



THE SUMPTER MINER

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MINERAL BANKERS AND CLEARING HOUSE

SUCH WILL BE THE OREGON
SMELTING AND REFINING
COMPANY.

A Home Market Here in Sumpter for all
Products of the Mine, Quartz or Placer
—Bullion, Ore and Concentrates
Purchased—Progress Being Made at
the Works.

The Oregon Smelting and Refining company are rapidly getting in shape to purchase bullion, amalgam, placer gold, or in fact any kind of an alloy of the noble metals no matter how base. These metals will be refined by the company here in Sumpter, paid for spot cash and forwarded by the Smelter company to the markets of the world.

By this means the Oregon Smelting and Refining company of Sumpter will be the mineral bankers and clearing house of eastern Oregon.

What a world of opportunity this plan opens up for the entire district. It will be the next thing to having a government assay office in the state. In some respects it will be better than an institution of that kind. No matter what a miner produces, as long as his product has a metallic value that will pay, he can bring his product, whether pure gold, silver, copper or any compound of these metals to the local smelter, have them separated and refined and obtain the full value for the same without waiting a long time for returns. This will also save him the cost of expressage to distant points, the risk of loss from hold-ups or any other cause.

Those operating stamp mills, or the placer miner can deposit their gold in any bank, if they so choose, and the Smelter company will receive it and attend to the rest. Therefore, anything from pure gold to the most refractory concentrates or rebellious ores, have a cash customer almost at their doors. Within five weeks of this date the Smelting and Refining company will be in shape to carry out these plans.

Sumpter is now the acknowledged mining metropolis of eastern Oregon. With the additional prestige it will gain by the operation of the extensive works of this progressive concern, will place it in a position to rank with any mining or reduction center on the continent.

By the means that the smelter people have adopted, at the end of each year the exact production of the entire country will be known. But it must be understood that no individual's business will be made public. Only the aggregate will be given.

At the site of the works below town everything is bustling activity. The

stone and brick work will be completed in a few days. Grading on the terraces is about all finished. The massive foundation for the 130 foot steel stack is ready to receive its load.

Nearly all timbers for the superstructure are in place, and the immense building is being rapidly housed in.

As soon as practicable the Sumpter Valley Railway company will have the spur from their main line constructed to the works, and it is expected the Smelting and Refining company will be ready to blow in their first furnace before early spring is far advanced.

At their commodious office everything is completed, and this structure is ready for occupancy. It is in this building where gold and silver bullion will be separated and refined, as outlined in the foregoing.

COMPLETE UP-TO-DATE FURNACE

New Feature in Robbins & Robbins Assay
Office and Laboratory.

Robbins & Robbins have added a new furnace to the equipment of their assay office and laboratory, which is about as up-to-date and complete as any innovation of the kind to be seen anywhere.

This furnace is just large enough to hold two muffles, size nine by seven by fifteen inches, one being above the other. The lower being used for scorifying and crucible work and the upper for cupelling.

This furnace is built of fire brick, sheathed with asbestos, over this a covering of sheet iron and sheeted over that again will be another layer of asbestos.

By this means it will be next to impossible to lose any heat. Soft coal will be used as fuel, which is an advantage in many ways. The doors are of asbestos with mica windows.

They also have a gasoline furnace which will be used as occasion requires.

Developing the Cracker Eagle.

On the Cracker Eagle, one of the Killen, Warner, Stewart mines, the crosscut which has been energetically pushed forward for some time so as to cut that immense vein from wall to wall, is now in over 140 feet, starting on the hanging and ran to cut the foot wall. The objective point has not been reached yet. However over thirty feet of fine milling ore is developed.

It is the intention when the foot wall is found to drift both ways along this wall, crosscutting at intervals so as not to miss the rich shoots of ore which are known to exist in that wonderful fissure in other places. Superintendent Jackson, who has the work in charge, has had considerable experience in opening up other mines on the great mother lode, and is considered qualified on account of his past experience to find the pay channels in the one where he is now directing development.

Something to depend upon—Giant powder.

OUT NEAR THE IBEX.

An Eastern Company is De-
veloping a Splendid
Showing.

