



THE SUMPTER MINER

BIG STRIKE IN THE VIRGINIA

ANOTHER LEDGE DISCOVERED, TWENTY-FIVE FEET WIDE.

Jasper Quartz Carrying Sylvanite—First Found in Eastern Oregon—If It is as Good as it Looks, It is the Richest Mine in the State—Eastern Stockholders Visit Property.

A. B. Ernst, secretary of the North Pacific Mining company, of Seattle, accompanied by Dr. W. M. Patterson, the president of the company; S. S. Elder, the treasurer, and George H. Sherwood, one of the trustees, and his son, both residents of Philadelphia; H. W. Schuittger, of Superior, Wisconsin, and J. C. Spurr, a prominent contractor of Seattle, all heavy stockholders of the company, passed through Sumpter last week on their way to the Virginia mine, at Robinsonville. The company purchased this property from Messrs. Mitchell and Butler last year and has been steadily at work with a force of men since last August. The showing is good and the present visit is for the purpose of examination and making arrangements to put in a stamp mill. None of the parties, although heavily interested, except Mr. Ernst, had ever seen the property.

Messrs. Ernst and Patterson drove down from the mine yesterday, and the others came in from Whitney on the train, all leaving for the Sound in the afternoon.

The gentlemen are enthusiastic over the Virginia. As stated above, their intention was to arrange for the early erection of a stamp mill, as they have a good body of ore blocked out in the old workings; but another vein, of smelting ore, has been discovered on the property that may cause a change of plans.

They are all excited over this new find, and well they may be, if it proves to be as good as it looks. Last fall while on a trip to the mine Mr. Ernst knocked off a piece of rock from the side of a ravine, differing in appearance from any before found in eastern Oregon. He took it with him to Seattle and had it assayed. It carried high values. On this trip he had the ground exploited, and found there a strong vein with clearly defined walls, twenty-feet wide, solid quartz from wall to wall.

The gentlemen brought in with them over a hundred pounds of this rock. It is green in hue, bright green in places, as smooth and flinty as glass in appearance, carrying large quantities of what looks like sulphurets so far as crystallization is concerned, but as white as silver. This is thought to be sylvanite and the rock was identified by local experts as jasper quartz, which is said to abound in the Cripple Creek district. Said Mr.

Ernst to a MINER man:

"I am almost afraid to hope that this new vein is as rich as the one assay indicates. That sample was taken from near the hanging wall and the stuff gets richer in appearance as the foot wall is approached; that is, the sulphurets increase in quantity. I have sampled the entire 25-foot ledge and will have the ore thoroughly tested. We haven't gone in on it at all and I don't know what the ore we have will assay, so I don't care to make any definite statements about this new find, further than if it is as good as the one one assay would indicate, we have the biggest thing in eastern Oregon, and that means in the world."

From another member of the party, an excited gentleman from the east, the writer learned that the assay referred to was \$70 in gold. Mr. Ernst is more familiar with Cascade ores than with those of eastern Oregon and such values seem suspiciously high to him. If it is sylvanite, which seems very probable, the rock shown here yesterday is worth close on to \$1000 a ton.

Hauls Goods 26 Miles, 9 From Sumpter.

J. A. Hilliker came in Sunday from his property on Rock creek, which is an extension of the North Pole. He is preparing to do a large amount of development work there this season and is now hauling in lumber for bunk, boarding houses and shops, tools, powder, hardware and groceries. All of these goods are bought in Baker City, except the lumber, which is purchased at Haines. The mine is twenty-six miles from Baker City, fourteen from Haines and only nine from Sumpter. A wagon road from Haines crosses the property, but it is impossible to get in supplies from Sumpter. Three or four miles of road would make that district tributary to this camp, bring it at least six miles nearer here than Haines and twenty nearer than Baker City. Adjoining Mr. Hilliker's property, there is a stamp mill in operation, on the Hansen mine, just over the divide from the North Pole. Another mill will be erected on a nearby property in a few weeks and a great deal of development work is being done there this season. This trade is worth looking after.

Developing Olive Lake Water Power.

Harley Wood returned from Olive lake Monday afternoon, bringing back with him a big catch of trout, which he divided with his friends, according to his usual liberal custom. He says that John Riggs is in charge of Red Boy improvements at the lake, but that he is as non-communicative as others connected with the company and he could learn nothing definite as to the management's intentions, except what he could see. There is considerable surveying being done and they are excavating for a dam, that, it is stated, will raise the lake thirty feet. It now covers 160 acres. There is scarcely a doubt but what the work of developing the water power there has been commenced.

