

THE SUMPTER MINER

VOL II.

SUMPTER, OREGON, OCTOBER 24, 1900.

NO. 7

CAPITAL PRIZE HAS BEEN DRAWN.

Mammoth Ore Carries Thousands in Gold to the Ton—Million Dollars Worth Blocked Out.

It looks as if the capital prize in the great mining lottery of eastern Oregon has been drawn. Sure it is that the strike made last week by the Mammoth Mining company in its Belle Baker claim is the richest, largest and most important yet made in these gold fields—in fact, in the entire Northwest.

Manager McCallum exhibited at his office over the Bank of Sumpter the gold-seamed rock and made public the find for the first time Monday. To a MINER man he stated that for a month past he has known that an usually rich body of ore was there, but only last week was its extent and high values definitely determined. And this is the way the whole thing happened, a perfect, fortunate union of intelligence, experience and luck.

Some years since A. W. McEwen, a prominent mining man of Salt Lake, late candidate for the United States senate from Utah, had a bond on the Mammoth group of mines, consisting of three claims, one by that name, the Belle Baker and the Red Fox, through all three of which runs a ledge, located on Bald mountain seven or eight miles out from Sumpter. John Cupid, an oldtimer of this camp, was associated with Mr. McEwen in the deal and personally superintended development work. Young McEwen, son of the mining operator, was also around the mine more or less, but had frequent pressing engagements in town, where he was setting the pace. These people selected an advantageous point for driving a tunnel, near the line between the Mammoth and the Belle Baker. They drove this hole straight into the mountain for something like 200 feet. It would have required nearly that much more workings to have cut the ledge, giving them more than 300 feet of depth. But they became tired at that stage of the game, turned the tunnel to the right and went into the vein at right angles, thirty or forty feet further on, at a depth of 180 feet.

They then followed out the regulation program, drifted on the ledge, something like 200 feet further on into dark, damp inner earth. For some reason or other, however, they neglected to crosscut. And, to cut a long story short, though they found fair values, the rock was not sufficiently high grade to justify the heavy expense of operating the mine at that time, so the bond was forfeited. Last summer Mr. McCallum tied up the property, went east and floated the proposition. He has been working out there all season.

About a month ago he put men to work cleaning out the tunnel, the timbers having rotted. In doing this considerable ore was knocked down from the sides. Like the good mining man he is, Mr. McCallum examined this ore carefully every few days. Occasionally he found a piece that was remarkably rich. After the debris was cleared out, he had a crosscut run

near where the tunnel cut the vein. The results were not what he expected. Further on another crosscut was run and the rich chute encountered eighteen inches from the side of the tunnel, and held good for twelve solid feet. Two other crosscuts were made, the last one at the head of the tunnel, where the same conditions obtained.

For a distance of 170 feet the men who drove that tunnel drifted within a foot and a half of fabulous wealth, the largest, richest body of ore ever uncovered this side of Cripple Creek.

The gold is in seams. On the surface of the rock it looks like wire gold, but break it, and the yellow metal is seen to be in sheets, an unusual formation. This gold is carried in an arsenical substance, green in color. At places it is in layers, from one to three inches thick; again it is found in lumps, the size of a man's fist, but gold everywhere. The intermediate gray quartz, in which no free gold can be seen with the naked eye, assays from twenty to thirty dollars. From the dust like coating washed off from the surface of the half dozen samples in the office here, a teaspoon full of gold was panned. The stuff carries anywhere from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to the ton.

The ore chute as now blocked out is 170 feet long, 180 feet deep and varies from 5 to 12 feet in thickness, with neither bottom nor one end in sight. From open cuts on the surface the same quality of ore has been taken. There is, easily, from three-quarters to one round million dollars worth of gold in this one body already revealed, and only time can tell how much more lies hidden there.

The men who were working in the crosscuts, seeing the green rock and being unable by the dim light to detect the presence of free gold, mistook it for copper stains, and frequently remarked: "We are getting into good copper ore here." They have been taken out of the tunnel and none of the rock will be knocked down until the mill, ordered a couple of weeks since from the Joshua Hendy Machine works, San Francisco, is ready to begin operations, which will be sometime in January.

The Mammoth is owned by the same people who control the Bald Mountain, two or three miles away. Both properties are under the management of Mr. McCallum. The principal stockholders are Lowell, Massachusetts, capitalists, while the local lucky ones are the manager; Secretary Reed and Superintendent Davidson, all of whom are more or less interested.

These are Sumpter mines, the officers reside here, the companies buy their supplies here, and if the question had been put to a popular vote in this camp, there would have been an overwhelming majority in favor of a big strike in these mines, as against any other in the district. Already they have spent \$170,000.

Took a Drink of Acetic Acid.

