## CRANE CREEK PLACERS BONDED.

**Win Johnson Gives an Option to General Roberts for $30,000.**

R. T. Cox, who has been in the Granite country, states that Winn Johnson, of this town, has bonded his placers on Crane creek to General Roberts, for $30,000. Roberts came from Philadelphia, and has a force of experts at work prospecting the claims. They are sinking to bedrock and are making a scientific investigation as to the value of the claims. Mr. Johnson has owned the placers for eleven years, having taken out each year a good cleanup of several thousand dollars.

Mr. Cox says the district has considerable activity in both quartz and placers, fully as much legitimate mining being prosecuted as was going on a year ago.

The Climax mine, near Granite, has been sold for $25,000, a bonafide sale.

At the Buffalo mine, of which Mr. Cox is manager, four men are kept at work, and indications are good as the work progresses. Work is being done on the Monitor, owned by the same parties, which is holding out well as the tunnel goes in. Over 1800 feet of tunneling has been done. The Buffalo was originally discovered by the Beagle brother, and was once owned by Pendleton men.

Snow has gone and the teaming is now being done by the various mining companies. Machinery is going in as fast as the condition of the roads will permit. The weather is good and favors the operations of the mines in every part of the district.

At the Johnson placers, the activity is great, and at the expiration of the period the bond runs, the Pennsylvania people will know perfectly what is the value of the diggings.—East Oregonian.

## SAME OLD SURPRISE.

**Colorado Man Wonders Why Our Mines Are so Slow in Development.**

"I am surprised that the Baker City mineral belt has never been opened before," said Mr C. C. Nepple, a Colorado mining engineer and representative of a large syndicate of capitalists of that state, during a conversation yesterday with some Baker City business men. "I have just returned from a visit to the Greenhorn district, and it is simply wonderful to see the number of men at work on that hill—there are at least 100 men working on Greenhorn mountain.

"At the Phoenix mine development work is under full swing. The tunnel is in eighty feet and they have the ledge straight. It makes a splendid showing. The ledge is about four feet wide with two feet of pay streak. I sampled the ore myself and it runs $60 to the ton. There is every indication that the values will increase with depth. The vein is a true fissure with straight walls, well defined. I believe this will make one of the best mines in Oregon, and I think it will be heard from this season.

"The whole country in that district looks good to me. Four or five properties are being worked which give promise of becoming producers. The Diadem mine will work three shifts of men in a day or two, and they are now taking out ore from the surface crosscut which is very rich, and I believe that when the tunnel taps the vein on the lower level the same values will be found. The tunnel is now in 700 feet and they have 400 feet more to run before they will strike the ledge, so you can imagine that will give them considerable depth.

"Carpenter has a group of five claims on top of the mountain, on the east slope, about 4 miles from the Little Giant, and Schenck has some good claims just over the ridge, on the west slope. These properties are under development and already make a very favorable showing.

"Further down the hill Hunter and Brummer have started work on the Warley, which they have under lease and bond. There is a mill, shaft house and other necessary buildings on the property and I believe their venture will be a winning one.

"I found some copper ledges on the Greenhorn, some of the samples of ore containing 14 per cent copper. The entire district is alive and I must repeat that it can only surprise a stranger that the country was not opened before. I am going to visit other properties under development. It seems to me from all I have heard and seen since coming here that there should be a steady flow of capital here for development purposes, and that developed mines should find ready purchasers."—Democrat.

## BALLIET'S GOOD NERVE.

**Issues a Challenge of Defiance Against the Wide, Wide World.**

Letson Balliet, the Baker City mining man, promoter and newspaper owner, comes from the federal court at Des Moines, Iowa, with his case indefinitely postponed, and a challenge of definance to the world, and then he celebrates his victory, temparary at least, by buying two Merganthaler duplex linotypes and complete furnishings for an art illustrating department, for his Baker City Herald.

For intrepid, daring picturesque attitudes and startling surprises, Letson Balliet now holds tickets to a very front seat. He has audacity, energy, enterprise and the courage (his enemies call it "nerve") of a whole den of lions. Certainly without evidence at hand from which to form an unbiased opinion, just people will give him the benefit of the doubt, and acquit him of the alleged irregularities with which he is charged. It isn't a matter for sympathy, but rather of admiration for the pluck of a man who can fight the United States government and an hundred enemies, and feel no more fear than is shown by this manifesto of his sent from Des Moines:

"This suit is but the outcome of mean and contemptible persecution. It is the dying groan of men who would, if they could, extort money from me in any manner whatsoever. I have proclaimed loudly that I will pay out a cool million dollars for defense, but not one copper cent for tribute. I will not be bled. Right will always triumph in the end, and our system of courts is intended to mete out even-handed justice. When the truth is known in this damnable affair, certain men will be in a hurry to seek a place of hiding. I have been called upon during the past year to defend myself in 109 different lawsuits. Of these, I have whipped the fight in 108, and when the smoke of battle has blown away in this last instance, there will not be hoof nor hide left of those who would wring dollars from me as they would life's blood."—East Oregonian.

**Oil Indications in Malheur County.**

R. W. Mitchell, of this city, has received from Malheur county a sample of sand and porphyry indicating the existence of petroleum near Vale. The sample has been submitted to oil experts and men of experience in that line, and the report has been made that the indications are most favorable. The sand, when placed in contact with a lighted match, throws out a vapor with a strong odor of petroleum. The rock also indicates the near existence of oil. An expert of petroleum will examine the proposition, and it is believed favorable results will be obtained. Vale is in Malheur county, about 16 miles west of the Snake river. It is here where a very remarkable hot spring was discovered about 18 months ago, throwing hot water at a temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit a height of 37 feet. It has not been utilized for the reason that as soon as the water strikes the air an incrustation forms upon the pipe and clogs up within a few weeks. This, by chemical process, can be overcome.—Oregonian.


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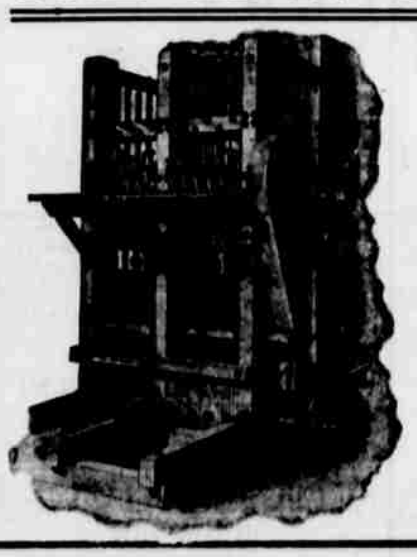

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