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SALE OF THE FAMOUS MAXWELL GROUP

Neil J. Sorensen & Co. Close a \$150,000 Deal
for Eastern Clients---Of Vast Im-
portance to the District.

Neil J. Sorensen & Co. have just consummated one of the big mining deals of the year in eastern Oregon. For eastern clients of theirs, George L. Huntington and W. J. Johnson, of St. Paul, and C. P. Berkey, of Minneapolis, they this week bought the Maxwell group, operated by the Pierce Gold Mining company. The control of this valuable property was held in eastern Oregon by Walter M. Pierce and J. A. Howard, of Pendleton; Charles M. Pierce, of Weston, J. R. Roming, of La Grande. J. Albert Cheape, of Virginia, also owned a large block of the stock.

Mr. Sorensen has performed a distinctive service for the mining interests of eastern Oregon, in inducing men of such standing in the financial world to invest their money here. It is such transactions as this that will tend to disseminate world wide knowledge of our mineral wealth, and inspire capitalists with confidence in the district—lack of which has heretofore been its greatest handicap.

It is understood that Neil J. Sorensen will be the resident director and have the general management of the mine.

The Maxwell mine is located in the Elkhorn range, on the east fork of Rock creek, in Baker county, and about twelve miles from Haines, a small town on the O. R. & N. railroad. The famous Baisley-Elkhorn and the Robbins-Elkhorn mines adjoin the Maxwell group on the west, and it is on the same well known slate belt which traverses the country from the Baisley-Elkhorn, on west through the Maxwell group, thence on through the now sensational producers, the North Pole, the E. & E., the Columbia and the Golconda mines.

The property consists of twenty-four claims, eight of which are patented; the other sixteen are held by location possession; two mill sites, two water rights, ditches, adequate boarding and bunk houses, offices, and other improvements. The property is also equipped with a modern ten stamp mill and concentrating plant. The power is furnished both by water and steam.

The development work consists of ten main tunnels all run on ore, they being started each at an elevation of 100 feet above one another, and the tunnels are numbered from one to eighteen. The main work has been done in tunnels Nos. 14 and 18. Tunnel No. 14 has been

driven a distance of 1800 feet on the ledge, exposing two very extensive ore shoots, and a number of smaller ones. No. 18 has been driven a distance of 1750 feet and will tap the ore bodies exposed in No. 14, 400 feet lower. No. 15 tunnel has been driven a distance of some 200 feet and has tapped the first ore shoot exposed in No. 14.

From careful and conservative estimates the development work up to the present time has exposed over 20,000 tons of ore, which is immediately available for extraction and can be run through the mill. The ore is generally a hard quartz heavily impregnated with sulphides pyrite, zinc blende and galena being the most common. Much heavy sulphide ore occurs in the Maxwell, and is purely concentrating and free milling ore. The ore will average from seven to ten per cent concentrates; however, much of the heavy sulphides is often of a shipping grade, sometimes running upwards of a couple of a hundred dollars per ton, but the average value of all the ore as it is exposed in the mine is about fifteen dollars per ton. There is in the neighborhood of 1000 tons of ore now in the ore bins at the mill and at the mouth of the different tunnels, which has been extracted from the tunnels and drifts during the course of development. This ore has an average value of fifteen dollars per ton.

It must be remembered that the Pierce Gold Mining company, the owners of this property, were only developing the mine and blocking out ore, so that when they started their mill they would be able to run for an indefinite period, and the Pierce company may practically be termed purely a development company. Prior to the time this company secured this property, the owners mined and milled a great amount of ore from several of the surface tunnels, at a good profit, especially from the first shoot, known as the Beckwith, encountered in tunnel No. 14, where there was extracted something like 3000 tons of ore, having an average value of about \$15. The total value of this amount of ore is said to have been between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and their stopes were extended practically to the surface.

In a conversation with the manager of one of the largest producers in this district about the Maxwell, he said to a Miner man: "I have examined the

property and have had in mind the securing of it for myself and associates. I am satisfied that it is one of the big properties of the Northwest. The extent of the development is such as to assure beyond all doubt the permanency of the ore shoots, and the values are sufficiently high to insure a magnificent profit. Under the management of Mr. Sorensen, it will only be a question of a short time until the Maxwell will be classed as one of the largest producers of this district."

