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SEPARATE WATER SYSTEM FOR FIRE.

Will Lay Another Pipe Line to Handle Water From Ellis Ditch.

A very interesting and important fact developed during a recent conference between Chief Jewett, of the Sumpter Fire department, and Robert E. Strahorn, owner of the Sumpter light and water systems. To insure a perfect deluge of water under very high pressure in case of an unusually large fire, Mr. Strahorn intends laying an entirely independent and separate pipe line about a mile and a half long, from the high lines of the Ellis ditch, which he recently purchased, and down the business center, with separate hydrants on prominent corners opposite the present hydrants. These new hydrants will be fitted for double connection, or two hose lines from each.

With a fall of nearly 400 feet, a great volume of water can be delivered to any desired height, and as the new power system to be built in connection with the Ellis water rights will be of the most permanent and reliable nature, to absolutely insure power every day in the year, this auxiliary water supply will be almost invaluable as additional fire protection, and can be used for some other purposes, such as sprinkling and washing off the streets, irrigation of lawns, etc., should the present supply at any time prove inadequate.

It will be remembered that the scheme embraces ample settling basins, etc., so that the present murky waters of Powder river will be delivered here in

fit shape for anything except domestic use.

All this again emphasizes the fact that Sumpter is indeed fortunate in having its water and light systems in such hands as can and will make any outlay necessary to insure reliable service, even under the most adverse circumstances.

Eastern Oregon Gold Fields.

The gold fields of Oregon are each year growing in wealth and extent. Oregon has never received its proper place from a statistical standpoint—although it is the fault of the mine owners and companies, and not that of the government. Every effort is made by the United States geological survey to get the correct figures, but we are informed that even the figures sent out annually by the government have been added to in many instances, because of a certainty that those sent in were considerably short of the real output. No one is to blame but the mine owners for this state of affairs, and it is no doubt greatly mitigating against the real mining interests of Oregon.—Western Mining World.

Northwestern Surveyed for Patent.

Surveyor John Hagel, of Baker City, last week completed taking the field notes for patent survey of the Northwestern Consolidated Mining company's property, Cracker Creek district. He was prevented by illness from doing some surveying for the North Pole people. Superintendent E. Butze, Sr., of the Northwestern, is authority for the statement that the Vulcan and Badger claims and the Kingpin group of two claims, the Kingpin and Oom Paul, the latter owned by a California company, situated just across the gulch south of the Northwestern and on the same vein, have been bonded to a Minneapolis company. Development work will begin at once under direction of Superintendent Hennessy.

CASCADE FOREST RESERVE.

Its Area, With Recent Additions, is 7,254 Square Miles

Professional Paper No. 9, United States Geological Survey, now in press, consists of reports upon forest conditions in the Cascade Range forest reserve of Oregon, by Messrs. H. D. Langille, Fred G. Plummer, Arthur Dodwell and Theodore F. Rixon, with an introduction by Henry Gannett, geographer, to which has been added the report of J. B. Leibig, relating to the southern end of the reserve, which has already been published in the twenty-first annual report of the survey.

The area of the reserve, including the recent additions, is 7,254 square miles. It is the largest of all the reserves, extending from the Columbia river on the north, southward across the state nearly to the California boundary.

The total area of the reserve is 4,883,588 acres, of which 4,161,764, or 85 per cent, are forested; only eight per cent, or one acre in twelve and one-half, is burned; only five per cent, or one acre in twenty, is open country; and one per cent of the land consists of barren rocks, ice, etc., the remaining one per cent consisting of water surface and of logged and cultivated land.

The total stand of timber upon the reserve slightly exceeds 50,000 million feet,

board measure, or enough to supply the United States for a year and a half. Upon the west of the Cascade range red fir forms 63 per cent of all the timber. East of the range yellow pine constitutes 37 per cent of the timber. The average stand of timber upon the timbered area of the reserve is 8200 feet per acre.

The report discusses in detail the various features of this region in general, and of all the separate townships included in particular.

Work Commenced on Esmeralda.

The Esmeralda Gold Mining company started a force of men working on their property, at the head of Big Cracker creek, the first of the week. The work is merely the preliminary work of cleaning up the 170-foot tunnel and building the boarding house. The work is in charge of Superintendent J. W. Gray, who was formerly foreman of the Columbia mill. The company expects to employ at least fifteen men in extensive development work, with the intention of constructing a mill in the spring. This company is composed of Portland and eastern capitalists and the following Baker City people: D. S., A. E., H. W. and W. H. Kinsey and C. E. Illidge, and J. C. Shea, of La Grande.—Bourne News.

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