing to the limited varieties of ores to be treated. The run was made on twenty tons of rock from the Quartzburg district, near Prairie City. These ores carry copper, gold, silver, and traces of other metals, but no perceptible quantity of lead, which is usually considered a necessity as a flux in all smelting processes. Coke was used instead of charcoal, the latter being preferred, but could not be obtained for this test.

The run is pronounced by the superintendent to be a complete success, the maximum percentage of reduction claimed for the process having been obtained, that of ten to one; the twenty tons of ore having been reduced to two of matte. The condenser also worked to perfection, the values which usually escape in the fumes being saved through condensation. This process is based on that of a retort, used in every laboratory.

The smelter will be started up again in ten days or two weeks, when it is hoped that a sufficient amount of ore will be delivered and contracted for to insure a continuous run. If not, all on hand will be reduced, and after that the management will decide as to what will be done in the future. Other points are endeavoring to have the plant moved from here, notably Baker City.

DEVIL'S CINDER HEAP.**Mountain of Recently Formed Lava in Cook County.**

Down in the center of the state, overshadowed by the Three Sisters and the array of snow-capped peaks in that part of the Cascade mountains, is a little volcanic wonder of which not much is heard. Lava Butte, the lava beds, the great cascades of the Deschutes and Lava Butte cave are a quartet of scenes that will one day be visited by thousands of tourists. Today the occasional traveler and few residents thereabout are the only persons permitted to revel in these natural beauties. More energetic fishermen who push so far up the Deschutes in search of the big reddsides, Dolly Vardens or rainbow trout, have long been familiar with the lava district that, on a small scale, rivals the great lava beds of Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada.

Lava Butte is about 1300 feet higher than the Deschutes river, which flows near its base. Nature never formed a more perfect, symmetrical cone through which to spout lava. The upper 600 or

800 feet constitute a sharp pinnacle among mountains of barely sufficient circumference at the apex for the crater, which is nearly 100 feet in depth. The sides of the cone are covered on the north and west with well-ground loose stone, which is ready to roll from the climbers feet.

At no place in Oregon does lava look of more recent formation than the beds spreading from the base of this butte. At first glance one would say that it cannot have cooled more than a half dozen years. On the northeastern side, where the wagon road approaches the butte, there are beds looking as if they have been dumped from a furnace in large wheelbarrow loads. Filled and jumbled together in all imaginable grotesque shapes and still retaining the cellular form of burned coal cinders, with scarcely any vegetation climbing up its sides, this mass of lava might well be taken for the work of a volcano in very recent years. No one will take exception to the term, "The devil's cinder heap," which some have dubbed it.

There is no course down the sides of the upper portion of the butte where a lava stream can be traced, which adds to the wonder of the scene. It seems to have been vomited out and fallen off to one side as completely as if thrown away by a patent ejector.—Exchange.

O. R. & N. ENTERPRISE.**Will Assist in Irrigating 60,000 Acres in Baker County.**

A press dispatch from Baker City says: With its usual progressive spirit where the interests of Oregon are concerned, the O. R. & N. Co. has arranged, in connection with a local company known as the Powder River Land and Irrigation Co., to water about 60,000 acres of the arid lands of Baker county.

The report of the consummation of this deal, which means so much to the farmers of this county, is brought in by W. J. Patterson, one of the leading merchants of this city and one of the stockholders of the Irrigation Company. He is also an enthusiast upon the subject of the development of Eastern Oregon. When questioned upon the subject, Mr. Patterson said:

"Several of us were in Portland the other day and held a number of meetings with the officials of the O. R. & N. Co. Finally they agreed to aid in the project of irrigating Baker County by securing the services of a United States Government engineer, who will at once make surveys and estimates of the cost of the construction of the necessary reservoirs and canals.

"It is our intention to take the water from the Powder River at a point about six and one-half miles above the city through a canal, which will be 10 feet wide at the top, and 8 feet at the bottom, and bring it to a reservoir to be located near the 'lone pine,' about a mile and a half east of the city. The capacity of the reservoir, as at present contemplated, will be sufficient to irrigate about 30,000 acres of land, and will be so constructed that when needed it can be increased to double the capacity at very small additional cost. The proper distribution of water over this valley means more to Baker City than any enterprise ever contemplated here."

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