Fresh vegetables at The Market.

UNWATERING THE FRIDAY

Work Resumed on This Old Big Producer.

Neil J. Sorensen returned yesterday from the Friday mine. This is the first trip he has made to the property since it was shut down nearly three years ago, and he says he felt as if he were returning home after a long absence and was again in possession of his own. Mr. Sorensen managed the mine when it was being worked and was a large, steady shipper. He says the people of Pearl, the nearby camp, are delighted over the resumption of work at the Friday.

Before he left, Superintendent Griffith had started the pumps and the work of unwatering the mine had been commenced. Enough water had been pumped out to permit an examination of the upper workings, which revealed the gratifying fact that the timbers are all in good condition, no cave-in has occurred and stoping can be done as soon as the water is out of the way, which will be by July 1.

Mr. Sorensen says that just before leaving, he asked Superintendent Griffith: "On the square, what do you think of the proposition?" He received this characteristic, conservative reply: "Well, I won't venture giving my personal opinion until I can get down to the bottom of the shaft and look around in the drifts. The people around here say it is the best mine in the district, so I suppose it's all right."

Otto Herlocker will go over and take a look at the layout after it is unwatered and he finds time for the trip.

The Boise Capital News of recent date said: Neil J. Sorensen, general manager of the Friday property in the Pearl district, which has been closed down for some years, arrived from Sumpter, Oregon, yesterday, and announces that he is here to begin operations to reopen the mine at once. Mr. Sorensen is accompanied by D. M. Griffith, a prominent mine superintendent of the Oregon gold fields, and he will have charge of the property. The mine is full of water, and pumping operations to unwater the property will begin in a very few days. The shaft is down 130 feet and drifts both ways have been run on the 80 and 130-foot levels. At the 80, the ledge has been explored a distance of 150 feet, and at the 130, 280 feet of work on the ledge has been accomplished. Manager Sorensen is arranging for the opening of the property on a big scale. The Friday was formerly one of the big producers of the district, but owing to litigation it has remained idle for several years.

Another Strike in Cracker Creek.

Ed Butze, Sr., in charge of the E. & E. mine, was in the city yesterday from Bourne. He is interested with Seattle

people in the Justice group, located near the big mines of the Cracker Creek district. They are driving a 50-foot cross-cut tunnel on the property and another of 150 feet will be contracted for soon. The showing is excellent. A rich strike was recently made in that section, says Mr. Butze, by Messrs. Olson and Johnson, who own the Little Tammany, Ruby and Blue Bird claims, between the Tammany and Deer Lodge groups, which goes to prove that the entire mountain is mineralized, and good results are to be expected almost anywhere thereabouts.

Fourth of July Prizes.

At a meeting of the Fourth of July celebration committee Monday evening it was decided to offer the following prizes: First for double hand drilling contest, \$300. The Golconda prize of \$100 will be added to this, making the grand prize of \$400 for this contest. The second prize for double hand drilling will be \$100. In the single hand drilling contest the first prize will be \$75; added to this Banker Robbins' special prize of \$50, making a total of \$125. The first prize in the log rolling contest will be \$175; second, \$50. Putting contest prize will be \$50. There will also be baseball and other prizes for sports and feats of skill and strength. As yet little interest is being manifested in the voting contest for Goddess of Liberty, but this feature will warm up and become exciting as the day approaches. Miss Campbell now leads.

Another Case of "Fool for Luck."

Ed Parks was in town yesterday from Pine creek, where he is running a store. He says large quantities of gold is being taken from the placers there this year, that dust is the medium of exchange and troy scales of '49 are more needed than the modern cash register. He says there is a striking illustration in the district of the old saw, "a fool for luck." Early in the spring a tenderfoot kid drifted into camp, found a rich streak of gravel the next day, had a prospector make out and show him how to post his location notice, and has been panning out four or five dollars a day ever since—hasn't even sense enough to work a rocker and a ground sluicing proposition is not in the reach of his imagination.

Suit Against Cato Johns et al.

J. B. Stoddard and P. Basche have filed a suit against C. J. Johns, Ed Turk and John Austin, doing business as the Austin Meat company, and A. H. Huntington, as sheriff of Baker county. The suit is to recover payment on goods furnished the defendants as operators of the Gray's Peak Gold Mining company, Ltd., it being asked that the court restrain the sheriff from permitting the defendants from coming into possession of any money derived from the sale of the property, which the plaintiffs will attach.—Democrat.

The celebrated Gundo's—"the beer of good cheer"—always on draught at Dunphy's The Club.