Preparations are being made for more extended operations on the Tahoma group of four claims and a fraction, located about one and a half miles south west of the Ibox mine and on the same mineral belt.

Lumber is now on the ground for the building of large quarters so that quite a number of men can be added to the force and comfortably housed.

Wm. B. Bailey and Andrew Green have owned this property for four years. Last September they bonded it to Maryland parties for eighteen months. It is the parties holding the bond who are now doing the development work.

Previous to bonding, the original owners sunk two shafts. One thirty and the other thirty-five feet deep. They also ran two adit tunnels, one 120 and the other 150 feet in length. These tunnels are from 140 to 250 feet from the surface at their faces.

In the thirty foot shaft there is a streak of ore from two to four inches wide which is said to be worth over \$1 per pound in gold.

Samples taken across the thirty-five foot shaft, four feet and eight inches in width, return an average value of \$12.33 per ton in gold.

In places the main vein is forty feet in width. In all the openings the vein matter and ore is much wider than either shaft or tunnel.

Four veins in all cross the locations and the parties holding the bond propose to prove the value of all of them.

SNOW-SHOEING TO SOUTH POLE.

This Mine can now be Reached From
Sumpter.

W. W. Robbins arrived in town this afternoon from a trip to the tunnel of the South Pole Consolidated Mines company on Rock creek.

This is the first trip to the property Mr. Robbins has made by crossing the North Pole mountain since the snow fell.

He left the camp at the mouth of the tunnel at 9 o'clock this morning, traveling on Web snow shoes, and reached Bourne by noon. He had a number of samples with him.

The tunnel he went to inspect is now in 850 feet. All but the first 100 feet is in ore of a grade which appears to be satisfactory to the company.

Up to the present there has been so little travel over North Pole mountain that the trail was not kept open. Mr. Robbins has made several trips when he had to go and return via Baker City, traveling sixty miles to reach a point not much over eight miles from Sump-

ter. The snow has drifted considerable on the route, but its general average is six or seven feet on a level.

TO ERECT MILL ON JAY GOULD.

New York Capitalists Will be Here in a
Few Days.

A local mining man received a letter yesterday from Cyrus Bradley, of Spokane, stating that he and a number of New York money men would be in Sumpter in a few days for the purpose of examining the Jay Gould group, and if the appearance of the property justified it, a ten stamp mill would be erected as soon as possible.

The Jay Gould group consists of five claims, and is located on Gimlet creek, about ten miles westerly from Sumpter. It is owned by Bradley, Holterman and Thomas. Mr. Thomas now being in charge of the property. Over 2000 feet of work has been performed on the group, and vast quantities of ore are in sight.

If the New Yorkers are pleased with the outlook, they will furnish all the capital necessary to equip the mine with all necessary machinery, taking stock in the company to reimburse them.

Know of Eastern Oregon Now.

Dr. E. W. Mueller, general manager of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, has returned from a month's vacation spent at his old home, St. Joe Missouri, and in Chicago. The doctor says there is a great difference between going east than any time in the past as far as eastern Oregon is concerned. Heretofore if this country was mentioned people would express surprise if told that gold was produced in this portion of Oregon. Now, if it is known a person is from the Sumpter district, they are plied with questions about different mines whose names appear to be quite familiar to those who take an interest in the industry. It appears the fame of eastern Oregon is spreading rapidly, due in great measure to those enterprising enough to advertise its resources.

Cleaver Brothers' Propositions.

E. E. Cleaver was in town Sunday, from Prairie City. Acting for Major Bonta, he keeps a force of men at work continuously at the Will Cleaver groups. He hears regularly from that gentleman, who left for the east December 20. He writes very encouragingly relative to the progress being made to finance the electric line proposition. Dr. Lon Cleaver has been sick in Baker City for a month past, which has delayed some of Cleaver Brothers' business plans.

Spokane Mountain Claims.

Mr. W. H. Atkinson, of Hailey, Idaho, one of the owners of the O. K. group on Spokane mountain, near Granite, is at the property doing the assessment work. The work that has been done on Spokane Mountain during the past year gives every indication of making the O. K. one of the valuable properties of that locality.—Granite Gem.