



THE SUMPTER MINER

VOL. III.

SUMPTER, OREGON, JULY 30, 1902

NO. 47.

INTERESTING RUMOR.

REPORTED SALE OF SUMPTER VALLEY RAILWAY.

Deal Knocked by Rival, Interested Parties Who Want to Control the Lumber Business Here Themselves—Had Sufficient Pull in Washington to Cause Forest Reserve Order to be Issued.

There is a rumor of all absorbing interest quietly whispered around among a very few of us knowing one during the past few days, relative to the establishment of that aggravating forest reserve, involving an alleged sale of the Sumpter Valley railroad, the Eastern Oregon Lumber company's mill and timber lands, an intimation of the manipulation of the Interior department by a powerful lumber syndicate for selfish ends and the defeat of the plans of a rival concern—and, in fact, a bunch of rumors, equally absurd, the skeptics will insist.

Whether or not there is any truth in the story THE MIXER will not venture an opinion. It sounds reasonable, makes good reading matter and must, therefore, here be told.

As readers of THE MIXER know, for several weeks past the woods hereabouts have been full of cruisers, representatives of two or more big lumber companies, with headquarters in Wisconsin and the world as their field of operation. One of these companies, knowing a good thing when its trusted agent sees it, coveted the splendid bodies of timber lands in the Blue mountains, recognized the fact that in order to control the situation a railroad is necessary, and not being willing to wait the time required to build one, opened negotiations for the purchase of the Sumpter Valley line.

The story goes further and relates that these negotiations proceeded to the satisfactory point of the parties to the deal agreeing on a price for both the road and the lumbering interests, and fixing August 15 as the date on which the purchase price should be paid and the transfer of title made. In this connection it is said that the gentleman who was to close this transaction is now on his way to Sumpter, with a New York draft for seven figures, exclusive of the two ciphers representing no cents, securely pinned in the inside pocket of his vest.

Of course this establishment here of a forest reserve is going to knock the sale, and the above mentioned knowing ones aver that the reserve was established for this purpose; that a combination of eastern men who dabble in politics as a side line to their lumber business, thereby having secured a pull at the national capital, also have a yearning for eastern Oregon timber lands, want it in large tracts, decline to take it in homeopathic doses, and so took this method of shutting out a rival concern, until they can

have time to turn around, as it were, and perfect their plans for a wholesale rape of the virgin forests.

No one has thus far named these gentlemen with the strong influence with the Interior department and the resourceful underground tactics.

Will Inspect the Friday Mine.

Neil J. Sorensen and Otto Herlocker will leave for the Friday, just over the line in Idaho, one day this week. Neither has been there since Superintendent Griffith unwatered the mine, finishing the job several weeks since. A force of men is now engaged drifting on the levels, and every report received is to the effect that the old rich ore bodies left intact when the mine was shut down several years ago on account of litigation, are holding their own, both as to extent and values carried. It is understood to be the intention of the company to sink another 100 feet this season, giving a depth 230 feet and doubling the amount of ore in sight. If this has been definitely decided upon, it has, however, not been publicly announced.

Everett Brown a Busy Man.

Everett Brown, manager of the California and Cracker-Oregon mines, is the busiest man in the camp. Large forces of workmen are employed at the mines, wood and timbers are being gotten out and the plans are about completed for the erection of a ten stamp mill on the Cracker-Oregon and for a concentrating plant on the California. The management of this all falls on Mr. Brown, formerly of Penn Yan, New York, and the way he has taken hold of matters demonstrates his large capacity for business. The concentrating plant on the California will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Latest Rumor About the E. & E.

Again it is reported on the streets that the E. & E. deal has been closed. This time the rumor has it that the purchasers will take possession September 1, and begin work a week later. H. T. Hendryx, of Baker City, who has been working on the proposition in connection with E. P. Cowen, and who went to California some months since, succeeding in securing the signatures of Jonathan Bourne and wife to an instrument agreeing to transfer the great idle property under certain satisfactory conditions, was in town yesterday, but gave out no information regarding the transaction.

Twenty Claims Surveyed for Patent.

John Hagel has been surveying the Eagle Mining company's claims, in the Cable Cove district, for some days past. He has finished the field work, and went out yesterday with a party of gentlemen interested in the company. He says this survey includes twenty claims, for which patent will be applied. It constitutes the largest body of mineral land ever patented in one tract in the state. The impression prevails, somehow, that there is a conflict of interests in this deal and that all kinds of trouble is brewing.

