

RICH ORE AT THE BLUE BIRD.

**Fifty Cents in Gold Taken
From one Drill Hole—Buck-
horn to be Developed.**

O. C. Wright, general manager of the Blue Bird and Buckhorn, returned from a visit to the properties last week. The main object of the trip was to take a preliminary survey of the Buckhorn to start operations there in a short time. This group of claims which was only recently acquired by its present owners has all been paid for and the deeds were passed only a few days ago. The treasury stock is now in the market. Some repairs are needed before actual development work is started. The floor in the main working tunnel will have to be taken up and placed on a better grade. The tunnel will also be retimbered. A double shift will be started in a short time. It is believed that the Buckhorn will develop into as good if not a better proposition than the Blue Bird, its sister property. Machinery will be installed as soon as the roads open up.

The company is figuring on plans for the ten-stamp mill which is to be put in at the Blue Bird this summer. In the meantime ore is being blocked out preparatory to the installation of the plant. Just as little as possible is being taken out, only a sufficient amount to make way for the workings, and owing to the high grade of the ore, this is being panned in tight bins to save all the siftings.

Last week when Mr. Wright was in the mine, Superintendent Thorp took the drillings from one drill hole, panned them down, and from this small amount of drill dust extracted fifty cents worth of gold. This shows the high quality of the ore. The company is very much elated over the prospects of these two properties, and will make a big showing on them during the summer.

MONEY IN CHROMIC DEPOSITS.

**Prospectors Should Look for This Ore—
It Pays.**

On account of the increasing demand for chromite or chromic iron, in the arts and industries, it will pay prospectors to be on the watch for deposits of the mineral. As a mineral it is used for furnace and hearth linings; chromium is used extensively as an alloy, especially with steel, which it renders intensely hard, and the salts of chromium enter very largely into the manufacture of pigments.

The value of chrome ore depends upon its percentage of chromic oxide. The standard ore contains fifty per cent of this oxide, and there is an

increase in value of seventy-five cents to \$1 per ton for every unit above fifty per cent, and a much greater deduction for every unit below fifty per cent. The value of the ore is increased by having a low percentage of silica; and even when they are as low as forty-five per cent in chromic oxide they find a ready market if they are low in silica, at prices ranging from \$10 to \$15 per ton.

Chromite has been found in quantity in Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina and California. The mineral does not occur in well-defined veins, but is found in masses or pockets, which apparently have no relation whatever to one another. Especially in California the mineral occurs in the serpentines which are found extensively in many of the counties. Mining for chromite has been prosecuted spasmodically in Alameda, Calaveras, Del Norte, Fresno, Mendocino, Napa, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sonoma and Tehama counties.—Mining and Engineering Review.

FREIGHT RATES TO BE REDUCED.

**General Freight and Passenger
Agent Barton Confers With
the Business Men.**

As previously agreed upon between the business men of Sumpter and the management of the Sumpter Valley Railroad company, Joseph Barton, of Baker City, general freight and passenger agent for the company, met a committee of Sumpter business men Friday in the office of J. H. Robbins, to confer regarding the reduction of freight rates from Baker City to Sumpter. The details of the meeting were not given out for publication, but it is understood that Mr. Barton held out the hope that the concessions asked will be granted. In fact it is stated that the company had practically the same reductions under advisement and would doubtless have made them had no movement to this end been inaugurated.

However, Mr. Barton was not in a position to pass finally upon the matter until he had conferred with his company. He stated that the company felt most favorably inclined toward Sumpter, and was disposed to meet the business interests here half way, in the concessions asked.

The committee which met Mr. Barton consisted of the following well known business men, representing the general scope of the industries of the city: Hon. J. H. Robbins, Senator Hobson, C. C. Basche, J. P. Holland, and E. P. Bergman.

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