

MORE SPOKANE MONEY

Will Develop Promising Cracker Creek Property.

H. W. B. Smith left here last week for Spokane for the purpose of organizing a mining company to operate properties in the Cracker Creek district, which he has been developing all season. James Clark, brother of the "Patsy" Clark, one of the most successful operators in the West, is president of the company. James is said to have made even more money, but less noise than his brother. All of the men connected with the company are successful mining men and it is a matter on which the entire district can congratulate itself that these men have become interested here. Speaking of this matter, the Spokesman-Review says:

Spokane capitalists are to extend their operations in eastern Oregon. Articles of incorporation were filed yesterday for the Cracker Summit Gold Mining company, with headquarters in Spokane. The capital is in 1,000,000 shares at 25 cents each. The officers are: President, James Clark, vice president, Leon H. Long; secretary and treasurer, George H. Linsley; general manager, H. W. B. Smith. The directors are: James Clark, Leon H. Long and George H. Linsley of Spokane, H. W. B. Smith, of Sumpter, Ore., and J. C. McFadden, of Walla Walla.

The properties of the company are the Summit, Summit No. 1, Summit No. 2, the Cracker No. 1 and five other claims. They are directly west and adjoining the Eureka & Excelsior and North Pole, on the summit between Cracker and Fruit creeks, about half a mile from Bourne, Baker county, and about seven miles from Sumpter. The Summit, Summit No. 1 and Novice are the northern extensions of the Free Coinage, Climax, Ohio and Cyclone ledge, which is a parallel vein to the Golconda, Columbia, E. & E. and North Pole ledge.

Messrs. Clark, Long and Smith purchased the Summit and Summit No. 1 claims in September, 1899, of Altenhoffer & Fox, the original locators. They put on a force of men and continued development work until the heavy winter snows forced them to suspend operations. This spring they resumed work and continued until October 1. They have spent about \$5000 in development. According to Manager Smith, who is in the city, they have exposed the ledge for 2100 feet by shafts, tunnels and open cuts, and find it strong, well defined and from 10 to 40 feet wide, with three pay shoots, with assays ranging from \$5.40 to \$46.15 per ton.

The development consists of 125 feet of tunnels, over 100 feet of shaft and about 350 feet of open cuts. The next work will be to drive a crosscut tunnel 1012 feet, which will tap the ledge near the main pay shoot at a depth of 615 feet. They have good wagon roads into the property, a substantial blacksmith shop and outfit of tools, good mill site, plenty of timber for mining and milling purposes, and also plenty of water to run a compressor and for milling purposes. The ore can be brought from the tunnel to the mill by gravity, thus saving expensive hoisting and pumping machinery. Experts who have examined the property are said to have declared that with development the property may make one of the best mines in the district.

It is the intention of the company to put on two shifts and push development all winter, and Manager Smith leaves for the mine Monday to get work started as early as possible.

Gold "Button" Worth \$154,000.

The biggest "button" of gold ever received at the assay office in Wall street, according to Superintendent Mason, ar-

rived yesterday from a mining company in British Columbia. It was consigned to the New York agents of the Bank of Montreal. The ingot contained a fraction over 753 pounds of the solid yellow metal, and is valued at \$154,000. It came in a solid cone, and stood about two feet high. This cone was wrapped in canvass and fitted with an oblong box made of two-inch planks and heavily bound with iron. The gold was firmly held in the box by two wooden wedges driven in from the top. Two heavy iron rings were set in the sides of the rough box and through these were fitted wooden bars by which the box was lifted. It required four men to remove it from the truck in the assay office to the scales—New York Press dispatch.

GOLD MINES OF INDIA.

Though Worked For Ages, They are Still Producing.

The most extensively developed mines in India are located in the district which may be best described as the Western Coast range of the great peninsula of the Hindustan. They are situated not over 100 miles from the ocean, and between 300 and 400 miles north of Comorin, which is the most southerly point of the mainland of India. This coast range is locally known as the Western Ghats. It is very rugged and precipitous chain of mountains about 900 miles long, lying very close to the sea and often rising directly from its waters in magnificent head lands and peaks to heights ranging from 5000 to 9000 feet. The eastern or inland slopes of this range are comparatively gentle; and it is among these uplands that the Indian gold mines lie.

In this region the industry is a very ancient one. From time immemorial there has been a small continuous production of the metal by the natives, who, of course, only attempted to work the alluvial deposits in and along the mountain streams. About 1870 the English became interested in the quartz reefs which occurred higher up, though the industry at first was almost a continuous record of failures; yet in the last ten years it has become well established, and is now a very important factor in the world's table of totals, as the yield last year had the value of \$8,500,000.

During August of this year the Indian mines yielded 42,763 ounces of gold, and up to the end of that month the production for the year had amounted to 325,270 ounces. It is fully expected that the total for the twelve months will be close to 500,000 ounces, worth in the vicinity of \$10,000,000; for during the last five years, modern systems of workings, and up-to-date machinery have extensively replaced the methods and appliances of the past. The bulk of the ores being worked at present are very high grade, and comparatively free. Thus at eight of the principal properties, the crushing during August amounted to 32,885 tons, which yielded 24,351 ounces of gold, (worth about \$18.50 per ounce) on the plates, and 6200 ounces at the tailing plants which are all using the cyanide process. This corresponds to a shade over \$17.00 per ton of crude ore.

In the Mysore property—which is the oldest and most developed—a depth of 2300 feet has been attained on the vein. At this distance from the surface the pay ranges in width from 1½ to 3 feet, and gives assay values from \$1.25 to \$14 per ton. In the other mines, which have gained depths of 1200 feet or less, the quartz sent to the mill often runs \$20 per ton and over, but is generally in a narrow seam. Altogether the Indian gold mining industry may be said to be in a very prosperous condition.—Mining Reporter.

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