

## IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MAXWELL

Model Report Submitted by  
Manager Sorensen.

General Manager Neil J. Sorensen, of the Maxwell, has completed his report on the present condition of the mine and the work done there under his direction, to be submitted to the stockholders in the Elkhorn Consolidated Mining Company, that bought this valuable mining property some months since. For lucidity and completeness, the report will serve as an excellent model. The important facts are given clearly and concisely, and his recommendations are so evidently prompted by experience and intelligence that no argument is necessary or is made to sustain them.

One or two new buildings have been erected and all the old ones repaired, making comfortable quarters for the men. The mill has been overhauled and put in readiness for treating the ore. Ore bins have been removed to a more convenient location and greatly enlarged. Over a mile and a half of new roads on the property, running to wood camps and workings on distant claims—it is a big proportion—have been built and others improved; all with a view to the convenient and economical operation of the mine. This is the work done above ground.

Two vastly important objects have been accomplished in the underground workings. First and foremost, as has been several times mentioned in THE MINER, a cross cut driven from the No. 18 tunnel has encountered the main ledge and opened up a splendid ore body, which the former owners of the property sought in vain for months. No. 14 tunnel penetrates this ore shoot, but all former efforts had failed to uncover it at lower depths. This is a matter of vital importance, as it practically establishes the great value of the mine,—demonstrates that the rich veins found on the surface and the upper workings "go down," a necessary condition in a permanently producing mine.

The other piece of work accomplished, second in importance only to the above, was the changing of the grade of tunnel No. 18. It was so steep that one man could not push a car along the track, and it was found necessary to lower the highest point fully three feet. This task has been completed.

Aside from several minor recommendations, Manager Sorensen urges that the drifts on the ledges in tunnels Nos. 14 and 18 be expeditiously driven further into the mountains to increase the amount of ore in sight, and to drive a double compartment upraise from 18 to 14 and handle all ore through 18, from the mouth of which it can be easily and cheaply delivered to the bins and mill.

**WHAT H. S. McCALLUM HAS DONE**  
Forced Pacific States Telephone Company to Give Better Service.

Sumpter is now in position to reap advantages from the recent telephone-telegraph movements afoot to connect the city in the hills with the world at large. Manager C. E. Porter, of the Pacific States Telephone company, after many moons of inactivity as to the upper camp's welfare, has buoyed the spirits of the habitues there by the statement that he will at once inaugurate operations upon the construction of a telegraph line from there to this city. This is undoubtedly a direct result of the efforts being promulgated by H. S. McCallum to cover the county

with a network of phone and telegraph wires.

Mr. McCallum has ever had foremost in his plans the idea of giving Sumpter direct connection with the outside world by wire, his desire being to string a wire from Sumpter to the Western Union office at Baker City. The proposed move awakened increasing vigor with the Pacific States corporation and it has been stated that within a few days the company will have an independent line into the camp. In the meanwhile, Mr. McCallum is held up by the city council. Favoring the old company, Mr. McCallum's request for a local franchise is held up and may, if luck is with him, be given at the next session. By that time a large portion of the field will have been covered.

The new "hello" aggregation will give the residents of the city and county, so it is affirmed, a better service and install more modern plants. Sumpter has clamored for a wire since its debut. Mr. McCallum is said to be backed by most influential ones there, principally large mine owners, and they stand prepared to extend heavy patronage. The Pacific States company will have an operator in the Sumpter office this week and messages will be ticked over the wires now used upon the long distance phone service.—Herald.

### Steam Rail Road Returns for 1901.

Advance sheets of the introduction to Poor's Manual for 1902 summarizes steam railroad returns for the calendar year 1901. The total mileage completed at the close of that year was 198,787, an increase of 4,454 miles over 1900. The increase in the number of miles operated in 1901 was 3,113 miles, these operating roads reporting an increase in gross earnings of \$101,000,000, of which \$73,000,000 went towards increased operating expenses. Charges of all sorts increased \$6,000,000, dividend payments increased \$13,000,000, and the surplus after dividends increased \$9,000,000. The average per cent of operating expenses to gross earnings in 1901 was 67.93 in 1900. The average rate of interest paid was 4.21 per cent against 4.24 per cent in 1900, the average rate of dividends was 2.62 per cent, against 2.42 per cent in 1900.

### Van Vleet & Wright, Mining Brokers.

Van Vleet & Wright have opened offices in Hotel Sumpter, and will handle mining investments. They are the principal owners and local representatives of the Blue Bird, Gold Bug and other mining companies. Both of these gentlemen are experienced mining men of many years, know the district thoroughly, and will make creditable additions to the mining brokers of this city.

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5-Room House and Lot, good Stable, in Sumpter Heights	700
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