

**SPOKANE PEOPLE
BUY WIGMAN GROUP**

Located by "Monumental" Miller Twenty Years Ago.

Killen, Warner & Stewart have negotiated the sale the Wigman group, owned by "Monumental" Miller, to Spokane parties, whose names are withheld from publication for the present. Neither are the terms of the sale made public.

The Wigman consists of five claims, located on the North Fork of the John Day, in the vicinity of the famous old Monumental mine, from which Mr. Miller derived his sobriquet. As everyone hereabouts knows, Mr. Miller has been operating in that district for more than a quarter of a century. He located these particular claims twenty years ago, and has done the assessment work on them ever since.

A large part of the ground has been washed off for placer gold, revealing a number of ledges. This is in the heart of the district, regarding which THE MINER has several times stated the interesting fact that within a radius of five miles there are twenty-five abandoned arastras. The whole section seems to be underlaid with veins that carry free gold on top, which soon changes to refractory ore, that can't be worked in the arastras, which therefore soon became useless and were dismantled. All the low ground was supplied with placer gold from these ledges. Large areas have been washed and from this source and the free gold surface rock hundreds of thousands of dollars have been taken. It is a most interesting district, as well as a rich one.

On this property one of these arastras still stands, all around which the gravel has been hydraulicked. In excavating for a foundation for the crude gold extractor, a ledge of very rich base ore was uncovered. It carries gold, silver and copper, a large per cent of the values being contained in gray copper, which is about the nearest approach to pure silver found in Nature. At this place, practically on the surface, the ledge is two feet wide, with fifteen inches of solid ore, which assays from \$150 to \$375 a ton. Higher up the mountain side, an open cut reveals another ledge, with two feet of ore carrying fifty-four dollars in free gold.

Mr. Miller was in town Monday, making the transfer of the property. He says his twenty years of assessment work amounts to 340 feet of workings and consists of four tunnels. One is thirty feet and another forty feet in, both of which cut veins at shallow depth; another is a 120-foot crosscut that goes through six distinct ledges, and the other goes in 150 feet on a vein. Encouraging values are encountered everywhere.

Work of developing this property will begin at an early day. The plans of the new owners are not definitely determined at present. It is understood that Killen, Warner & Stewart have an interest in the property, but will not for the present take an active part in its management.

Wet Ore Extraction Process.

Mining men are greatly interested in rumors which are current in lobbies of the hotels of that city that a Denver man has perfected a wet mineral extraction process, by which all the principal minerals are extracted from ores without the use of fire. The process, according to hints that are current, was the result of experiments started for the purpose of discovering gold extraction. In the course of the investigations the experi-

menter discovered a method of overcoming the sulphur in ores without resorting to the furnace. The cost of the process is said to be quite moderate, and minerals are extracted in the following order: Copper, gold, silver and lead. The lead comes down in the liquid as a white powder, but is rapidly converted into common lead. The process may do away with the necessity of large plants and expensive furnaces. Any mine owner with moderate capital can erect a leaching plant, if he has the privilege of the process, and work out his own salvation, regardless of the trust. The most obdurate sulphide ores are said to yield quickly to the treatment, and a course of six months in experiments has demonstrated that the process is one of the most remarkable discoveries ever made by any mining man. A syndicate of eastern capitalists is now in Denver investigating the process for the purpose of securing rights in the United States.

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