

**THAT W. & O.  
RAILROAD.**

**"Miner's" Surmise Already  
Receives Partial Con-  
firmation.**

Last week THE MINER published a story about the projected Washington and Oregon railroad, one section of which is to run between Sumpter and Baker City; making the guess that this is a part of a through north and south line from the British boundary. Already this surmise has received partial confirmation. The last issue of the Union Republican republishes the original press dispatchs, which was sent out from Spokane, announcing the successful financing of the enterprise, which reads as follows:

"W. C. Morris, a well known promoter and railway operator, returned from the east today and will at once set about the work of construction of the Washington & Oregon Railroad Transportation company. During his stay in the east, where he went for that especial purpose, Mr. Morris raised \$900,000 on bonds of the road he represents and it is now announced that the new road out of Sumpter is assured."

The Republican then says: "The above telegram seems to indicate that this gigantic inland railway project is about to materialize.

"Promoters have been quietly at work on the project for the past year. They have kept their council well, but the fact that they have floated bonds to begin work makes the project a matter of the keenest interest to the public.

"The preliminary survey of the Washington & Oregon road, we have been informed, begins at some point on the eastern part of the state of Washington and comes up Grande Ronde river, traversing the entire length of Grande Ronde valley, passing up the east side of Pyle canyon, going through Powder River valley to Baker City and thence to Sumpter.

"The project is said to be backed by Henry Hewitt Jr., a millionaire sawmill man at Tacoma, and other capitalists.

"Mr. J. M. Younce, the well known farmer of North Powder, informs us that while at Baker City last week he was told by a party connected with the project that the road would pass through Grande Ronde valley as outlined above, and that its construction, was a certainty in the very near future."

**What "Horse Power" Means.**

In steam boilers the usual value given to the term "horse power" is the evaporation of thirty pounds of water at a temperature of 100° F. into steam at seventy pounds pressure above the atmosphere. The quantity of coal consumed in generating one horse power varies greatly, depending on the kind and condition of coal used, the size and kind of boiler, and no small extent on the method of firing—the personal equation being a large one where a mechanical stoker is not used. The most common causes for complaint in inefficient steam plants are poor draft, insufficient grate surface, poor coal, furnace not adapted to kind of coal, bad setting of boiler, leaks of air through brick work, improper firing, boiler too small, which means insufficient heating surface, bad water, and lack of water heaters and dampers in tack. The amount of coal burned per square foot of grate surface varies greatly. For instance, with good coal and a good boiler

er eight pounds of coal consumed per hour will require .43 square foot of grate surface per horse power generated, and forty pounds per hour will require but .09 square foot of grate surface per horse power generated. Thus it will be seen that power will be generated much more cheaply in a large boiler than in a small one. The cost per horse power of electricity depends entirely upon the power employed in generating it. The cheapest is undoubtedly that which is generated by the employment of free water power, and the most expensive, that generated in a plant having insufficient boilers, poor quality of fuel and bad management.—Mining and Scientific Press.

**Another Fake Mining Scheme.**

The method of guaranteeing mining shares is a pernicious one. In nearly every instance the guarantee is not worth the paper it is written upon. The assets of a mining company undergoing the many vicissitudes of formation and development are largely imaginary—hence what security or guarantee has a purchaser of its shares that will protect the investor from loss. Seldom is a property mortgageable for sufficient to develop it and equip it with the necessary machinery, stamp mill or smelter. Then, wherein is the investor guaranteed from loss? Seldom is a promoter in a position to put up the bonds or other securities to protect the guarantee. Occasionally a method is adopted, where a certain per cent of the funds obtained from sale of shares, which placed at interest for a certain period, will guarantee the original investment. In this case the purchaser puts up the guarantee. The business of placing guaranteed stock is so foreign to good, honest and legitimate mining, that the investment in them should be scrutinized even more carefully than others.—Western Mining World.

**Great Progress Made in Metallurgy.**

The advance along metallurgical lines, in smelting and in mill practice within the past two or three years, have made marketable a grade of ore so low as to give commercial value to hundreds of mines having large bodies of deposits heretofore considered worthless. The attractive feature of this lies in the fact that the heaviest dividend producers in the entire country are the large bodies of low grade ore. The all absorbing question of profitable treatment has to be met and answered at the very threshold of the enterprise; and this is what up-to-date methods of reduction have done. It is now no longer a question as to whether \$5 ore can be profitably treated; but—how much have you? With \$100,000 cash capital and a corps of competent men in charge of the mine, and the business affairs, it is not a wild prediction to state that the money can be made to earn dividends of 25 to 50 per cent a year.—Western Mining World.

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