S. Anderson, who resides in the north end of town, had an experience which he won't care to have repeated very soon. A driver of a delivery wagon while on the way to the vinegar works on Center street with a bottle of the acetic acid, met Mr. Anderson who inquired the contents of the bottle. The driver who had been told it was vinegar so informed Mr. Anderson. A discussion of the relative quality of different kinds of vinegar ensued and Mr. Anderson was invited to sample the Baker City product. As it came to us there was no intention to play a practical joke on the part of the driver, who handed the bottle over and Mr. Anderson took a swallow of its contents. In the next instant he was nearly strangled and his throat and stomach were so burned that the services of a physician was necessary to relieve him. It is thought that nothing serious will result, but at last accounts he was suffering greatly with his throat and stomach and was unable to swallow anything. Acetic acid is used in making vinegar but is hardly to be swallowed at full strength.—Democrat.

Ball for Benefit of Reading Room.

The ladies having in charge the reading room met Monday at Dr. Fisher's residence, to arrange for a fair, but after due deliberation decided that the time was too short, and it would not be advisable to attempt it at this time. They decided to give a ball on All Halloween eve, Wednesday, October 31, at Ellis opera house, and appointed the following committees: Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Hillier, Mrs. Mercer, Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Richards, as patronesses; C. E. Roblin, M. C. Mercer, J. Brown, A. G. Davidson and Tom Ingram, floor managers. The Sumpter Social society will meet Friday evening at the I. O. R. M. hall. There are now more than sixty members of the organization.

Town of Sumpter Finances.

The finance committee of the city council has sold a warrant for \$2,000 to R. E. Strahan. With this money thirty-five outstanding warrants have been redeemed. Since the first of the month \$2200 in warrants have been paid from the license revenues for this quarter, and the proceeds of September fines. The past year has been an expensive one for Sumpter, the salary roll aggregating \$3500, lighting \$1400, water \$936, surveying \$800, street crossings \$1525, and the expenses of quarantining about \$1500, or a total of over \$9600, and not one cent of tax has been levied, but all this will be met by license fees and the fines levied in Recorder Manning's court.

Work to be Resumed on the Ohio.

The owners of the Ohio property in Cracker Creek district above the Columbia mine, will resume development work as soon as Mr. Thompson, one of the owners, returns from the east, which will be soon. The intention is to gain depth as rapidly as possible by means of shaft work, and demonstrate clearly whether or not they have a mine. The ore chute on the Climax, adjoining property, is said to extend into the Ohio on one end and the owners know they have another on the opposite end.

Bryan's Relative Speaks Here.

M. A. Miller and Ed. L. Bryany of Portland, made democratic speeches to a large audience in Ellis opera house Monday evening. They are both bright young men and put up brave talks for the cause. Mr. Bryany is said to be a relative of the great commoner.

DIED ON THE TRAIN.

Resident of Sumpter Found Dead Near Los Angeles.

Mrs. Fisher, who resides on Cracker street, returned from southern California Saturday.

Two weeks ago Sunday, she left with her husband, who is a consumptive, for Phoenix, Arizona, as a last resort to save his life, on the advice of physicians.

Press dispatches state that after the train had left Los Angeles, Mrs. Fisher awoke one morning and found her husband dead in the berth. There was not enough vitality left to endure the fatigue of the trip and he quietly passed away. Mrs. Fisher corroborates this story in all important points.

Eastern Capitalists in Sumpter.

E. A. Smith and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Hanchett, of Lowell, Massachusetts, arrived in Sumpter Monday and will remain here a week or more, looking over mining properties. Mr. Smith is vice president of the Mammoth and a director of the Bald Mountain Mining company. Mr. Hanchett is a man of large means who has made investments in the west, and the presumption is that he is here looking for more. The party is out to the Mammoth today with Manager McCallum, inspecting the great strike in that property.

Planked and Graveled Streets.

The wisdom of planking, instead of graveling, the streets of this town is already made apparent. The difference in the condition of Granite, planked, and of Mill and Cracker, graveled, is so great that there can no longer be any difference of opinion on this subject, which was discussed at length last spring. THE MINER refrains from saying: "I told you so," but calls attention to this matter in the hope that no more good money will be wasted on the streets of Sumpter.

Proving Up on Timber Claims.

Charles O. Morrell returned yesterday from La Grande, where he went to make final proof on his timber claim. W. C. Calder went down with him as a witness. James K. Pardee and David Wilson, who were to have proved up, were not there; the former being sick in Montana and the latter in Spokane on more important business. The extension of the Sumpter Valley road crosses Mr. Morrell's claim.

Burnt River Sportsmen's Paradise.

J. T. Parkinson has returned from a hunting trip in the Burnt river district, south of Sumpter, in the vicinity of Hereford. He reports ducks, prairie chickens, grouse and sage hens so plentiful that he was able to kill more than could be consistently cared for.

Will Make Him a Couple of Millionaires.

Dr. Anderson put on his sweater and a few other articles of clothing and went out to Minersville a day or two since to fire a stick of giant powder in some claims he has out that way, claims that he says are going to make him a couple of millionaires.

Six O'Clock Dinners.

The Golden Eagle Hotel has inaugurated the plan of evening dinners and mid-day luncheons, which idea is an acceptable one to the majority of those living at hotels.

Saddle and Bridle for Sale.

In good condition and offered cheap. Apply at THE MINER office.

Something to depend upon—Giant powder.