

LOCATING ORE BY ELECTRICITY.

Judge Owen And Engineer
Lee, Of Chicago, Operating
In District.

Judge Ernest Dale Owen of Chicago, president of the Electric Metal Locating company, and Oscar J. Lee, chief electric and terrohmtric engineer for the company, were in the city Saturday looking after reported infringements of patents covering the devices for locating ore bodies which the company controls.

The Metal Locating company, of Chicago, is the main owner of the Cyclone property in the Virtue district, near Baker City. In the instance of this property the vein, whose exact situation had not been determined, was located by Engineer Lee, and development work is now proceeding in accordance with the data furnished by him. The ledge proved to be ten feet wide and carries satisfactory values. The company will rapidly develop the property, and, it is stated will install machinery at no distant day.

The principle of electric location of metals has been repeatedly discussed in these columns. The theory of measuring the resistance of an earth current through an ore bearing streak between two points of contact, is well known and generally accepted by scientific men. As the conductivity of ore is greater than ordinary earth, the resistance therefore less, bodies are thus determined. In addition to this the company is also prepared by the use of other electrical instruments to give the depth of the ore bodies.

The several devices are the invention of Frederick H. Brown, lately of Chicago, but now of California. These are thoroughly protected by several patents which the Electric Metal Locating company owns.

Both Judge Owen and Engineer Lee are spending some time in Baker City looking after their interests. The company also has extensive mining properties in Idaho.

MISTAKES OF MINE INVESTORS.

Judge Newbury Expresses His Views in
Regard to the Matter.

The banker, railroad president or owner of large business enterprises is very much like other people when surrounded by like conditions, and is apt to assume that he is pretty smart and knows how to invest in mines or mining properties without being told by anyone. But such is not the case, for it makes no difference how well and successful a man may be in the management of his banking, railroad or other line of business, if he has not spent his own time and money to study the

formation, all the characteristics and conditions of the mining section in which he contemplates investing; and also, what the surface conditions are and what has been the result of development, he has nothing upon which to safely rely as a justification for making an investment on his own judgment. Nearly all make the same mistake. If they invest or do not invest at this point.

But if they do not invest on their own judgment they nearly all make the mistake of overlooking the practical mining man who is familiar with the section they are seeking and they send to Montana, Colorado, Arizona and perhaps to South Africa or Mexico for some noted mineralogist of whom they have read or personally know, and in time he is brought to the district to make an examination. Now without any reflection on the noted mineralogist when he reaches the district it does not take him long to see that it is entirely different from anything he ever saw before on earth, that it is not as he had pictured it and hoped to see it and it does not look good to him. If honest with himself and others he must admit that he does not know anything about it. For the truth is that he does not know anything more about the new conditions than a hog does about music and will not until he has studied and investigated the district at his employer's expense. So he reports to his principal that it is no good and turns everything down. The investor still thinks and is now sure he was smart in getting this expert to keep from being imposed upon and defrauded out of his money. Now what are the facts? The investor is paying this expert big money as a salary and very heavy expenses. In fact paying him while he is educating himself so that he may be of service to some one later on, when he is fully informed as to the district. This course of procedure is the sole cause why all the old producing mines of this section have been turned down by examiners (strangers to the district) more times than the investor has fingers and toes.

And the intending investor congratulated himself on his wisdom but it is of the idiotic type. For instance, the Bonanza mine has been turned down after examination by people who knew nothing of that district, more than a dozen times, but a miner got hold of it and without sufficient capital showed it up so it sold for \$750,000, which he and his co-owners received for a good property which cost them only \$5,000. Portland pocketed the loss of \$30,000 for development. This is only one instance. There are many more very much like it in this district. It is no sign that because a man can wisely operate a lead mine in Missouri where he is familiar with the formation and ore that he can mine gold or tell when he has a good mine in Oregon,

until he has educated himself as to the formation, ores, combinations and conditions in the new district.

What is the remedy? I answer it is easy and plain to those who have observed and experienced the things before enumerated. It follows, let the intending investor take all the time necessary to investigate and find an honest, honorable and competent man who has spent his own time and money to examine said district and who has mined therein, who knows from personal examination what the formation of ore is in various sections in said district, what the surface conditions and values are and what results have been obtained by development and the character of the development in each case. When such a man is found employ him to examine and report on the district by sections and pay him a fair price therefor. Then the investor has something reliable and then when a property has been selected for examination is time enough to send for a mineralogist to examine the workings and the value of the mineral therein. This is all the use the investor has for the mineralogist up to this stage, for the competent miner who first reported on the district can inform him. If the underground workings are properly timbered and the investor can rely on his honest, honorable and competent man and his information and it is much less expensive and far better than to send to South Africa for a man who is no more qualified to give an opinion as to what the investor should do, until has spent a large amount of the investor's money to find out,

than a hog is to run a music store.

But after the aforesaid preliminary work by the competent and honorable miner who has spent his own time and money to learn those things, requisite to and preceding the examination and purchase, will be abundant time for the intending purchaser to call to his aid the mineralogist and mining expert. This course if adhered to by investors would result in much less expense to them and the purchase and development of valuable mines where, as now conducted it only results in heavy expense for the opinion of a mineralogist who knows nothing of the district and a failure to purchase what might be a good mine.

The point most to be emphasized is: That intending investors in this or any other district, that secure a competent man who has educated himself, instead of bringing a mineralogist from South Africa or elsewhere and paying his expenses, and a good salary while he is being educated.

W. S. NEWBURY.

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