

MONEY AND MINING

Tendency Is Now to Develop Promising Prospects.

Despite the fact that the attention of large syndicates has been somewhat deflected from mining enterprises in the West by the apparent opportunities growing out of the large consolidations of industrial and other enterprises, it is interesting to note the general activity of smaller capitalists in the intermountain regions. There has been no period in the history of the mining states perhaps when more activity was evident in the way of converting promising prospects into mines. Capitalists of the Middle West whose interests are not syndicated, and who realize their inability to successfully compete with the vast aggregations of organized wealth that will in due time absorb the speculative opportunities at hand, find in the mining fields of the West ample chances to cushion the future with velvet and quadruple the money they see fit to invest.

The trend toward promising prospects and partially developed mines rather than to the purchase of great mining properties, seems to be well initiated, and promises a future of unequalled achievement in the mining industry. When capitalists fully realize that the investment of a few thousand dollars in development of mining property, that gives every geographical and mineralogical evidence of wealth when properly exploited, is a safer system of procedure than to expend millions for demonstrated property that may perchance be in the afternoon of its prosperity, the mineral industry will receive a momentum from which it will never recede.

Time was when a tendency in this direction was checked through the brutal abuse of opportunity, wildcat schemes of the most scandalous type being foisted upon susceptible investors. Men with bunco steering abilities unloaded worthless properties on eastern capitalists who desired to identify themselves with the growth and prosperity of the West. The losses of money resulted from such work not only deflected capital from mining properties not absolutely developed to the point of profitable production, but likewise diffused sentiments of prejudice against the political interests of the West, through which the mountain states have suffered irreparable loss.

Now that a tendency to take hold of undeveloped properties is manifested again, let the rights of the investor be scrupulously protected. A mining country is not developed by one producing mine, however magnificent its yield, but by transforming prospects into mines. It is infinitely better for the mining states for investors to liberally share the ups and downs of embryonic mines, and uncover the hidden wealth of our great mineral field, rather than limit the expenditure of capital to the production of wealth already in sight. But capital is entitled to honest treatment, and the man who seeks to inveigle it into wildcat propositions is an enemy of the great mining industry of the United States.—Daily Mining Record.

DREDGE FOR CRANE CREEK

H. G. Roberts Having One Built in Portland, Cost \$25,000.

G. H. Roberts, a prominent mining man of Idaho, is in Portland, arranging to have a dredge built for his placer mine in Grant county. He has 200 acres on Crane creek, a tributary of the John Day, where a thorough system of prospecting shows the value of the ground to average 90 cents a cubic yard. He has been operating a Portland built dredge

on Warren creek, a tributary to the Payette, in Idaho, for some time, and finds it to work so well on 56 cent dirt that he has no doubt of the success of the Grant county venture. The Crane creek placers are about 20 miles from Granite. The dredge boat and ponderous machinery will be shipped knocked down from this city to Granite, whence it will be hauled by wagon to the diggings.

"The mines have been operated by crude methods for 30 years," Mr. Roberts said yesterday at the Portland, and the average amount of dirt moved annually has been about 3500 cubic yards. Even at this slow rate the placers have always paid good wages to the men.

Our big dredge will have a capacity of 2000 cubic yards a day. The plant will cost about \$25,000, but we have ground enough for the next 20 years.

"The presence of too much water has worked against operating the mines by the crude sluice box methods of the past, as the land is so level that the tailings cannot be run off. The dredge boat will have the advantage, as it will need the water to keep afloat, while the buckets are reaching down to bedrock and bringing the gravel and gold on board to be separated. We can run nine months in the year, as the frosts will not interfere with us to the same extent as they do with old fashioned appliances. We hope to have the dredge in operation early in the fall.—Oregonian.

WATER RIGHTS DEFINED.

Supreme Court Decides Willow Creek Case From This County.

The Oregon supreme court has handed down the following decision in the case of Asa L. Brown et al., respondents, vs L. B. Baker et al., appellants, from Baker county, Robert Eakin judge; affirmed. Opinion by Justice Moore.

Willow creek rises in the Blue mountains, flows through the arid lands belonging to the parties in this suit and empties into Powder river. In the spring it carries 400 inches of water, miner's measurement, but in the summer only 30 inches. In 1864 plaintiff's predecessor diverted water for irrigation of his land and later increased the supply of water by tapping other streams and a swamp at the head of Willow creek. In 1892 defendant diverted 25 inches of water from Willow creek above plaintiff's and in 1896 diverted 40 inches. Plaintiffs alleged that this was an infringement of their rights and brought this suit for an injunction. The lower court found that the plaintiffs were entitled to 195 inches of water up to July 15 and 130 inches thereafter, and enjoined the defendants from interfering with the flow of this quantity of water.

The supreme court affirms this decree, laying down the following rule of law:

"The first settler upon public land through which a stream of water flows may either divert the water and use it for a beneficial purpose, or exercise the common law right prevailing in the Pacific coast states, where the modified rule of riparian ownership is still in force, and insist that the stream shall flow in its natural channel undiminished in quantity, except when applied to the natural use of the upper riparian proprietors, and for irrigation, if the stream affords a sufficient quantity of water for the latter purpose."

"Das Ban no Monka Ranch."

Up in the mountains a few days ago a party of hunters had their wagon broken and a monkey wrench was needed to repair the vehicle. One of them walked over to a ranch near by and asked for the tool, in as plain English as he knew how, but this is the reply he got: "No, das ban no monka ranch; das ban sheep ranch. Ah tank you strike the wrong place."—Huntington Herald.

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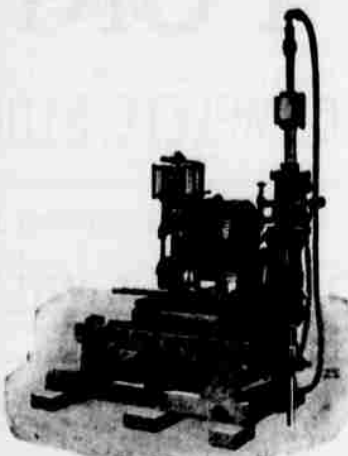
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