BURNT RIVER ROAD.

Messrs. Jones and Doane Select Southern Route.

Al Jones and J. N. Doane returned several days since from their trip of inspection over the two proposed routes for the wagon road to the Burnt river settlement. They were gone four days, examining the country carefully and thoroughly, and pronounce unhesitatingly in favor of what is known as the southern route.

They say that the entire road can be built on an easy grade and comparatively cheaply. It will leave the valley road to the left and cross Huckleberry mountain about two miles south of the Whitney extension of the railroad. The road running north from the Burnt river country will be reached in a distance of about thirteen miles from Sumpter, and considerably less than ten miles of roadway will have to be constructed.

In a few days a committee of business men from Sumpter will make a trip to that section of country and confer with the farmers relative to co-operation in the enterprise. It has been impossible for Mayor Robbins to get away during the past few days, owing to the absence of Cashier Miller, of the First Bank of Sumpter. As soon as he returns Mr. Robbins will be ready to go. If this is delayed more than a few days, the gentlemen will have to make the trip without the mayor. Arrangements for a survey of the route is now being made.

J. H. Robbins and R. E. Strahorn advance the money for all of this preliminary work. The road will undoubtedly be built this season.

Sumpter Has Same Card Up Its Sleeve.

La Grande has a trump card which she can play at any time and make this a city of ten thousand. It is expressed in the one word, roads. Let the people improve and extend all roads leading into the city and they will have paved the way for a fifty per cent increase in trade. But they should understand that roads are not good if they are merely summer driveways. They should be made passable winter and summer for heavy loads. With good graveled roads extending in every direction and with an electric road to Cove, La Grande will be able to command all the large trade of an important and rapidly improving section. This is not advanced as a boom scheme for checking the ravages of the dry rot, a method employed by various other towns, but as a legitimate business plan for increasing trade.-La Grande Chronicle.

COPPER HARDENING PROCESS.

This Time a Tacoma Woman Discovers The Long Lost Art.

Word comes from Tacoma that Mrs. Harry Renstrom is preparing to make trouble for the great American steel trust. This comes in the way of the discovery of one of the lost arts, the process of hardening copper, which has been the stalking ghost of the steel industry for a hundred years. Mrs. Renstrom is no theorist or dreamer, but a clear headed, practical woman, who has quietly worked away until now she has produced edged tools of copper that will cut the hardest of wood and hold their edge as well as the hest stepl. She feels confident that she has solved the problem of hardening copper and thus making edged tools that will drive the steel article out of the market.

She has already through an attorney made application to the department at P. O. Drawer 17.

Washington for a patent to protect her rights and will carefully guard her secret until that is gained. Overtures have been made to her from a number of capitalists, among them being J. Pierpont Morgan, negotiating for the invention when completed.

Mrs. Renstrom has been working on this process for years and has read everything relative to the matter that has been written. From her study of the matter she has become convinced that the hardening of copper was once a universal art. The American Indians practiced it on Lake Erie, where numerous evidences in the way of copper utensils and cutlery have been found. Among these, copper chisels have been picked up that will cut the hardest steel. It is a well known fact that the ancient Romans and Egyptians understood and utilized this process. A returned Filipino soldier recently brought back to Tacoma a bolo knife found in Luzon, the blade of which was of hardened copper and possessed a fine edge and was well tempered.

These facts have led her to believe that at one time, thousands of years ago, copper was hardened and used for tools and weapons all over the world, and she claims the process was undoubtedly a simple and cheap one, as the ancients had no intricate or costly methods or costly machinery.

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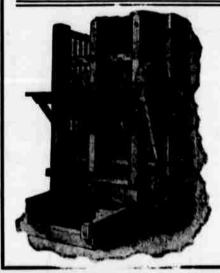


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