

SALE OF THE NORTH POLE MINE

Rumors Regarding the Transaction Still Floating Around.

Unusually persistent are the rumors of the pending sale of the North Pole mine. The report gained currency over a month ago, and notwithstanding "poo-hoo" and "nonsense" from officials connected with the mine management, the rumors will not down and are given credence by mining men of some authority.

Color is added to the idea by the recent thorough examination of the property by Experts Farrish and Kehoe, who are known to be connected with the British American corporation, one of the strongest financial institutions of the trans border country. They quietly came into this camp, moved about practically "incog," and completed their examination of the mine in a silent and deliberate manner. When they departed for home, they refused to be interviewed by newspapers, would exhaustively discuss every other subject on earth except the object of their visit, and otherwise conducted themselves in such a manner as to strengthen the belief that they meant business.

A combination of other circumstances somehow seem to fit into the North Pole scheme. The recent visit of ex-Governor C. H. Mackintosh to England; his successful organization there of a \$20,000,000 British and Canadian syndicate to deal in western American mines; his prompt return to Spokane and his sending of a personal representative to Sumpter—all occurred simultaneously with the examination of the North Pole mine by the two Canadian experts.

The North Pole is owned in London, by the Barings; but the Barings are bankers, not miners; they have simply ordered the mine to be developed; have required of their superintendent and mine manager to prove the value of the property; to block out a large quantity of ore in such a manner that even the veriest tyro in mining might see that the stuff is there. They ask for no dividends from the property. Instead, they demand that every dollar mined should be put back into the ground to make it more valuable.

And in carrying out this policy, the management of the North Pole mine has so developed the property that to compute its market value needs only the employment of simple mathematics, multiplication of known ore bodies by known values per ton, and subtraction of known cost of mining and milling. It is today perhaps one of the finest properties in eastern Oregon, and if, as is supposed, the Canadian company takes hold of it, their well known successes with the LeRoi and other B. C. properties will undoubtedly be repeated in this camp. The course of events in this direction will be watched with intense local interest.—Baker City Herald.

Town Council Proceedings.

The town council devoted most of its time at the meeting Saturday evening to discussing the revision of the charter, Attorneys Richards and Chance, who are doing the work, being present. The newly elected members of the council were invited to be present at the next meeting, when the charter will be practically completed, and offer suggestions regarding desired changes. The finance committee was instructed to draw out of the Bank of Sumpter the remainder of the money raised last winter for the hospital, and afterwards turned over to the city for the Fire department. The original sum \$270.71, of which \$135.07 has been used.

Columbia Southern Litigation.

In the case of Henry A. Moore against the Columbia Southern Railroad and Drake C. O'Reilly, who he is suing for \$25,000, Judge Cleland this morning decided a motion to strike out parts of the answer of Defendant O'Reilly, denying and allowing it in part. The substance of the decision was to the effect that it

cut out much that was irrelevant in the answer of Mr. O'Reilly and leaves less for the plaintiff to reply to in the next move in the legal fight. The cases which are now attracting the attention of the public show the disposition on both sides to fight as long as there is anything to fight about. Moore, in the suit referred to, sues for \$25,000, which he declares O'Reilly obtained from the company through fraud. He declares that the company would not bring suit against O'Reilly, and that he was obliged to. O'Reilly, who has recently filed a suit in the courts here charging E. E. Lytle with appropriating considerable money which belonged to the company, says Moore is bringing the action in behalf of Mr. Lytle, and so the battle wages. What will be the outcome is hard to say. A motion to make the complaint more definite in the suit of J. H. Fox against James W. Webb was denied by Judge Cleland this morning.—Telegram.

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