

IS THE SMELTER SOLD?

August Heinze Reported to Be the Purchaser.

Now here is a story that is worth reading, even if there were not one word of truth in it—which is not implied in the remotest degree. The gentleman referred to as being the one who has interested August Heinze in the Sumpter smelter is J. K. Pardee. He is a smelter man of experience, who doubted that the plant here could successfully reduce local ore; but was afterwards convinced that he was mistaken, and so stated publicly. He is a friend of Mr. Heinze. This is what the Baker City Herald says on the subject:

From authoritative sources it is learned that the proposition of buying the 40-ton smelter plant at Sumpter has been presented to F. August Heinze, of Butte, in an attractive light. It is understood that he has promised to send one of his experts into the district to look into the proposition. The gentleman who is known to have brought the matter before the big Montana smelting man is himself a recognized authority on subjects pertaining to the mineral resources of a country and is reported to have presented the Sumpter smelter matter as "gilt edge."

The plant is now owned by the Union Smelter Manufacturing company, of St. Louis, but was forced last month to suspend operations, not, as has been stated, because of lack of ores, but because of a lack of cash. Several attachments have been issued against the plant, aggregating the sum of \$1,000 for ore purchased and not paid for. So involved, in fact, are the affairs of the company that the plant can be secured at a ridiculously low figure by any one with ready money.

The plant itself has proven a success, far exceeding the expectations even of its originators, but a lack of funds with which to purchase ores made its suspension imperative. Mine operators in the Greenhorn copper belt and in the Cable Cove district of base ores, quite naturally refused to ship their output to the Sumpter plant and be compelled to await tardy 60 and 90 day payments, when cash on delivery could be secured from smelters at Everett, Tacoma and Northport. Two runs of the Sumpter plant on ores from the Standard mine at Dixie Butte, the Tempest, in the Greenhorns, and from mines in the Seven Devils, demonstrated beyond a doubt its capacity to turn out a high grade, clean matte, either copper or iron.

The plant was never troubled with lack of ore. Manager Houser, of the Standard mine, offered to contract to furnish 20 tons a day, provided suitable arrangements for payment were made. The Tempest people alone were prepared to tax the capacity of the plant. Cable Cove operators were clamorous to test the efficiency of the smelter on their ores. The Columbia mine was willing to sell its concentrates in Sumpter. But everybody wanted cash on delivery, and the St. Louis company had no cash. Fortunately F. August Heinze is not troubled in that direction.

If the deal goes through, and the big Montanian takes hold of the little Sumpter plant, it will mark an epoch in the lives of the small mine operators of the district.

What One Prospector Has Accomplished.

In an interview recently with the writer, Lee Barnard said: "I still have two claims, the Indiana and Skeleton. I came here a little over a year ago without a cent, have these two claims yet, have sold two or three, built me a fine cabin, spent about \$1000 in cash and expect to spend several

thousand more. If my experience is not a recommendation for any mining district, I don't know what would be. My claims are only an average, and every claim in the Quartzburg district will show up as rich values as mine." The work on the Indiana and Skeleton done so far amounts to but little, but the assays on the surface average \$30 in gold, copper and silver—mostly copper. These claims are also parallel with the great Copperopolis. Work has been commenced and several hundred feet of tunnel will be run this winter.—Canyon City Eagle.

COLORADO-OREGON BONDED.

Option Held by Spokane People—Water Power Frozen.

The five-stamp mill at the Colorado-Oregon mines at Quartzburg was compelled to close down the fore part of this week because the cold snap shut off the water supply. The mill is about a half a mile below the mines and the ore is hauled by teams. Superintendent Hayes has four men employed on development work and their output only is milled.

Isham Laurance recently bonded this property to the Quartzburg Mining and Milling company, of which John M. Burke, the well known mining man after whom the Idaho mining town was named, is one of the principal stockholders. These are two of the oldest quartz mines in Grant county, and the only property in the district equipped with a mill. They have an output of at least \$100,000 to their credit. Like many others in this part of the country, this property has been worked principally under the lease system, in consequence of which but little attention has been paid to practical and permanent development work.

The two claims are advantageously located for tunnel development, on each slope of Comer gulch. The Oregon, formerly the Little Denver, by which latter name it is more generally known, has 700 feet and the Colorado 630 feet of tunnels. The greatest depth attained is not over 150 feet. The ore is free milling in the upper levels, but base below. The vein in the old workings was three to five feet wide, with eight inches to two feet of high grade ore.

Included in the equipment is the five-stamp mill above referred to, with a one vanner concentrator, a five-ton smelter and a complete assay office.—Prairie City Miner.

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