WORK AT THE CALIFORNIA

Oregon Record Smashed in Opening Up This Mine.

The California mine, owned by the Turnagain Arm Gold Mining company, of Minneapolis, is the scene of much activity at this time. The sawmill is now at work cutting lumber for the concentrating plant, the building for which is being erected as rapidly as the limited force of carpenters can push the work. It has been impossible to secure all the carpenters that could be employed to advantage, owing to the large amount of building now being done in Sumpter and throughout the district.

The sawmill has a capacity of thirty to forty thousand feet a day, driven by the 75-horse power engine, and is now cutting up logs much faster than the lumber is needed. The saw itself is a 56-incher. It will be used permanently for getting out timbers for the mine, after the buildings are all completed.

As stated a week or two ago, the motive power has all been moved from the old tunnel house to the mill site, where the concentrator is being erected. There are two boilers of 60-horse power each, one engine 75 and one of 20-horse power. The former is now being used to drive the sawmill and its installation is only temporary. It will furnish motive power for the rollers and air compressor, and the smaller one for the vanners. They will be in one room and can be operated by one man, a saving of wages and fuel and otherwise an economical arrangement.

Two Cornish rolls, with a crushing capacity of 100 tons a day, have been delivered on the ground. The concentrators and other machinery will arrive at an early day, probably before they are needed. The managers of this property have had the ores tested by the best experts in the west, and know exactly what they are doing-they are not making the ordinary mistake of guessing what process is needed for saving values, to learn that they guessed wrong, after the wasteful expenditure of thousands.

An aerial tram, 2800 feet in length, will be constructed this fall, for the delivery of ore from the working tunnel mouth to the mill. It will be operated on the gravity system, the loaded buckets elevating the empties.

Timbers and lagging have been gotten out sufficient to last all winter, another wise move that will save the company much money. There are also 1000 cords of fuel wood piled up convenient to the

The California is now opened up with over one mile of underground workings. There are seven tunnels, all driven in on the ledge, the lower one being something over 700 feet long and attaining a vertical depth of 985 feet. They are connected by upraises, affording the best ventilation known to mining engineering

With all this work, there will, of course, be no difficulty in supplying the mill with ore for many months to come, even should no more work be done. But the policy of the company is said to be to block out ore bodies at least six months in advance of the reduction plant, and with this in view, a full force ness arithmetic, shorthand and typeof miners will be kept constantly at

It is now estimated that the mill will be in operation by January 1. These Minneapolis hustlers have already broken the eastern Oregon record in developing a mine, and if they succed in their effort to turn out concentrates from their own mill by January, they will have set a pace that few will ever equal,

and perhaps none will surpass. They bought the property sc reely fourteen months ago, when it was little more than prospected, with some surface work high up the mountain side. The greatest depth attained was not more than 100 feet. The ore was tree milling near the surface and considerable gold was taken out in a stamp mill on the property, but the ores became refractory at a depth of about 100 feet, the mill was useless and the mine abendoned for several years on that account. Now, as stated above, there is about one mile of workings on one side of the mountain and no tunnel has gone beyond a point directly under the apex. The company owns ground on the other side that can be worked for one-tenth of what it has cost to do development work, to the present time.

The California is a mine, with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of ore in sight, is being equipped with approved modern machinery and will at an early day be added to the list of eastern Oregon's great gold producers.

Superintendent Walker was in town a day or two since. He says every preparation for all winter work has been perfected and that when the snow disappears next spring, he will have more ore in sight than any other two mines in Cable Cove district.

Inspecting Malheur Oil Fields.

A special agent of the Interior department, attached to the United States geological survey, was in Vale recently and visited the oil fields to investigate the claims set forth by prospectors regarding the exemption of a large tract of land for mineral purposes. He visited the property of the Hirsch syndicate, in Dry gulch, and made a complete investigation of the character of the lands included in these locations. After looking over Sand Hollow and the surrounding country, which is covered with oil locations, he reported that the lands in question are unfit for agricultural purposes and that they are legitimately held under the mineral law. The visit of this special agent is understood to have resulted from a petition signed by J. F. Meikle and many others, who are heavily interested in oil lands, and the agent's investigation will result in the setting aside of a large tract of land for mining purposes, besides preventing the alert homesteader from retarding the development of the mineral resources of Malheur county.-Herald.

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