

REPORT FROM MOUNT RASTUS.

Mayor McCulloch and Clark Snyde Are Back With Favorable News.

Mayor McCulloch and Clark Snyde returned last night from Mount Rastus, bringing the first reliable information concerning the phonolite discovery which has been received here. Hitherto only roundabout reports have come in, which were vague and indefinite to a greater or less extent, and which bore, it must be confessed, the stamp of over-coloring. But the gentlemen referred to bring information which cannot be questioned, and they say that previous reports have not been overdrawn. Mayor McCulloch says:

"You would better talk to Mr. Snyde regarding the formation, the appearance of the deposit, since he is a practical mining man, more conversant with such matters and in a better position to speak advisedly. I can tell you, however, in regard to the situation generally. The excitement is intense. At the camp near Mount Rastus there were over 200 people yesterday, and besides these, I should say that there are fully 300 others scattered over the district, and the number is increasing daily. Sheep herders from the neighboring ranches have quit their flocks and rushed to the scene of the discovery. Men on horseback, on foot, and with mules laden with supplies and provisions are to be seen on every side, scouring the country looking for claims. The excitement is extreme.

"In a few instances locators have gotten quick action and cashed in at a goodly sum. Dr. Curry, I am reliably informed sold a claim for \$7,500, spot cash to Pittsburg people. Other sales for smaller amounts are reported. Colonel Panting and George Small, of Baker City, I understood, were offered \$30,000 for four claims, by the same Pittsburg outfit, but decided they would not sell. They in turn offered \$4000, for an adjoining claim, but the sale was not made.

"The town of Mount Rastus, which is probably what it will be called, is likely to take shape in a short time. When we left material was being gotten on the ground for a hotel and other buildings were projected.

"This town will be about three miles from Mount Rastus, that is the mountain from which the district gets its name, and fifteen miles from Unity. Sumpter is the nearest railroad point to the new camp by fifteen miles. We met lots of Sumpter people there and on the road as we returned.

"We met Manning, McPhee, Healy and Kissel just getting in as we left. We advised them to move on down toward the Bull Run mountains where not so many claims were located and where they would stand a better chance. We secured a claim each near Mount Rastus in what appears to be a good locality.

"What are chiefly needed in the new district are miners and supplies.

J. H. Graham, the original discoverer, and his partner, Mr. Miller, told us that this is one of the main drawbacks. They said that

miners would be paid \$3 a day and board where their tools were furnished, and \$4 and board where they furnished and sharpened their own tools. They urged me to advise the Sumpter merchants to send in wagon loads of provisions, and to endeavor to establish a transportation line between here and the camp. Since this is the nearest railroad point the scheme seems perfectly feasible and I am going to take the matter up.

"While I do not easily lose my equilibrium in such matters, Mount Rastus bears the earmarks of a permanent and flourishing camp."

To a Miner representative, Mr. Snyde said:

"So little has been done in the way of development and prospect work that it is very difficult to form a correct conclusion. Assay values are reported to run from \$7,000 down. It is a genuine phonolite formation, which in itself does not say a great deal, since there are plenty of barren formations of this kind. That the formation carries good values, however, there can be no question. The hills are literally ribbed with veins, which are of various widths. James Payton claims to have opened a ledge on the Bull Run ridge which showed a width of thirty feet. But no work to speak of has been done. The deepest shaft that we heard of was only four feet down. The assays made on the ground could not have been exact for lack of proper apparatus. But they showed the rock to be rich in gold. The exact amount, I think, however, is largely guess work. I must confess that on the whole the new camp presents a most promising outlook. When phonolite does carry gold bearing veins it means something, as is instanced at Cripple Creek."

VEIN NO. 4 AT VALLEY QUEEN LOOKS GOOD.

Superintendent Gray Says the Values
Are Extremely Satisfactory.

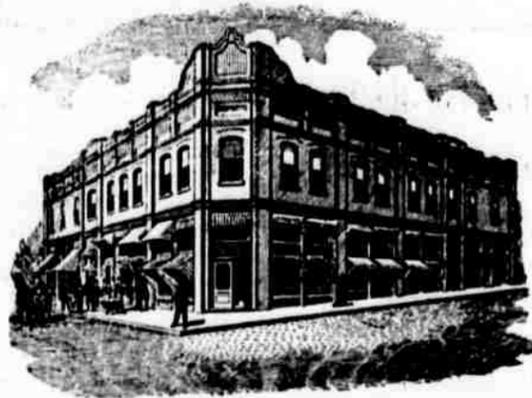
Tom Gray, superintendent of the Valley Queen, was in from the mine yesterday and says things are looking mighty good at the present writing. The drift on vein No. 4 has proceeded a distance of fifty-seven feet and is showing up better than ever. Mr. Gray exhibited some rock that came from the face of the drift which from its appearance undoubtedly carries high values.

This is one of the veins which is regarded of minor importance and is being followed to its intersection with the main lead of the property. However, the present showing seems to indicate that it will turn out much better than was originally expected. Vein No. 4 was one of the several stringers, or shoots cut on the main level, which is being driven to for the big lead.

Ore Supply Increasing.

William Sexton has sent a consignment of ore from the New Years' Gift in the Quartzburg district to the Sumpter smelter. The smelter has also received another shipment of three cars through Frank Day of Baker City, from a North Powder property. The smelter ore supply is steadily increasing.

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