

THE SUMPTER MINER

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NO. 8

FEDERAL COURT CASES.

Suits Instituted Against Cassidy and Doc Wheeler.

United States Marshal Houser arrived from Portland Sunday morning to serve papers in two important suits started in the Federal court.

One is a \$10,000 libel case against Cassidy, of the Baker City Herald, instituted by Letson Balliett, the mining man. The complaint also asks that the Herald be enjoined from publishing matter derogatory to the character of the plaintiff and a temporary injunction to this effect is granted. The defendant is required to show cause at an early day why this restraining order shall not be made permanent.

Of course, there is no thought that \$10,000 or any other sum can be collected from Cassidy. The purpose of the suit is evidently to smoke out the parties who are backing him in his effort to injure a mining and industrial proposition in this district. When this is definitely determined, the motive can be surmised with some degree of accuracy.

The other case is one against L. G. Wheeler, of the St. Anthony Mining company, brought by the Milwaukee stockholders. Regarding this matter the Baker City Republican stated in its issue of Monday:

"This morning, in the suit of William Kickhafer, of Milwaukee, who is one of the principal stockholders of the St. Anthony Gold Mining & Milling company, the owner of valuable mining claims at Alamo, United States Marshal Houser served a restraining order issued by Judge Chas. B. Bellinger, of the United States circuit court at Portland, restraining L. G. Wheeler and Madge Wheeler until the hearing of said suit at Portland on November 8, from entering upon the premises of said company or in any way interfering with the agents of said company, and ordering said defendants Wheeler to appear before the court on said 8th day of November and show cause why the injunction prayed for in the bill of complaint should not be granted during the pendency of the suit for permission to further develop the property by the agents of the company, and for a permanent injunction from interference to that end, and for damages sustained by the complainant by reason of interference already made."

Trouble has been brewing for some months between the local and Milwaukee stockholders of this company. The real cause of the difficulty is said to be 117,000 shares of stock, an order on the treasurer for which Doc Wheeler holds, and that officer refuses to honor. There is a strong feeling in favor of Doc Wheeler in the neighborhood of the mine, his neighbors and friends believing that the Milwaukee people are attempting to play a freezeout game.

Last week THE MINER published an article about the properties owned by the St. Anthony company and the splendid work done there. It is stated that there is blocked out in these mines the largest body of low grade ore in the state. It looks as if eastern Oregon mines are about to enter the litigation stage, through which the popular belief is that every camp must pass before it can be extensively developed.

Presbyterian Choir Musical.

The musical and literary entertainment given at the church Monday evening by

the Presbyterian choir was well attended and apparently highly appreciated by the large audience present. Miss Carmen Stoddard recited "The Gamblers Wife," with good expression and ease which received proper applause. Mrs. C. O. Morrell's solo "A Pretty Girl" was well rendered and received a deserved encore. This same lady also gave a telling recitation in costume and the makeup of an old lady, choosing one of Will Carleton's originalities, "The New Church Organ." Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Hawley and Mrs. Lloyd sang the trio "Farewell," which was enjoyed as indicated by the applause. Miss Edna VanDyck and Mr. Weaver sang "O Tell Ye Merry Birds" very acceptably. E. Sadie White in her solo "Waiting," was as usual in good voice and her song was well received. Miss Ina B. Wright, a visitor to Sumpter, made a decided impression on her audience as an accomplished vocalist. Her solo, "Queen of the Earth," was heartily encored, as was also her second selection, "Because I Love You." In the chorus of eight voices, each of which blended well and showed care and rehearsal, the music was much enjoyed. Miss VanDyck and Mr. C. O. Morrell acted as accompanists and did their part well.

Iron Foundry and Machine Shop.

Brig Ballantyne and George Stevens, electrical engineers, have been experimenting to invent an automatic electric switch that will regulate the number of lights used, turning the current off when an extra light is started. In their experiments they needed some castings, so built a cupola and commenced making them. Their work attracted the attention of local machine men and they were soon called upon to make castings of various kinds and before they realized it, had a nice little business established. They have erected a moulding room and machine shop on lower Center street and are kept busy with custom business. Mr. Ballantyne is the pattern man and Mr. Stevens the moulder. The work turned out is smooth and much better than the average casting. They handle brass as well as iron. An engine, lathe and other machinery will be added to the plant in the near future, as the trade seems to demand it.

False Report of Eruptive Disease Epidemic.

Notwithstanding there is some outside talk that there are several cases of the eruptive disease, called by some smallpox, in Sumpter, Health Officer Al Hillier positively says there are but two mild cases here, which are confined to as many families. Some time since he found a little girl in school with symptoms that have since developed into the disease, but she was removed before any of the other children were effected, since when the principal and teachers have rendered him every assistance to watch each scholar daily. If other outside towns had taken the same precautions that have been observed here, the disease would have been entirely stamped out by this time, but there is no chance here now for an epidemic.

Portlander Buying Mines Here.

George L. Baker, a former councilman of Portland, now living at Baker City, made his first visit here last Friday, accompanied by Mr. Shade, of the Portland General Electric company, who will have the contract for wiring and putting in all electrical fixtures in Baker City's new opera house. It is understood the latter has secured some mining interests here and will return in a few days to negotiate for others.

