

## WORK BEGUN ON SMELTER

### Company Has Strong Financial Backing.

Several days since Professor W. S. Eberman received a letter from Dr. Mueller, written in New York, giving some interesting and important facts regarding the financial affairs of the company which has already started the work of building a smelter in Sumpter.

As was stated in THE MINER of two weeks since, the stock was more than subscribed for. It has been apportioned among some of the largest capitalists of Milwaukee, Detroit, Baltimore and Massachusetts. The letter referred to gives the names of the stockholders, who are mostly bankers in the three cities named; one is the president of one of the great harvesting machine manufacturing companies, all of whom are men prominent in the financial world.

The same day the letter was received, a telegram arrived ordering the preliminary work to be hastened. In pursuance of these instructions, a force of men has been put to work making brick for furnaces, dust chamber and stack. The first kiln will contain only a half million brick, that they may be delivered as soon as possible. Other kilns will be burned without delay. The stone for foundations will be quarried and ready for delivery before the kiln has cooled.

As was predicted in these columns, it has been decided to erect a smelter of 200 tons capacity, instead of 100, as was at first proposed, the capacity of which can be further increased when necessary. The company now has contracts to treat over 100 tons a day and the development of smelting ore bodies is so rapid that it is evident by the time the plant is ready for operation there will be no difficulty in securing 200 tons of ore daily. The capacity of the automatic sampling works, which will be erected first, will be 500 tons a day. Manufacturers of smelting furnaces in Chicago, Denver and San Francisco will be invited to submit plans and proposals.

The smelter will be ready to blow in not later than December 1.

Professor Eberman says that this enterprise is only a starter; that it will be followed by other, greater and, to this district and camp, more important propositions. Chief among these, of course, is that of transportation. Several parties are now working on that problem and it will doubtless soon be solved, but if it is not, then the capitalists who are furnishing the money to build the smelter will take it up themselves and construct an electric belt line, including on the route the Cracker Creek, Cable Cove, Red Boy, Alamo, Robinsonville and Bonanza districts.

### NO MORE MINING ON DIP.

#### Kearns' Proposed Law Cuts Out Extralateral Rights.

"While at Washington," said Patrick Clark yesterday, "I discussed Senator Kearns' proposed new mining law with several members of the senate committee on mining. This bill is of great interest to the mining world. It proposes to abolish extralateral rights on all claims located after January 1, 1903. Under the present law a mining claim is 600 feet wide and 1500 feet long, and claims must be taken 300 feet on each side of the vein. As a rule mineral veins do not descend vertically into the earth, but have a varying dip or inclination. As a result of this many veins, when developed to a depth of several hundred

feet, are found to pass out from under the surface area of the claim and into adjoining claims. This has led to costly litigation over the ownership of the dipping ore bodies and to a line of decisions by the higher courts defining what are known as extralateral rights.

"Senator Kearns' bill proposes to amend section 2322 of the revised statutes by adding the following proviso: 'Provided, that as to all claims located after January 1, 1903, the locator or possessor thereof, whether the same be patented or unpatented, shall have the exclusive possession and ownership of all the surface thereof, and all veins and lodes therein contained within the surface lines thereof extended vertically, except that claims located after January 1, 1903, shall not be deemed to be in derogation of any rights acquired previous to that date.'

"Since introduction of the bill Senator Kearns has added another amendment increasing the width of claims from 600 to 1500 feet. This amendment was deemed advisable in view of the fact that capital might be reluctant to make extensive improvements on claims but 600 feet wide and having no extralateral rights.

"It is expected that the bill will pass at this session. The purpose is to get it before the country and learn the views and wishes of mining men. If passed, title to a mining claim located after the new law takes effect would be on the same footing as title to a farm. The owner could mine and explore the ledge only within the surface lines of his property. The proposed law is practically the same as that now in force in British Columbia.

"The bill also proposes to abolish tunnel rights.

"I feel that the mining interests can safely accept any measure of this character which obtains the ultimate approval of the senate committee on mining. On that committee are a number of senators who have thorough, practical knowledge of the mining industry—such men as Kearns of Utah, Stewart of Nevada, Clark of Montana and Scott of West Virginia."—Spokesman-Review.

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#### Granite Quarry Near Haines.

A. Vinson, the well known marble dealer of this city, is engaged in moving his plant on Elm street to Haines, Oregon, where he will develop a new granite quarry recently acquired. Mr. Vinson has just returned from his new location, where he has been the past two weeks supervising the work of four men at the quarry. In moving his plant to Oregon Mr. Vinson says he does not intend to leave Walla Walla out entirely from his business, but will establish a depot here with a complete stock. The product of his new quarry near Haines is what is known as boulder granite, a superior quality of stone. His men are now engaged in taking out a little chunk measuring 24x8x15 feet, that will require fifteen cars to transport to its destination. Mr. Vinson states he has now the only granite quarry in this part of the northwest. Before locating his quarry up Snake river, above Lewiston, all his stock had to be shipped in from the east, but now he is independent of eastern mine owners and railroads to a certain degree. His new quarries are located about three miles from Haines and three-quarters of a mile from the railroad. He also secured a tract of forty acres near Baker City with granite outcroppings that promise to develop into something.—Walla Walla Statesman.

C. F. RAHT

Assayer  
and  
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