



THE SUMPTER MINER

BIG STRIKE IN ALAMO MINE.

TWELVE HUNDRED FOOT TUNNEL PENETRATES THE LEDGE.

At a Depth of Nearly Six Hundred Feet Below the Surface the Long Tunnel Encounters Ore Body Developed in Upper Workings—Most Important Strike Made in that Section.

One year and twenty days after breaking ground, the lower tunnel of the Alamo consolidated mining and milling company reached the immense gold bearing vein which traverses Quebec mountain, on last Sunday morning.

It did not require all of this time however, to drive this tunnel of 1200 feet through solid rock to its intersection with the wide ore body that has now been cut.

Well posted persons say that this tunnel, nearly a quarter of a mile in length, has been run for less money than any other work of the kind in eastern Oregon.

Last July, when in about 580 feet from the portal, the air in the tunnel became so foul that it was absolutely necessary to close down for a time so as to put in an air blast. As a ditch had to be constructed so as to use water power, work on the tunnel had to be suspended for nearly three months.

When seen in Sumpter yesterday, James P. McGuigan, president and general manager, stated that the tunnel had been pushed into the ore shoot ten or twelve feet, and there was no question but that it was the same as developed in the levels above.

This gives the owners a vertical depth from the surface of 510 feet; but following up the dip of the vein the distance to the outcrop will be over 600 feet. Making a body of ore of such magnitude that there will likely be several millionaires in the company before it is worked out.

Mr. McGuigan also states that the grade of ore encountered is as good and probably better than any developed in the two levels above. The new strike also shows free gold, which is quite a feature in the upper workings.

This company, whose principal office is in Spokane, Washington, own five claims and a fraction on the north east slope of Quebec mountain, on the outskirts of the town of Alamo. All the claims are held by virtue of United States patents.

Near the top of the mountain, from a saddle on the east slope, Number 1 tunnel, 100 feet in length, cuts the vein seventy-five feet in depth. From this point a drift follows the vein 120 feet

and an upraise has been made to the surface, following the ore all that distance.

From this tunnel level a winze has been sunk seventy-five feet and a cross-cut at the bottom shows the ore body to be twenty feet wide. Through this entire width free gold is distributed and the results of many assays give a value of from \$5 to \$8 per ton in gold. Being so near the surface, the ore here is of lower grade, characteristic of Sumpter mines.

Tunnel Number 2, is driven into the mountain from the north east slope, and is 200 feet vertically below Number 1, and cuts the vein at a distance of 280 feet. Numerous crosscuts show the ore body to be from twenty-five to thirty feet in width. It is said that Patrick Clark, the Spokane mining millionaire, at this point offered the Company \$250,000 cash for the property.

Samples taken from different points on this level and from the crosscuts and also from the dump, after being carefully assayed, returned values of from \$6 to \$20, per ton in gold. Pans of ore can be taken at random on this dump and colors of gold obtained every time. A great deal of the ore shows gold visible to the naked eye without panning.

Above Number 2 tunnel, before the last 100 feet was run on the ore shoot, competent engineers measured this ore body and calculated there was in sight at that time and ready for extraction, 196,975 tons of ore which would range in value from \$6 to \$20 per ton in gold.

This property is situated on an ideal site, for economical working. The company have two water rights, mill site and some placer ground for dumping and building purposes. They have had arrangements made for a mill for some time, but were waiting the results of this lower tunnel development.

In Charge of Cracker-Oregon.

D. M. Waters, of the late firm of McEwen & Waters, assayers and metallurgists of this city, has been appointed superintendent of the Cracker-Oregon mines at Bourne, and entered upon the discharge of his duties yesterday. Mr. Waters laid the foundation of his mining and metallurgical education at the famous Edinburgh University in Scotland. He has added to this primary training by years of employment among the big mines and reduction works of Colorado, British Columbia and other mining sections. There is no question but that his services with the Cracker-Oregon will meet the approval of that mining company.

Owed By Original Discoverer.