WORK LITTLE GIANT.

Resumed Under Direction of Superintendent Williams.

Superintendent Williams, of the Little Giant, came in from Baker City this morning. He says he has not been appointed to this position yet and has signed no papers, but admits that work has already been started on the mine under his direction. The work now being done is the driving of a crosscut from the lower tunnel. It will require 100 feet of work to cut the vein. Eight men are now employed and a dozen others will go out tomorrow. When this crosscut tunnel is finished the force will be largely increased.

The superintendent, for such in reality he really is, would give no further information. He occupied this position on the Bonanza under the Geiser management, and is recognized as one of the best practical mining men in eastern Oregon.

The important point in this connection is that under the ownership of the English syndicate work has been resumed on the Little Giant, directed by a man of intelligence and successful experience, which is a guarantee that the property will soon be on the list of dividend payers.

The machinery for a twenty-stamp mill and an electric light plant is now on the ground, which will be installed as soon as necessary. But considerable development work will be done before a mill run is made.

Another Cleanup at the Gold Ridge.

Master Mechanic J. C. Higgins, of the Gold Ridge mine, came in to the city last night, bringing with him another lot of bullion taken off the plates, which he deposited in the bank. Mr. Higgins said that the real object of his visit was to secure half a dozen more miners to help on the increasing work at the mine. "I believe that the White Swan district is going to be one of the richest in this entire camp. There is every indication that those who laid out the old Virtue mine knew what they were doing. It seems to have been positively demonstrated that there is a distinct and continuous ledge of ore running diagonally through Baker City, upon which are situated the Gold Hill, Gold Ridge, Brazos, Virtue, White Swan, Tom Paine and Baisley-Elkhorn. —Republican.

Ground Covered With Snow.

It snowed more or less all day yesterday, and the greater part of last night. Today the ground is covered to a depth of five or six inches. The temperature remains pleasant, however, and umbrellas were more in demand than overcoats. It is therefore not thought that this snow will remain on the ground any great length of time. W. H. Mosby offers the wise advice that "the trails be made wider," citing the condition of affairs here winter before last, when two pedestrians couldn't pass on the sidewalks without one or the other stepping in snow up to the waste.

Capitalists Return Home.

E. A. Smith and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Hanchett, of Lowell, Massachusetts, after a visit of a week with Manager McCullough, of the Bald Mountain mine, in which Mr. Smith is an officer and director, returned east last Saturday, highly pleased with their inspection of the country and town of Sumpter. Their trip here will serve to induce more eastern capital to come into

the district, especially since they chanced to be on the ground when the big strike was made in the Belle Baker property of the Mammoth company which is, in a way, a companion company of the Bald Mountain. Seeing is believing, and when they return home this district will receive such healthy advertising as it deserves.

Old Idea in New Garb.

An old idea in a new garb is presented in a communication from Sumpter, Oregon, which, boiled down, alleges that the Standard Oil company is acquiring mining property in that district; that its tactics are to do sufficient work on a prospect to develop its value, and then cover it up, on the principle that it is safer there than in any bank, can be produced at will and is not subject to taxes. Sumpter understands the art of advertising and the statement is a good bid for prominence, which is here given it. The idea attributed to the Standard Oil company was an old one in the days of the Phoenician tin mines, but has not been worked lately. —Mining and Scientific Press.

Wilson Block Now All Rented.

W. R. Hawley has rented the corner store room in David Wilson's brick block on Granite and Center streets, and will move into it as soon as the interior is finished. He will also occupy with his stock of general merchandise one of the rooms in the rear, facing on Center. The Electric company has rented the other and will have its general office there, moving in as soon as the plastering is finished. The Hobson Mercantile company has already begun to move its stock into the east store room, though the plate glass windows are not yet put in.

Work on the Golden Eagle.

Robert Leigh, one of the owners of the Golden Eagle mine in the Greenhorn district, is in town today. He reports that the property has some good ore in sight and that the company is now increasing its working force. The main drift is in 600 feet, with five feet of solid ore in the face of the drift. The last assay gave \$500 in values. A steam pump and other new machinery has recently been installed. From the Phoenix, three-quarters of a mile away, Mr. Leigh says, thirty tons of ore were recently taken out, netting \$600.

Sam Stott Home Again.

Sam Stott returned to Sumpter last week after an absence of several months, since the national guard encampment at Salem in July, where he had the misfortune to break his leg. That member is whole again, but his partner, Attorney Shelton, fears he is a little off in his thinking on political matters. However this may be, his friends are glad to see him back again and hope that this mountain climate and the scenes of his former triumphs will serve to straighten him out mentally.

Dr. Brock Appointed Railroad Surgeon.

Dr. Brock received his appointment yesterday as assistant surgeon for the Sumpter Valley railroad. Dr. Snow, of Baker City, is principal surgeon, but he cannot attend to the entire business, and Dr. Brock is called in to assist. He will do all the work between here and Whitney and share the labor between Sumpter and Baker City. This has nothing to do with the men working for the contractor.

Five quart bottles of Olympia beer for \$1.00 at Henry Finger's.

Something to depend upon—Giant powder.