

START WORK ON THE FRIDAY.

N. J. Sorensen and Superintendent Griffith Have Gone to the Mine.

N. J. Sorensen and Dan Griffith left Monday for the Friday mine, across the line in Idaho. As was stated in these columns several weeks ago, the last named gentleman has accepted the position of superintendent for this company.

The roads are now in condition to haul machinery and they have gone in at this time to prepare for operating the property on an extensive scale. A part of the machinery, boilers, engines, pumps and air compressors, has been ordered and a portion of which has already been shipped. The first work to be done, of course, will be to install the power plant and pumps. Superintendent Griffith will have charge of this work.

The Friday already has large ore bodies blocked out, having reached a depth of 160 feet, with only a comparatively small amount of stoping having been done on one level. So, for the present, all the energies of the company will be devoted to rushing the work of erecting the reduction plant. Usually, when a mining property is incorporated, months, and sometimes years, are necessary to develop the mine sufficiently to justify the erection of a mill. The lucky owners of the Friday save all this time, the mine being already developed—to say nothing of the vast expense, the uncertainty and the consequent worry.

There is much speculation in local mining circles regarding N. J. Sorensen & Co.'s policy in selling Friday stock at only ten cents a share, with an unusually large proportion of the stock in the treasury, at that. This means that the mine, equipped with a mill, is valued at only \$100,000, when every one who knows the property believes that it will pay interest on five times that amount.

A well known mining man, in discussing this phase of the proposition a day or two since, stated to the writer that the only solution he could conceive of is that Messrs. Sorensen and Herlocker have some gigantic scheme "up their sleeves," which they are planning for the future, some mining enterprise requiring a large amount of money to carry through to success, and that they are practically giving away the Friday to hundreds of people scattered all through the east, who will surely make money out of their investment in this stock, which process will establish the reputation of the firm of N. J. Sorensen & Co. for all time to come. Then they can, of course, command all the capital that they may require to float any kind of a proposition. Said he: "If this is their plan, they may make it pay; but if the Friday belonged to me, I would consider it too good a thing to use for bait, as it were."

It is reported that the company refused last week a bona fide cash offer for its property. Messrs. Sorensen and Herlocker refused to discuss the rumor, one way or another, but did not deny it.

Neil Sorensen will remain at the mine only a few days, leaving Superintendent Griffith in full charge.

GREAT RUSH FOR LAND

Occasioned by Prospect of Columbia Southern Extension.

As an indication of the way people are discounting the extension of the Columbia Southern railroad up the Deschutes valley, President Lytle has just obtained

a statement from The Dalles land office showing that 196,960 acres of public land have been taken by individuals since the first of last November. There were 1022 homestead entries, covering 163,520 acres, and 209 timber entries, covering 33,440 acres. This does not include land selected by irrigation companies nor timber land that has been scripped. Most of this land lies in Crook county, but a small part of it is in Wasco.

There has also been great activity in the Lakeview land district, occasioned by the prospect that the Columbia Southern would build to Bend. Though Bend is some twenty-five miles north of the northern boundary of the Lakeview district, the railroad to Bend would be such an improvement over present transportation facilities for that region that there is increased demand for land clear down to the Klamath reservation. All that country will be served by the Columbia Southern when it shall get to Bend. One of the important irrigation enterprises that has just obtained a contract from the state land board is in Walker Basin, which is in Klamath county.

Before last November there were taken within ten miles of the proposed extension of the Columbia Southern, in view of the extension of the road, more than 186,000 acres of government land.

These figures show how people have been rushing in to occupy land which the railroad is likely to serve. Assurance of transportation facilities will open that country and make it rich and populous.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

A. C. Little's Alaska Gypsum.

A press dispatch from Tacoma says: General Manager A. C. Little, of the Pacific Coast Gypsum company, has just returned from Iyookken Bay, Chichagof island, Chatham straits, southeast Alaska, where his company has 300 acres of gypsum and marble properties, with an excellent power running down through it. He brought with him a consignment of several tons of surface gypsum, said to be superior to anything of the kind yet discovered in the United States. He also brought samples of carbonate of lime and a very fine blue clay, from which a high grade of hydraulic cement has been made. Mr. Little was state fish commissioner under Governor Rogers. While north he secured valuable fishing sites on Neer Peril and Icy Straits, a location containing fine grounds for red salmon and halibut.

Quartz Gulch Placers Sold.

A mining deal of considerable importance was consummated this week, when Dr. J. W. Ashford and F. R. Sels sold their interest in the Quartz Gulch placers to Messrs. Klink and Roderick, of this city. These rich placers are situated about two miles southeast of town, at the foot of Canyon mountain, and have produced an immense amount of wealth. The present owners are working a force of men day and night and expect soon to make a rich cleanup. A few days ago a rich streak of gravel was encountered in the old river channel, which gives big promises. With present prospects for an abundant water season, these rich placers will add materially to Grant county's wealth this season.—Grant County News.

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