



# THE SUMPTER MINER

## PLATINUM DISCOVERED AT THE STANDARD.

### This Rare Metal Thought To Exist In Commercial Quantities In The Ruby Vein Of This Property.

Platinum in commercial quantities has been discovered in the Ruby vein of the Standard mine. Dr. Ed W. Mueller, general manager of the property, is authority for this statement. He is not prepared, however, to give out the definite platinum values encountered, but states that this rare metal he is satisfied beyond any question exists in paying amounts. In addition to the discovery reported by Dr. Mueller, platinum has been found in the speiss from the smelter formerly operated at the Standard.

The existence of platinum in commercial quantities at the Standard will greatly add to the value of this mine which has already been demonstrated to produce high grade gold, cobalt and copper ores. It will give the Sumpter district an output of the only precious metal which is really of industrial use. The commercial value of platinum is about \$19 an ounce, or practically the same as gold. While gold, and silver also, are used mainly for decorative purposes and as mediums of exchange, platinum is almost indispensable in many branches of industry. It is one of the noble metals chemically, but its appearance is not such as to make it sought for purposes of ornamentation. It is heavier than gold, having a specific gravity of 21.5 while that of gold is between 18 and 19. The expansive properties of platinum are practically the same as glass which makes it possible to imbed it in glass without any

danger of cracking, thus making it of vast importance commercially in electricity. It is also of importance in industrial chemistry in the construction of stills, in telegraphy, other electrical appliances, and in various fields of industry.

The metal, however, is very rare, the chief supply at present coming from the Ural mountains. It was discovered by the Spaniards in South America early in the sixteenth century, and called "platina del Pinto," or the little silver from the River Pinto. It was thought by them to be a form of silver. The Urals furnish about 8,800 pounds yearly, while to the rest of the world is accredited less than a thousand.

There are numerous instances of small amounts of platinum having been found in the placers throughout the Sumpter district, but it was never thought to exist in paying quantities until the recent discovery made at the Standard. It is possible that some of the other rarer metals as palladium, rhodium, osmium, iridium and ruthenium, belonging to the platinum group and with which the latter is invariably associated will also be brought to light.

Recent assays at the Standard have shown exceptionally high values in gold, silver and copper. Out of twelve assays made last week, the lowest was \$28.80 and the highest \$298.40, making an average of over \$60, not counting the cobalt or platinum. These it is estimated would run the average to over \$100.

### SMELTER NOW RECEIVING ORE.

#### Several Mines Shipping—Siding To Be Put In Soon.

Joseph Barton, general freight and passenger agent of the Sumpter Valley railroad, while in the city

yesterday, assured the management of the Sumpter smelter that work on the siding is to be started at once and pushed rapidly to completion. The smelter is already receiving ore and concentrates from the Mammoth, Bald Mountain, Morning and Standard. With the completion of the siding thus providing rail transportation facilities, a means will be offered for rapidly increasing the ore receipts.

Dr. E. W. Mueller, manager of the smelting company is

unable to name a date at which the smelter will blow in, since this depends largely on the amount of ore shipments, but states that operations will be started at the soonest possible moment. The company has been ready to receive ore for some time, but the matter has been held back on account of bad roads, and lack of rail facilities. It is now up to mine operators to encourage the industry and expedite matters by getting in readiness to ship as soon as possible.

#### Gold Bug Stock

At the solicitation of Van Vleet & Wright, fiscal agents for the Gold Bug, the directors of the company have agreed to allow them to honor all orders for Gold Bug stock at ten cents a share post marked up to July 15. The stock will advance on this date.

### QUICK WORK AT HIGHLAND

#### Management Considering Adviseability Of Shipping Ore Soon.

Word was received from the Highland mine yesterday to the effect that the high grade ore body which was recently encountered was increasing in width, and was at that time over four feet wide. This shoot has been driven about fifty feet and the indications are that as more depth is attained higher values may be expected.

The ore is a beautiful sulphide carrying some silver and is said by competent judges to be an ideal concentrating ore. The opinion of several local mining operators is that it will reach a depth beyond which any modern appliances will ever be able to handle it. A number of eastern gentlemen visited the mine this week and are said to have assured the management of sufficient funds to thoroughly develop the property. Owing to the fact that a large amount of ore is already on the dump, ready for shipment, the management is considering the advisability of commencing to ship it to the smelter. If this is done it will beat all records of Eastern Oregon for quick and effective development work, as the property has been under the present management but a short time.

The splendid progress of the work speaks well for the management, and if indications count for anything the Highland will surely be added to the already long list of producers in Eastern Oregon.

### BLACK BUTTE CHANGES HANDS.

#### EASTERN CAPITALISTS TAKE OVER THE PROPERTY.

Deal Negotiated by O. C. Wright, of Sumpter, and Ed C. Allen, of Portland—Thirty Claims Involved—Cash Transaction—New People to Start Improvements at Once.

O. C. Wright, president of the Blue Bird, and Ed C. Allen, of Portland, representing eastern capital have just completed a deal for the acquisition of the holdings of the Black Butte Mining company. These include thirty quartz and placer claims, or 608 acres of ground, nine miles from Dixie Butte in the Fox Valley, Grant county. It was a cash transaction, and the deeds have already passed, but the people interested decline to mention the amount involved.

The Black Butte is an old property, having been worked for the last twenty years, during which time it is estimated that over \$200,000 in bullion has been taken out from the quartz and placer workings. Although the placers have been worked continuously for twenty years, it is stated that operating two giants they are good for thirty years more. The property has a mill on it with a daily capacity of thirty-five tons, but this has not been run for the last seven years. The placers, however, were operated this season and have just been closed down on account of the lack of water.

Mr. Allen will have superintendence, and the new people will work the property on an extensive scale. A hoist with a capacity of 500 feet depth is to be installed as soon as possible, and sinking begun on the Black Butte proper. It is the purpose to block out the ore and start the mill at an early date. The company will also begin at once turning Belshaw Creek into the placer reservoirs which will insure an abundance of water for an entire season. This work will be completed at a cost of \$2,000. The new people have outlined a policy for extensive improvements and developments and will carry it into execution at once.

#### Smelter Open to Visitors the Fourth

The management of the smelter will throw the plant open to visitors on the Fourth. Those who have never been through the smelter will have an opportunity of doing so, and will be shown around the various parts of the institution.