THAT S. V. RY. EXTENSION.

Denial of Report That It Will Connect With the Reno Narrow Gauge.

The Baker City correspondent of the Oregonian writes that paper that the report recently published in a Salt Lake paper, to the effect that the Sumpter Valley narrow gauge railroad and the Reno narrow gauge, building up through Modoc county, California, were likely to meet n the untapped center of eastern Oregon. Those well informed on the plans of the Sumpter Valley line think this talk is quite empty. Basis for the statement is found in the 16 mile extension being made into the big timber belt owned by the company. The writer from Salt Lake infers that this extension is launched off into eastern Oregon, without definite purpose or plan, which is contrary to the facts. It s primarily to tap the company's timber land, with freight possibilities as a secondary consideration.

Whitney, and not the center of eastern Oregon, is its apparent and real destination, for a time at least. Many miles of comparatively unproductive country would have to be traversed in carrying out the rumored idea of a line into Harney county.

Engineers do not agree in saying that the route selected for a logging road into a timber belt would be a proper one for an extensive line half across the state. Quite serious difficulties have been encountered in crossing the ridge between Sumpter and Whitney, and greater ones would be met in extending the line through the Prairie City country from Whitney. If a long line were contemplated into those distant regions of the state, it is believed that the road would not be laid across country, as the present terminus would necessitate.

Everybody here knows that the owners of the Sumpter Valley road own vast tracts of yellow pine timber in the vicinity of the extension, and that the work done was to reach that, rather than to bid for traffic originating in an exceedingly sparsly settled district. All talk of it putting a road much further into the Blue mountains, for the present at least, seems very light and airy.

Machine Hand Drill on New Principle

A dispatch from Colfax says that W. W. Waite, of that place, has secured a patent on a new kind of machine drill for all kinds of work requiring drilling in rock. The invention promises to revolutionize the present methods of mining. The machine is operated by one man, who simply turns a crank which revolves a wheel, to which is attached four 4-pound hammers, which strike the drill with terrific force. The machine, which was invented and manufactured in Colfax, being made at Carley Bros.' foundry, was on exhibition recently and attracted great interest. At a moderate rate of speed, 216 blows were struck by the hammer in one minute. This is said to be the work of eight able-bodied men. The machine turns so easily a boy can operate it with ease. A number of mining men who witnessed the exhibition say it will revolutionize mining, and greatly lessen the present cost of drilling, and will make many low grade mines profitable. The machine is made entirely of iron, and weighs but 125 pounds. Mr. Waite has been at work on it for several months, but did not announce it to the public until last week, when he received the announcement that his application for patent had been received, and that the device had never been patented.

Who Can Answer These Questions?

Here is a fair sample of hundreds of letters of enquiry received by THE MINER. This one is from down in Indiana, and if any one can draft a satisfactory answer it will be forwarded to the anxious inquirer, if left at this office. Here is what he wants to know: "Please send me sample copy of your paper. Would like for you to write and tell me how deep they have to dig for gold. Is there any chance for a man to get a claim where he can wash gold out of the creek? Is a person nearly sure of success if he comes there and sticks to it; or is it only one out of a great many that strike it rich? Please give me a little insight into this matter. I don't know anything about mining, but I have always had a desire to try my luck. If you answer this, perhaps I will see you in the near future."

Four Feet of Forty Dollar Rock.

Tom Johnson now has another mine that is more than likely to make a millionaire out of him. He calls it the Capital and it is located on Granite creek about four miles from Lawton. He has encountered a four foot vein of quartz that assays $40 to the ton in free gold. Tom was in town Sunday and felt greatly elated at his find. He came down to secure an ore car and track to facilitate work on the property.—Lawton Standard.

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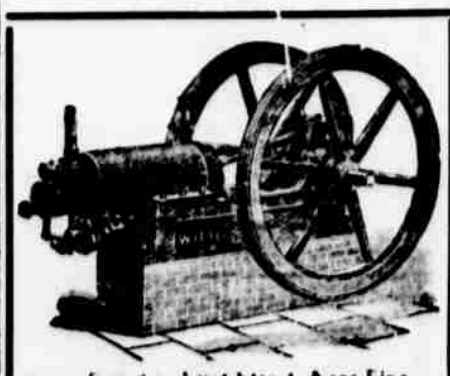

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