

PROSPECT OF CAMP GOOD.

OPINION OF MINING MAN FROM ILLINOIS.

Mr. Smith, Who Has Extensive Mineral Holdings, Thinks Well of Sumpter District—Visited a Number of Killen, Warner, Stewart Properties — Says They Will Make Great Mines.

J. F. Smith, of Danville, Illinois, who is largely interested in the Aurora Gold Mining company, operating near Baker City, spent the greater part of last week in this district, visiting various Cracker Creek properties, the Red Boy, Standard and Oregon Monarch. He was greatly pleased with what he saw, and states that he will become interested in several of these properties. To a Miner representative he said:

"I have been making an annual trip for the last four years to Baker City in connection with my mining interests near there. This is the first time, however, I have been to Sumpter, or have made any extended examination of any of the properties near here. On my way west I fell in with E. F. Warner, auditor of the

Killen, Warner, Stewart company, who induced me to extend my trip to Sumpter. After stopping awhile at Thunder Mountain enroute, where I am also interested, I came on to Sumpter and through the courtesy of Mr. Warner, I was shown over the district pretty extensively, visiting the Standard, Oregon Monarch, Cracker Summit, among the Killen, Warner, Stewart properties, and a number of other well known mines. My impression of these properties is most favorable, as it is of the entire district. This mineral zone is undoubtedly one of the richest and most extensive in the country. The making of big producers here is only a question of judicious management and expenditure of money. The ore deposits are here in enormous extent and if the various properties under course of development which I visited do not become big payers there is nothing to which the failure can be attributed except bad management, or lack of capital for development purposes, and from what I observed, no fears are to be entertained in this score. If I were to go into details regarding the properties which I visited it would consume probably too much time, but in a word I have no hesitancy in saying that they hold out the promise of becoming great mines.

"I spent some time inspecting the Sumpter smelter. This is a very complete and a very excellent plant. It is bound to do a great deal toward the development of the mines of the district."

NEW DREDGE COMPANY.

Colonel Grayson and Business Associates Will Operate in Eastern Oregon.

Colonel John Temple Grayson of the Alpine mine, in Cable Cove, has entered the field of dredge mining, with the scene of his operations in southern Oregon. He and Captain T. King Muir, formerly of Sumpter, are the principal stockholders in the Gold Placer Dredging company, a \$50,000 corporation just formed in Portland. Associated with Messrs. Grayson and Muir in the enterprise are G. W. Wildeman, of Brookville, Illinois, and P. H. Enright, of Los Angeles, California.

The ground to be worked by the new company is located on the headwaters of the Illinois River, on Bolau Creek, in Josephine county, and contains promising bodies of gold and platinum.

A process never before used will be employed to work the gravel. The machine, which was patented in May this year, is a new idea to hydraulic mining. The tube through which the gravel is carried may be any size. The bottom of the tube has no connection with water, but a distance from the lower end the water is forced into the tube and the suction carries the gravel out of the upper end, throwing it any reasonable required distance. In this way a twenty-five horse power plant is capable of handling three cubic yards of dirt per minute, using a twelve inch pipe. A test has been made and has proven a complete success, it is stated.

There is no danger of large rocks lodging and choking the tube, it being so constructed that the lower end

is smaller than the top, the pipe tapering all the way through.

One of the machines is on exhibition opposite the Chamber of Commerce building, in Portland, where it is in operation.

After the gravel is lifted to the required height it is passed over a copper plate, which contains quicksilver. A row of rifles extend across the plates, which also contain "quick." The quicksilver undergoes a process before it is used, by which its affinity for gold is increased to a marked degree. A chemical process is used by which the value of the "quick" is retained and none of its quantities wasted. One of the principal values of the "quick" is its saving of platinum, which heretofore has been lost to the placer miners.

The heavy deposits of platinum in Southern Oregon have been of practically no value, because of inability to save that element.

The company proposes having its plant in operation within thirty days. A testing plant is already on the ground, and has proven satisfactory.

Sale of Placers.

The Baker City Herald says that a deed has been filed with County Recorder Robert Henry, showing the sale of 2,000 acres of land in Section 8, township 12, range 39, to the Oregon-Tennessee Gold Mining company for three thousand dollars. The land is located near Pine Creek a few miles from Hereford, and is considered a rich placer region.

To Start Work.

F. N. Wheaton, of Seattle, who is interested in the Josie group of claims in the Cable Cove district, was here last week making arrangements to start work on the property. Mr. Wheaton states that development work will be under way in a short time.

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