

DISTRICT NEEDS ADVERTISING.

L. V. Swiggett Back From a Trip to the Atlantic.

L. V. Swiggett, cashier of the Bank of Sumpter, returned the latter part of last week from an extended trip to the Atlantic seaboard, visiting all the larger cities.

He was on a pulse feeling expedition; prospecting for people who have money to invest in mines. He says he found many rich leads, but didn't have time to do any very extensive development work. Especially in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington City did he find many people keen for mining investments; not only men with large capital, but people who are drawing salaries wish to buy stocks.

The most annoying stumbling block which a promoter meets with in the far east when trying to turn a property in Oregon is the total ignorance of everyone, apparently, that there are any gold mines in this state. Unless some one happens to have some acquaintance out here somewhere, his idea of the country is that it is a vast bog covered with big fir trees. That "Webfoot" nickname is a hoodoo. Of course the man with something to sell has first to combat that idea, then answer a thousand questions, and then get the stand off, to give the pupil time to mentally masticate this brand new idea. Every body with four dollars in the east thinks it the proper thing to be "conservative"—that's their favorite word. Of course, to be conservative, one must take much time to deliberate on any business proposition.

Mr. Swiggett is of the opinion, however, that any number of mining propositions can be floated "down east" by taking time to attend to small investors. He also thinks that through this means, the eastern Oregon gold fields can be effectively and advantageously advertised.

WILD HORSES IN GRANT COUNTY

Large Band Running at Large in Aldrich Mountains.

A band of wild horses that has thus far defeated all attempts at capture on the summit of Aldrich mountains, in Grant county, according to the Rowe Bros., stockmen of Dayville, now at the Perkins. Many attempts have been made to surround the wily animals of late years, but they spring from bluff to bluff where no horseman would dare to venture, and so the pursuit has always been abandoned.

In speaking of these wild horses, one of the Rowe brothers said yesterday.

"There are probably 25 head in the band, and when closely pressed they will scatter, each one for himself, rolling down steep precipices, like so many bears, and climbing the jagged sides of the next rimrock like goats. They never come down from the high fastnesses of the Blue mountains, no matter how deep the snow gets, and they subsist on juniper and chevisse, while the rest of the stock are hunting the sheltered canyons that border the John Day valley, low down, where haystacks are convenient.

"When a gentle horse gets into this wild herd he is very hard to recapture, and soon learns to throw himself around as recklessly as the others when the horsemen try to round him up.

"Quite a bunch of wild cattle also made their headquarters about the summit of Aldrich mountain for many years, and they defied all efforts of capture. The brutes in their wild condition grew to head and mane altogether, and the few shot yielded very little beef. The hard winter of 1899-00 got away with them, however, and those which survived the deep snows were rendered so weak that they could be

easily approached within rifle distance. They were thus exterminated, as they were of no use to anybody and could never be tamed."

The Rowe brothers will make one more effort to capture the wild horse herd in the next round up, which occurs about the middle of this month. The firm has a contract to deliver a lot of horses at Ontario to a St. Louis horse dealer, and desperate efforts will be made to bring the mustangs along with a crowd of gentler animals. There is a good demand now for even the once worthless Indian cayuse, and as some of these wild horses are of goodly size, they are worth striving for. The trip to St. Louis in box cars will render anything gentle, and so, if the equines of the Aldrich rimrocks can be brought to Ontario they may yet be hauling vehicles through the asphalt-paved streets of the Missouri metropolis, their driver little realizing the former history of his team.—Oregonian.

LATE MINING DECISION.

Important Ruling of Interior Department on Issuing Patents.

The secretary of the interior has denied the motion for review filed by Charles F. Blake and others for patent to the Calumet lode mining claim and mill site, survey No. 710 A and B, Boise. On May 19, 1900, the land department held that these applicants had, by reason of their delay of nearly seven years after the expiration of the period of publication of notice of their application and no further effort being made for final entry, forfeited all rights acquired under the previous proceedings upon the application to get patent. It was held, however, that they could commence patent proceedings anew if they so desired.

In this motion for review it is contended that the decision of May, holding that the applicant had lost all rights by not having completed their application within a reasonable length of time, was erroneous, as such a ruling was contrary to the uniform decisions of the courts, to the effect that a properly located mining claim constitutes a property right and estate of the locators, or their guarantee, and gives them the exclusive right of possession.

"The department, however," says the secretary, "did not claim in its decision that the applicants have not exclusive right of possession and enjoyment of their claim, in and by virtue of the location thereof." On the contrary, it was stated in that decision: "As to the question whether the appellees have or have not performed the conditions necessary to the maintenance of their possessory rights under the location, the land department has nothing to do with such matters, and can make no determination with respect thereto. Its duty is to administer those provisions of the mining statutes which relates to proceedings of obtaining patent from the government, and it is with reference only to the application for patent, and the proceedings had thereon, that any determination is intended to be made in this case."

Thus, according to the decision of the secretary, there is nothing in the contention that the possessory rights of the mineral claimants have been injuriously affected by the action taken by the department in the former decision, as it was with respect to their rights as applicants for patents that the department dealt in this decision of May 19, 1900. It was not held that the claimants had waived their possessory rights, but on account of their delay had waived all rights acquired by the earlier proceedings upon their application and could therefore take nothing under those proceedings, but that they could renew proceedings for patent should they so desire. Under these circumstances, the secretary decided that there was no reason for entertaining the motion for review and it was accordingly denied.—Washington, D. C., Press Dispatch.

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