

**WORK ON IBEX ROAD**

**Receiving Some Much Needed Improvements.**

The wagon road up McCulloch to the Ibox mine is being extensively improved under the supervision of Dan Griffith and the orders of the county commissioners. The money to defray the expense was raised from the mine owners along the route and the public spirited citizens of Sumpter and the appropriation of a like amount by the county court, making about \$2,000 in all.

The road near the Grand Trunk was changed for nearly a mile, improving the grade and shortening the distance. The same policy is being pursued throughout the entire route, grade and distance being reduced. The wet, springy places are being bridged and drained, rocks and stumps removed from the grade and the roadway widened. A crew is also engaged in filling in the chuck holes and ruts with rock and gravel.

The improvements are of a permanent character and will fit the road for heavy hauling the entire distance from the Granite road to the Ibox mine, about five miles. The three miles of the Granite road from Sumpter out is very much in need of repairs and one can look in vain for any evidence of the expenditure of that \$10,000.

The manner of improving roads in this section is similar to that usually followed in new countries, a little money is spread out the entire length of the road. A system that never resulted in the building of one mile of good, permanent road in a wet or mountainous country. Experience has taught many of the old settled communities that road building is a science that is little understood and that the first requisites are sunlight and drainage, features that are given little attention by the average road boss.

It is better to establish a route and build one mile of permanent road, well drained and opened to the sun and air, than to run over ten miles of country with a makeshift that is moved annually or oftener.

The first three miles from Sumpter will always be a trunk line, whether the road to Granite is made by the present route or over the pass near the Ibox, and should be surveyed and put on a permanent foundation. It would be a great help to heavy teaming and furnish an excellent speedway for our citizens. Who will start the ball rolling?

**Working on the Reservoir.**

R. E. Strahorn, the gentleman who some weeks since bought the water works plant here, arrived in town Sunday, and will remain several weeks. The work of repairing, or finishing rather, the reservoir has already been commenced. The cement has arrived and unless something unforeseen occurs there will be no further delay in this matter. When completed the reservoir will hold a million gallons. The almost incredible statement is made that this amount of water will last this town only five days, with the ordinary consumption. On the very liberal estimate that 2000 people are served by the system, this would allow 100 gallons a day to each individual. Before the ditches could be flumed, there will be an ample supply of water, it is promised, and as no advantage is to be gained by rushing this work, Mr. Strahorn is inclined to take his time about doing that work.

**Cheap Tunnel Work.**

There is no place in the world where mining can be carried on cheaper than in the Sumpter district and few places where the cost is not many times greater. In many sections of Arizona and New Mexico the timbers alone cost more than tunneling does here. As an illustration, the

Umpqua Mining company ran a tunnel on the Gold Hill claim 245 feet at a cost of \$2.00 a foot. The rock was all run out on a wheelbarrow. There were three men employed at \$3 per day, the rock was slate and quartz. The Company is at present running a tunnel on the Chance claim, is in 120 feet, the tunnel is timbered throughout, and the cost is less than \$3 per foot.

There is an abundant supply of excellent timber on the claims, a wagon road crosses the claims, are only four miles from Sumpter, with an excellent mill site and water power on the premises. This is an exceptionally well located property in the best mining district in the world. The ledges here are wide and the values uniform, which accounts for the rapid development and the attention it is receiving from the mining men of the world.

**Rich Ledge Uncovered on Cow Creek.**

J. H. Brown, who was associated with the MINER up to a few months ago, is prospecting in the Burnt river country and reports a rich ledge has been struck at the head of Cow creek by Harry Grove, who has been in the district three years and this is his first find. The ledge carries a large quantity of free gold, as shown by panning, no assays have been made. A large number of claims are located in the vicinity but none of them considered the source of the gold found in the rich placers below and prospecting was continued. Mr. Grove is a Colorado miner and prospector of many years experience. The claims on Auburn creek located last spring by R. D. Chumley and associates are improving with depth, and the property bids fair to become one of the big mines of eastern Oregon. The ledge is fifteen feet wide and mineralized throughout.

**More Rich Ore in the Diadem.**

J. K. Pardee returned home Monday from Butte, Montana, where he went a couple of weeks since. He says the Clark-Dailey political fight is getting rather torrid over there. While away another good strike was made in the Diadem, over 700 feet from where the other body of rich ore was encountered. Assays on this latest strike average ninety-six dollars.


**Interesting Collection of War Relics.**

Dr. Anderson returned Sunday from a brief trip to Portland. He brought back with him a very extensive and interesting collection of Philippine war relics and Manila souvenirs, which he secured while in the islands as one of the surgeons with the Second Oregon regiment. The collection is now on exhibition in the windows of the Sumpter Drug company's store and is worthy of careful inspection.

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**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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