

**CHANGE MINING LAW.**

**Numerous Objections Raised to the Present Statute.**

As the miners of eastern Oregon are not entirely satisfied with the mining laws of the state, as at present constituted, some radical legislation in the interest of the mining industry may be looked for at the coming session of the state Legislature. The present law, known as the Smith law, being named after the maker, Senator William Smith, of Baker City, while intended to remedy all the abuses previously complained of, does not appear to meet with the entire approval of the miners of eastern Oregon.

Senator Smith himself recognizes the fact that the law might be improved in some respects in the interest of eastern Oregon, but contends that the changes most desired by the people of that section were opposed by the mining men of southern Oregon when they were under consideration during the last session of the legislature. By reason of the difference in the seasons in eastern and southern Oregon there is a conflict of mining interests between these two sections.

Under the present law the locator of a mining claim has three days in which to stake his boundary lines after making a location, 30 days in which to file the location for record, and 90 days in which to do the location work necessary to hold the claim. The location work, which is not to be considered a part of the assessment work required under the United States mining laws, must consist of a shaft not less than ten feet deep, or a tunnel or cut not less than ten feet in length.

Eastern Oregon mining men contend that there is an injustice in the exactions of this law. It is claimed that three days is not sufficient time in which to properly stake the ground, especially when the snow is deep, as in the mountains of eastern Oregon it is during a good portion of the year. Another objection heard against the present law is that more time should be given in which to record. The time for doing the location work, it is believed, could be shortened to 60 or even 30 days, and the time in which to record extended to 90 days. The reason given for this is that in many instances it is not known whether a claim is worth recording until after some little work has been done.

It is argued also that the shortening of the time in which to do relocation work would have a salutary effect upon the mining industry in that it would discourage the holding of many claims for speculative purposes, to the detriment of those who might develop them if they had a chance to locate them. Under the present law a man making a relocation of a claim has the same time in which to do his work as the man making an original location—90 days. This facilitates the holding of claims without doing work, as a locator can relocate his own claim the moment the 90 days expire, and hold it 90 days longer for the purposes of speculation. He knows the exact hour his time is up and can be on the ground promptly to post his new notices. Although perhaps not many take advantage of this loophole, still the opportunity is there, and a claim-hug can hold any number of claims for an indefinite length of time without doing work if he so desires.

While it is not likely that the interests of the mining men of southern and eastern Oregon can be entirely reconciled or that the wants of all can be met, it is certain almost that some changes in the present state mining laws will be made this winter. Eastern Oregon's mining interests will again be looked after by Senator Smith, who is familiar with the sub-

ject by reason of previous legislative experience, and an extensive mining practice; W. E. Grace, re-elected representative from Baker City, and George J. Barrett, of Granite, representative-elect from Grant, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties. Mr. Barrett has had a mining experience of 18 years, and being in close touch with the owners of eastern Oregon, among whom he has operated the past five years, he will, in all probability, be called upon to champion the cause of the mining men of his section.—Telegram.

**FUTURE OF ALUMINUM.**

**This Metal Will Soon be a Dangerous Rival to Copper.**

Aluminum is without doubt a coming metal. It is already displacing copper in many uses, and it may eventually prove a formidable rival of even iron and steel. In less than forty years it has come down in market price from thirty dollars per pound to about as many cents, and for almost every practicable purpose it is cheaper than all the common metals excepting zinc, lead and iron. The methods of manufacture have been constantly improving, and experience has wrought many changes in the preparing of articles that in cruder conditions, were less favorably received.

In the matter of utensils for instance, the products of a few years ago were too lightly made and were easily put out of shape. This has been remedied and aluminum vessels can now be had as strong and durable as that made of copper. Its advantages are in its combined lightness and strength, its easy workability, its cheapness and its abundance, the latter being estimated as thirty times as much as iron in bulk for the uses of man. It is practically impossible to fix the limit of its usefulness. In competition with copper it is aggressive, and one or the other will be master of the situation in a few decades. In electric equipment it is already vigorously disputing the special claims of copper.

It has over sixty per cent of the conductivity of the red metal, and has equal resistant qualities to weather influences. In a review of the aluminum industry by Professor Richards, it is stated, that an aluminum wire one-fourth as large again in diameter as a copper wire, weighs only half as much as the latter, and costs only two-thirds as much. Long distance transmission lines and trolley-line feed wires are being put in of aluminum as fast as the makers can supply the metal. Over five hundred tons were used for this purpose last year, and probably double as much will be used this year. As five hundred tons supplant one thousand tons of copper, it will not be long before the copper industry will begin to feel the competition of its new rival.

Fifteen years ago the entire output of aluminum the world over amounted to only two and one-half tons. These are strong statements but they are backed by facts, and one need not wear the mantle of a prophet to foresee the sharp rivalry yet to be between aluminum and copper nor is it likely that this rivalry will stop at the old metal. The world may yet see an Age of Aluminum.—Exchange.

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