

LEDGE OF PURE LEAD.

Old Timers Used It to Mould Rifle Bullets.

Elmer E. Cleaver was in town Sunday night, on his way from Baker to Prairie City. As usual, he was loaded to the guards with accurate information, obtained by personal investigation, regarding the resources of eastern Oregon in general, and the great "Isolated Empire" tributary to John Day valley, in particular.

This time, however, he sprung a brand new one, of much importance to this whole region. Mr. Elmer says that when a boy, he often heard the story told that over in this country somewhere the hunters and trappers moulded their rifle bullets of lead taken directly from the ground. Ever since he has been operating in eastern Oregon mines, he has been trying to locate that lead mine, but only two weeks since did he get any clue to the vicinity in which the ledge is situated.

At that time he was sitting one evening in a hotel at Prairie City talking to a pioneer, jollying him along and pumping him the while. Finally he asked him if he had ever heard the story about moulding bullets from native lead. He had never heard of it. But another oldtimer, sitting on the other side of the store reading a paper about the "dangerous anarchist," Bryan, remarked that he had never heard the story, but knew all about the facts in the case; as he had frequently turned the simple trick himself in the early days, when it cost about ten cents a pound to haul lead in from the Columbia river trading post.

"I was passing by there the other day," he continued, "and kicked off a piece. Here it is." And he drew from his pocket a lump of metal, dulled by contact with other articles, that comes as near being pure lead as was ever taken from the ground. The ledge is said to be three feet thick and stands up two feet above the ground.

Asked where the stuff could be found, Mr. Cleaver waved his hand over toward the western sky line and said. "Right over there. I'll gamble that there are more different kinds of metal over in that country than anywhere else of the same area on earth."

Speaking of coal deposits below Prairie, he stated that the wagon load which he brought out was sent to officials of the O. R. & N. road at their request, who will make tests as to its steam producing qualities. In that vicinity surface oil can be found most anywhere, which for years has been used for lubricating purposes. There is therefore scarcely a doubt but what oil fields can be counted among the marvelously rich undeveloped resources of eastern Oregon.

Mr. Elmer stated that the richest copper ore he has ever seen is found in a large ledge fifty miles south of Burns, and then went to bed.

Gigantic Cripple Creek Consolidation.

From entirely reliable sources it is learned that a gigantic consolidation of a number of well known Cripple Creek mines is projected at this time and which will take several months to consummate. The property involved is valued today at \$3,400,000 and includes the Isabella mine, the Hart, Acacia, Arrow, Orphan and probably the Pinnacle. Several companies have been asked to come into the consolidation, but have declined for the reason that they could not see that they would be materially benefitted by any such step. It is proposed to form a new company styled the Isabella Consolidated Mines company, with a capitalization of \$5,000,000. Three million four hundred thousand dollars' worth of the new stock

will be issued to take up the old stock of the consolidated companies, the remaining \$1,600,000 worth of stock going to the promoters of the new deal and to cover the expenses incident to the closing of the deal. For the reason that several of the companies which are included in the proposed consolidation have not vested their directors with the right to dispose of property without consulting the shareholders in mass meeting, so that special sessions of the companies so regulated will be necessary, it is stated that calls are forthcoming at this time for such meetings. This will take time and it will not be possible to close any such deal until all this has gone through with, which will take several months.—Press dispatch from Denver.

Baker City Politics Mixed.

Baker City voters are confronted with a very peculiar state of affairs pending the city election November 5. In the face of high pressure, two leading republicans have declined to run for mayor; one republican declined in favor of a democrat; one democrat whose petition was filed withdrew in favor of another democrat; one councilman resigned to make his race for mayor stronger, making it necessary to elect six instead of four members, another resignation having already necessitated the election of five councilman, and the mayoralty question has simmered down to two democrats. Party lines are down, only two councilmen so far having been nominated, and it seems to be a free-for-all devil take the hindmost race.—Republican.

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