The ore from the Morning mine in the Greenhorns, which is now being run through a five stamp battery of the Psyche mill, averages \$80 per ton in gold. The Morning group was discovered, developed and still owned by the parties who first found it, demonstrating what perseverance and industry can do when properly applied in the making of a bonanza out of an eastern Oregon prospect.

ON STORM KING AT CABLE COVE

Extensive Improvements Being Made and More in Contemplation.

At the Storm King group, in Cable Cove district, the Forest Mining company are pushing work on the main shaft.

This shaft is now down twenty-eight feet, and for some time has been following a body of ore three feet wide which samples \$85 per ton.

Judging from the fact that this pay shoot has been continually widening from the surface, there can be but little doubt that it will be the full width of the shaft when a depth of seventy-five feet is attained.

The Advance Mining company, which is the fiscal agent for the Forest Mining company, is now perfecting arrangements to develop several other promising propositions in the vicinity of the high grade Storm King group.

Among the many contemplated improvements will be a section of wagon road two and one-half miles in length by which the company can transport their ore by wagons or sleds instead of by pack animals, as at present.

This road will be an extension of the one from Sumpter to the Last Chance mine, and will enable the company to utilize the electrical or steam railway which will sooner or later be constructed from Sumpter to Cable Cove.

In addition to the above, the company are contemplating and figuring on the cost of building about one mile of wagon road down the north fork of the John Day river. This improvement will intersect the Sumpter-Granite county road.

It is claimed that these enterprises will be undertaken and completed as soon as the conditions will permit. Besides being a great benefit to the Forest and Advance Mining companies, they will tend to make the district where their property is located, more accessible for every one.

WILL BEGIN WORK IN THE SPRING

Proposed Developments on the Black Jack Group.

The Lincoln, Nebraska, people who a few weeks ago purchased the Black Jack group of claims adjoining the Oregon Monarch on the south, have notified their Sumpter associates that as soon as the snow leaves the ground, everything will be pressed to make an early producer of the property.

The probable plan of development will be to open the mines from the Clear Creek side of the hill. The tunnel already started on the Congress claim

can be driven on the vein for three claim lengths, or 4500 feet, and will give a depth of at least 1000 feet under the apex.

This will give an immense stoping area, and will enable the management to block out a very large ore reserve. From this tunnel crosscuts can be run to open the parallel ledges, making it a splendid, economical mining proposition.

Death of Miss Ida E. Hoffman.

Ida Ephemie Hoffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hoffman, died in this city this morning of quick consumption. Miss Hoffman was born at Cozad, Nebraska on July 11, 1883. The remains will be interred in the Blue Mountain Cemetery on Friday, the 23d instant. Father Desmarise of Baker City, will conduct the funeral from the family home on Auburn Street. Miss Hoffman has resided in Sumpter about three years, except for six months spent visiting friends in Nebraska during the past year. She returned to Sumpter last July and made this city her home until the grim messenger called her hence.

More North Pole Shipments.

A number of four horse teams went down to Sumpter from the North Pole mill Friday loaded with concentrates. The concentrates were loaded on to cars and will be shipped to the Tacoma smelter. It is the regular monthly output from the mill, and aggregates 43,000 pounds, or two car loads. The value of the shipment could not be ascertained, but the concentrates are said to be as rich as the shipment made last month. It is believed that the monthly output will be more than doubled as soon as the old ten stamps are again added to the battery, which will give the mill thirty stamps in active operation.—Bourne News.

Operations on Big Producer.

Manager Wm. H. Chambers is crowding work on the Big Producer group near Alamo, and expects to cut the Boston Boy ledge in a few days. If this tunnel develops the ground at depth as it shows up on the surface, the Big Producer company will be entitled to congratulation. There are eleven claims in the group. A few days since quite a strike was made on the Moulder Boy, another claim of the company's mines. A. B. Browne, of Browne & Smith, will go out in a few days to make an examination and perform some engineering work on this property.

City Recorder and Magistrate.

Professor S. S. Start now holds the position of city recorder with which other duties and the emoluments of office are combined. Mr. Start has been identified with mining to a considerable extent. Last year he was principal of the Sumpter school. He and his brother are more or less interested in mines and town property throughout Baker and Grant counties, and have some valuable interests in Alaska.