

BONTA RETURNS TO BUILD ROAD.

Reached Baker Thursday Accompanied By Party of Capitalists.

Elmer Cleaver received a telephone message yesterday afternoon from Baker City that Major Bonta had arrived on the delayed train from the east; that he had announced that satisfactory financial arrangements had been made and that his electric road to Prairie City and the Oregon Wonder mine would be built. Regarding this matter, the Baker City Herald says:

Major Bonta, of Philadelphia, arrived in Baker City last night, accompanied by his wife and child. They are at home in the handsome Paull residence on Fourth street, which Major Bonta has leased for two years.

Accompanying Major Bonta is Jacob Erpenbeck, of Philadelphia, a capitalist.

Major Bonta will build a railroad from either Baker City or Huntington to Prairie City, near which town he and a syndicate of Pennsylvania capitalists own some of the richest mining properties in the West. Surveys for this line have already been made, a company has been formed for its construction and operation, rights of way have been secured from the United States government and all details have been arranged in the matter.

Major Bonta left for Philadelphia about a month ago to finance the proposition and, it is reported, has been successful. He has sold, it is understood, enough of the bonds of the Railway company to provide for its immediate construction.

The surveyed route of the line is from a point near South Baker to the North Fork of the John Day river, via Upper Burnt river.

Major Bonta was seen by a Herald reporter this morning. He refused to say anything about his success in financing the project, but states emphatically that the road will be built. Questioned as to the time of commencement of construction, he said that no definite date had been set, but that the work of grading will probably not be taken until next spring.

"It will be impossible to complete the work this winter," said the Major, "and therefore we will not begin to move dirt until after the snow has gone."

The Bonta project is one of the most important enterprises for the industrial development of eastern Oregon and southern Oregon ever undertaken. Primarily the railway is meant to afford an outlet for the mineral properties controlled by Major Bonta, but ultimately the line will be extended into that vast domain in south central, and southern Oregon, wherein are embraced millions of acres of land without a railway.

The Bonta railway will also provide branch lines to the various mining camps along its surveyed route—Greenhorn City, Susauville, Sumpter, Mount Rastus, Aubrun and others. Thus development of those camps

will be given a new impetus through the provision of a cheap and rapid means of transportation of ore and supplies.

This forenoon Lou Cleaver telephoned E. E. that the Citizens League of Baker City, held a meeting last evening and adopted a resolution requesting Major Bonta to build his road from that point and offering their hearty co-operation. This is surely rather late in the day for such action; but it evidently means that the skeptics have been convinced that the Bonta road is not a hot air line. The Citizens League is endeavoring to secure seats on the band wagon.

Now it behooves Sumpter to get in and drill on the proposition made by Major Bonta, to build a line to Sumpter, a broad gauge road connecting direct with the O. R. & N., that will save reloading charges and give reasonable rates.

There will be things doing in eastern Oregon, in the way of railroad construction, during the next twelve months, and if Sumpter ever amounts to anything more than it is today, its citizens must show a spirit of enterprise and act in harmony. "Knock the Knockers."

OFFICERS VISIT PRAIRIE DIGGINGS

Eastern Stockholders Of Company Here to Inspect The Property.

Michael Grossman and J. W. Haarer, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, vice-president and secretary respectively of the Jupiter Gold Mining company, operating the Prairie Diggings, arrived here yesterday and left this morning for the property.

The twenty-five stamp mill has been idle for some time, while sinking is under way, and the eastern officers of the company state that it has not been decided yet when the mill will be started up again, probably not till spring. The double compartment shaft is now down something like 100 feet, and it is the intention to sink to the 500 foot level. It is stated that the new hoist and pumping plant are giving good satisfaction.

Speaking of the situation in the east, to The Miner, Mr. Grossman said:

"While it is true that the industrial slump has frightened smaller investors away from mining stocks to a certain extent, it is having the tendency to turn larger capitalists toward this industry. They are beginning to realize that a good mine is the best paying investment in the country, and I look for more money to go into mining properties in the near future than ever in the past."

TO INSTALL A LARGER PUMP AT GOLD CENTER.

E. J. Wallace is in from Gold Center today, where he is operating his placer ground. Mr. Wallace will install a larger pump in a short time, and he states that it is his intention to operate all winter. He says he will have some surprises to announce when he makes the spring cleanup.

Mr. Wallace also has five quartz claims in the vicinity of Gold Center.

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