

CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH

Dunn and Bessler Win Their Third Drilling Contest.

The Fourth was a rainy, cold, disagreeable day, of course. As a consequence the literary exercises were held in Ellis opera house. Mrs. Sanford read the Declaration of Independence and Rev. J. R. N. Bell, of Baker City, delivered the oration. There was in addition a musical program rendered.

The interest of the day was centered in the team drilling contest, which took place at the corner of Granite and Center streets. Five teams were entered; from Golconda, Campbell and Bevis; Bonanza, Lemon and Switzer; Alamo, Smith and McDonald; Baker City, Rossman and Corniss; Oregon King, Dunn and Bessler.

The last named team, from the Oregon King, drilled a hole into hard Granite 31 1/8 inches, winning the first prize of \$400. The gentlemen from Bonanza drove a hole 29 3/4 inches deep and took second money, \$100. The Golconda boys missed winning this hundred by a scant eighth of an inch, their hole measuring 29 5/8 inches—and Mayor Robbins regretted their defeat more than they did themselves. Both the Baker City and Alamo teams broke drills and had to quit.

The single hand drilling contest was pulled off Saturday afternoon, at the corner of Granite and Mill streets. Ernest A. Grenfell, of the Oregon King, won the first prize, \$125, drilling 16 1/4 inches. Conde, of the Golconda, carried off the second money, \$50, going down 14 1/2. Rossman, of Baker, sunk 10 3/4 and Smith, of Alamo, 8 1/4.

This is the third year that Dunn and Bessler have won the first prize in the team drilling contest, and they wore on this occasion the gold and diamond medals that the ladies of Sumpter presented them two years ago. That night some one stole Dunn's highly prized decoration while he was celebrating. Tom Bessler sharpened Grenfell's drills and coached him during the contest. The impression prevails that Mr. Bessler and his partner's continued triumphs are due as much to his skill in sharpening and tempering their drills as in their joint use of them and the hammer. He is said to possess a knowledge of the art of working steel that no one in eastern Oregon can equal.

In the log rolling contest Friday afternoon, Will Scott, Will Green and John Irvin won the \$75 prize money, loading the ten big logs on a wagon in seven minutes and twenty-five seconds. The other two crews were Hughes, Tibbs and Johnson; Baker, Regan and Findley. Both did excellent, rapid work, but met with accidents and lost—like thoroughbreds.

Saturday afternoon Baker and Jones won \$100 against Scott and Irvin, in eight minutes and thirty-one seconds, official time; outside timers said 7:31.

There were many minor events which filled in the time and entertained the crowd.

Sale of the Red White and Blue.

A sale of the Red White and Blue mine at Malheur City to an eastern syndicate has been consummated, and Mary Richardson, the owner, has been made wealthier by several thousand dollars. The first payment on the purchase price, \$7,500, has been paid over to Mrs. Richardson, and two more payments are to follow. The Red White and Blue mine attracted considerable attention from

mining men for the past year or more and has been under bond several months to the syndicate purchasing it.—Ontario Argus.

MALHEUR GOLD DISTRICT.

Receiving More Attention at Present Than Ever Before.

The Malheur gold district continues to receive attention. Operations on various properties there are brisk, and some work of magnitude is under way. A mill is being put in by a La Grande company that will cost \$75,000.

The Sunset company, of Weiser, is sinking a seventy-foot shaft on the Tenderfoot ledge, and a sixty-foot tunnel will be run along this ledge to strike the contact with the Little Johnnie ledge. Two shifts will be engaged in sinking. The work will require about a month and a half. The shaft is now down about twenty feet, and the ore is becoming baeer. This is encouraging, as it indicates the presence of a large ore body. It is confidently predicted that as the shaft goes down permanent values will be demonstrated.

W. D. Manley, a well known mining man of Calaveras county, California, has become associated with the company, and is now at the mines aiding in the work. The mines are four miles from Malheur City and twenty-four miles from Huntington, by a good stage road, and water for sluicing and stamp mill work is abundantly supplied by First creek.

W. A. Anderson, of Payette, has a claim below the Sunset property on which he has sunk a ten-foot shaft, from which he received two assays of \$120 and \$323. L. E. Verbeck, of this city, also owns a promising property. Seth Roberts, Harrison Jones and others, of Weiser, have secured interests there. Mr. Kriden, of Payette, has recently taken a bond on a claim and will sink a shaft this summer.

One of the most convincing proofs of the richness of the section is the fact that Jack Ennor, who belongs at Weiser, last season took out \$750 in gold with arastra and pan. Mrs. Ennor re-

cently panned out two large nuggets.—Weiser Signal.

Investors, Attention.

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