Owing to the absence of Mr. Sorensen from the city, THE MINER could not learn what his intentions are as to the future of this great mine, or the details of the transaction; but it is reliably reported that the price was \$150,000, with a large cash payment.

Proposed Mail Route Changes.

Several gentlemen who receive their mail at the Bourne postoffice have informed THE MINER that the postmaster there had received a communication from the department intimating that the abandonment of the office was under contemplation. They were, of course, indignant, and justly so, for Bourne, with the exception of Sumpter, is the most important mining camp in eastern Oregon, is the center of the greatest, richest mines on the continent. The postoffice delivers mail to 600 or 700 people and does a big money order business. Therefore THE MINER is pleased to state that the Postal department has no intention of discontinuing the office. Postmaster Jewett says that the plan is merely to discontinue the star route between Sumpter and Bourne and have the Cableville route include Bourne. This will occasion no inconvenience whatever. Tom McEwen has the Bourne contract, which he will probably lose. William Kitchen carries the mails to Cableville and he will take in Bourne, in case the change is made. Postmasters at Granite, Lawton and Alamo have received letters from the department, asking them as to the advisability of changing that star route from Sumpter to Whitney. This move originated with Austin Craig, the postmaster at Whitney, and Joseph Barton, of the Sumpter Valley railway. Their motive is, transparently, a selfish one. The change would inconvenience the public generally and will doubtless not be made.

Eastern Capitalists in Sumpter.

G. I. Lindsay and wife, Miss Isabel Lindsay, Mackay Wells, of Milwaukee; L. E. Lindsay and wife, of New York, arrived in Sumpter yesterday. They are all more or less interested in Killen Warner & Stewart's mining propositions in this district. W. E. Lindsay is the New York representative of the firm and he and G. I. Lindsay have taken an active interest in promoting the smelter enterprise. They are directors of the company, which is organized under the laws of Arizona, and are here to attend a meeting of the directors, to be held in a few days, when W. E. Lindsay will be elected president. Who the other offi-

cers will be is not now generally known. The party is out in the hills today, visiting some of the big mines.

"Miner" Building Moved "Bodily."

Last week Contractor E. Nordyke moved THE MINER building, with the entire printing plant, weighing over 15,000 pounds, a distance of 225 feet, making two half turns, without dislodging a brick from the chimney, breaking a window light, or in any way wrenching the building. About twenty-eight working hours were consumed in accomplishing the job, nine hours to get it on the rollers and seven to get it off and leveled on its new foundation. No capstan was used, but in its stead double block and tackle. The work was certainly well done, and quickly say those who are posted on such business. He is now erecting an addition to the building, making it about double its former size. Increasing business demands this additional room. Mr. Nordyke has his hands full of work.

W. E. Hurd Planning Extensive Work.

W. E. Hurd arrived yesterday from Portland, having returned recently from New York. He will put in a week or more looking over his several mining properties, the Chelan, the Potosi and others, and lay out some additional extensive development work. Men have been at work on the first named for some time past, since its incorporation. Mr. Hurd has put quite as much money into the development of his properties, before realizing any returns, as any operator in eastern Oregon. F. S. Morrison, of Boston, arrived today and in company with Mr. Hurd will visit his properties and some of the big producing mines.

Will Make a Mine of the Diadem.

General Charles S. Warren left Sunday for Butte, after spending several days in Sumpter. He says the Diadem will now be developed into a mine. To arrange for this was the principal object of his trip here at this time. He is a firm believer in the great wealth of the eastern Oregon gold fields, and says the Cracker Creek district will produce more gold than Cripple Creek; that the North Pole is a more valuable mine than the Stratton. His information on this last point is obtained from the headquarters of each, in London.

Owl and Elephant Tunnel Contract Let.

Eugene Bartholf and William Rummery have taken the contract to drive the tunnel on the Owl and Elephant 100 feet further in. It is now in about 150 feet. Mr. Higgins, representing the Maryland syndicate that owns this property, let the contract last week, and work is now in progress. A body of excellent ore has been uncovered and everything indicates the making of a mine of this promising Cable Cove property. The ore, so experts say, can be easily concentrated.

T. G. Harrison, agent for Giant powder company.