NORTH POLE OWNER HERE

To Consider the Building of That Electric Line to Bourne.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Baring arrived in Sumpter yesterday and were driven at once to the North Pole mine, which Mr. Baring owns.

This forenoon THE MIXER attempted to establish telephonic connection with the gentleman, for the purpose of learning how he enjoyed those trout from Olive lake that he had for breakfast; when he is going to start work on that electric line from Sumpter to Cable Cove, with a branch line to Bourne; whether or not it is a fact, as reported, that a million and a half dollars in gold have been taken out of the North Pole during the past five months, and if so would he kindly send down twenty or thirty pounds of that \$300,000 rock as a pocket piece for the editor; whether he calls London his home, as is generally supposed, or is a resident of equally benighted New York, as the writer is apparently reliably informed, and of making a few other pertinent enquiries of a purely public nature; but the attempt was a dismal failure.

Unfortunately, Emil Melzer, the absolute dictator of that small but rich principality in the absence of its owner, answered the phone, and the courteous request of the newspaper man for some information as to Mr. and Mrs. Baring's movements while in eastern Oregon was turned down with boorish incivility, colored with lofty scorn. Mr. Melzer is one of those men who consider a gold mine a sacred thing, that should be worshipped as is the symbolic calf made of its product; who considers public interest in a mining company nothing less than profane sacrilege and a reporter's impudence in approaching his august personage for the purpose of interviewing him, as a species of lese-majeste. If he lives in America a million or so years, he may perhaps slightly revise this estimate of himself and opinion of others.

Mr. Baring is here at this time for the especial purpose of considering the proposition of building an electric railway from Sumpter to Bourne. At the last meeting of the city council a franchise was granted to construct and operate the road through the streets of Sumpter. The franchise was granted to Tom McEwen, who, it is positively known, is acting for Alexander Baring and perhaps others. It was his desire to have the matter settled then, that the whole proposition might be presented in a business like, complete manner. There is no question but what the road will prove a paying investment from the start, and the hope

is generally entertained that it will be ready to operate about the time the smelter here is blown in. Mr. Baring is hereby assured the most cordial co-operation and considerate treatment by this municipal government, the people of Sumpter and the entire district, in case he decides to engage in the enterprise.

Encouraging Report from the Gipsy King.

W. H. Mather telephoned from the Gipsy King to F. C. Brodie Monday that he and Al Otness had, after doing considerable preliminary work, begun sinking on the rich ore shoot. When down only about six feet eighteen inches of solid ore was encountered, which showed every indication of widening out to the full seven feet between the walls. This is the phenomenally rich ore body of which so much has been said by the press of eastern Oregon. It was found as broken ledge matter on the bank of the creek and assays from \$200 to \$400, never less than the first figure. Mr. Mather said they will soon be bothered with water; that they probably can't work longer than this week without starting the pumps, which will be worked by water power for the present.

Lindsay Party Goes to Alaska.

The Lindsay party, from New York and Milwaukee, that was here last week, left Saturday for a short pleasure trip to Alaska. The gentlemen were more than pleased with the country, viewed from a business standpoint, and after inspecting a number of the producing mines, several properties in which they are interested, especially the Oregon Monarch, they decided to carry out one or two large enterprises which they had under consideration. It is especially gratifying to learn that after personal examination they decided that a smelter here in Sumpter is a good business proposition, better even than Dr. Mueller and his associates had pictured it. The party will return to Sumpter in about two weeks, before going east.

That Bond on the Constellation.

R. H. Kemp, in charge of W. A. McNaughton's business during his absence, with an office over the Bank of Sumpter, received a letter from him a few days since, written from San Francisco. He explained why he could not be here on the twenty-fourth instant and take up the bond on the Constellation, which expired on that date. He said he could not be here for about twenty days, and asked for an extension of the bond for thirty days, which will probably be granted. Mr. McNaughton is working on a big electric power deal, also, and is hopeful of carrying it through successfully. He has shipped from San Francisco to Sumpter a complete assaying outfit for his own use. Both he and Mr. Kemp are assayers.

Call for Bids.

Bids wanted on running a fifty-foot tunnel on a mining claim near Bourne. For particulars apply to Chas. H. Chance, First Bank of Sumpter building.