

## GOOD WORK AT CRACKER-OREGON

### Will Soon Begin Using E. & E. Air Drills.

On the invitation of Everett Brown, local representative of the Oregon Development company, which owns the Cracker-Oregon group, a representative of THE MINER visited and thoroughly inspected that property a few days since. It is the nearest working mine to Bourne; in fact, the mouth of the lower tunnel is in the corporate limits of that town. It consists of four claims and a fraction, the Cracker, Oregon, Pembroke and the Thunder Mountain placer claim. The fraction is also a placer location. The first two were located more than a dozen years ago and are patented ground. The others have been located by the company since it bought the two from Clark Taber last February.

Warren Cable is in charge of the work, as superintendent. His is an interesting personality and a volume could be written about him and his mining experiences in the gold fields of eastern Oregon, but this is not the place for that entrancing story. It is entirely pertinent, however, to remark here that he has been mining in the districts contiguous to Sumpter ever since Bald mountain was a hole in the ground; twenty-seven years, to state the case accurately—which is a long, long weary age for a prospector and miner to remain in one region. He, therefore, knows the district as well as, if not better than, any other man in it. It was under his guidance that the writer examined the property; for Mr. Brown doesn't claim the distinction of being a "mining expert"—he is still a tenderfoot, but is an apt pupil of a master craftsman and is learning plenty fast.

Twenty or thirty feet above Cracker creek is the mouth of the new tunnel, now in thirty or forty feet. Near by is the recently completed blacksmith shop. There are three or four other buildings on the property, from five to ten years old, conveniently located, all in good repair, that will be used for offices, bunk and boarding houses. This new tunnel will be driven 200 feet to cut the vein, which has been uncovered in an open cut at that point. Comparatively little depth will be gained in that distance, perhaps seventy-five feet, but the purpose of running it there is obvious and practical. The dirt and rock is needed to grade a site for a mill, which will be located just there, making the delivery of ore more convenient and economical than at any other mine in the district. The mill must be on the creek and this tunnel has been started as near by as possible. A trestle has been constructed over the low ground, from which the cars will be dumped.

It is scarcely necessary to state that all this preliminary work has been carefully planned and admirably executed, when it is known that Warren Cable was in charge.

Three shifts of two men each are employed in driving the tunnel and in a few days as many more will be put on, when work will be started on an upper tunnel. Arrangements have been made to use the water power and air drills of the famous old E. & E., the mill of which is only about 100 yards away. These power drills will be employed just as soon as needed, when the hard country rock is encountered. For the present hand drilling is preferable.

Superintendent Cable says it is the most advantageously located ledge in eastern Oregon to work; that the mine can be developed with more ease, less

work and expense, owing to the favorable topography. This is his plan of opening up the ore bodies. When the lower crosscut tunnel reaches the vein, it will then be a continuous drift. The upper tunnel will go in on the ledge from the start, about 250 from where it is cut in the lower workings, which will at that point have attained a vertical depth of 200 feet. Here an upraise will be driven, through to the mouth of the upper tunnel. At this point it is estimated that pay ore will be encountered, and the upraise will be a great convenience in stopping. Its principal use, however, will be for the transmission of ore from the upper workings to the mill, making that process practically a gravity proposition.

Some idea of the vast amount of backs that will be gained can be formed from the fact that when the lower tunnel is in 1400 feet its vertical depth will be 1000 feet, while the upper tunnel, when it reaches a point perpendicularly above, will be only 950 feet in length, with fully 800 feet of depth.

And Warren Cable can walk up an incline like that with more easy grace than he can glide along level ground, so long has been his experience and fixed the habit of prowling around these hills in search of their hidden treasures.

The old workings, aged ten or a dozen years, on which the patent was granted, consist of the usual open cuts to locate the vein, a shaft sixty feet deep and a tunnel 150 feet long, far up the mountain side, probably 1500 feet above the creek. Both the shaft and the tunnel are in ore all the way, hugging close the hanging wall. Still further up, probably 200 feet, there is a prominent outcropping, standing up full six feet and about twenty in length. Mr. Cable says there is the rich pay shoot and under that point he predicts will be found ore that will carry values fully as high as those recently taken from the North Pole and Golconda—both mines near by—that have excited the mining world. He states as his reason for this belief that several years since he packed out a couple of tons from a ten-foot hole, to which he pointed while expounding the theory, that milled \$47. That is the highest value ever found on the surface in Cracker Creek district.

In this connection, Mr. Cable advanced the theory that the Golconda is not on the same ledge with the Columbia, North Pole and E. & E., but that it is on a parallel vein, the same that runs through the Cracker-Oregon. He says it can be traced very distinctly between the two mines, while the Columbia ledge swings off into the Climax. It is, of course, presumptions for the writer to put up his judgment against the best posted man in the district, but on this point he begs leave to differ, at the same time granting Mr. Cable's contention that the ore from the Golconda and the Cracker-Oregon are practically identically the same.

There is no crosscut in either the old tunnel or shaft, so the width of this ledge is not accurately known. The open cuts show it to be from fifteen to forty feet wide. It is good and strong enough, all right. Assay values are evidently satisfactory, as the character and extent of the work planned demonstrates. It has always been understood that they are somewhat higher than the average of that locality. Superintendent Cable has made his tests thus far only by panning, which shows colors everywhere. The company owns 3000 feet of this vein.

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**E. SANDERSON SMITH**  
**MINING BROKER**

Sumpter, Oregon.