

BUILD BOX FACTORY.

Hewitt Co. Has Practically Determined Upon This Departure.

The Sumpter Lumber company is making preparation for further additions to its plant here. A box factory is now under advisement, and Seymour H. Bell, who has the local management of the company, is authority for the statement that the matter is practically settled. The details of size and capacity, however, have not yet been determined, and nothing of a definite nature regarding this particular is here known.

William Hewitt, son of Henry Hewitt, Jr., was expected here today, but was detained in Portland, to make arrangements for the machinery of the new plant, it is understood. He advised Mr. Bell that he will arrive tomorrow. The inference from Mr. Bell's statements is that it is the company's intention to proceed at once with the work.

The growing demand for boxes in the centers of trade in the middle west, and the location of Sumpter being such as to afford cheaper freight rates than coast points, and the abundance of timber here suited to this end, make it possible for the company to enter the competitive field in this line of manufacture.

LEDGE ENCOUNTERED AT THE GLADSTONE.

North Drift of Aurora Shows Highest Values Yet at This Property.

W. H. Mead, superintendent of the Gladstone and the Aurora, came in from Whitney yesterday afternoon to meet Mrs. Mead, who is coming from Spokane for a short visit. Owing to a change of schedule on the O. R. & N., she missed connection and failed to arrive this morning as expected.

Superintendent Mead states that the ledge matter has been encountered on the Gladstone crosscut, and the vein has been entered four or five feet. This lead on the surface shows a width of sixteen feet. The property was shut down for four or five days when the storm came, but work was resumed when Mr. Mead left.

The north drift of the Aurora, Mr. Mead says, shows three feet of high grade ore, the best yet encountered.

WILL COLONIZE 7000 ACRES IN BAKER COUNTY.

A important real estate deal has been closed, involving the transfer of nearly 7,000 acres of land east and north of Baker City, and adjoining

the present city limits.

This large tract of land was owned by John Schmitz, F. S. Lack and W. T. Patterson, and has been sold to a Buffalo and Chicago syndicate of a sufficient backing properly to put the property in shape for colonization. It is stated on good authority that a representative of the company will soon be in Baker City to superintend the preliminary surveying, platting, fencing and breaking of several hundred acres. It is the purpose of the company to sell the land in tracts of twenty to forty acres to people who may wish to acquire homes near the city, where they can raise vegetables, fruits, poultry, etc.

Within a short time a large storage reservoir with irrigation canals is to be constructed, and as artesian wells in the valley are now assured, this method will be employed, when necessary to obtain additional water. —Herald.

TWO NEW MILLS SOON BEGIN OPERATIONS.

Snow Creek in Ten Days And Alamo in Two Weeks, Says Contractor B. L. McLain.

B. L. McLain came in last evening from Alamo. He has had charge of the work of installing the machinery in both the Snow Creek and the Alamo Mining companies' mills.

He reports that the former will be ready to run in about ten days. The latter is already finished; but on turning the water into the flume a few days since it was found to leak very badly, and now a force of men is at work making repairs. This flume, which takes the water from Clear creek, is 5,280 feet in length, and will furnish power to operate the entire plant. In about two weeks the Alamo mill will begin crushing ore.

EASTERN OREGON PLACE FOR U. S. ASSAY OFFICE

The Sumpter District Mining Men's association, recently organized in the Hill Town, has passed a resolution endorsing the bill introduced by Senator Mitchell in the upper house of congress, providing for the establishment of an United States assay office in the City of Portland.

The Sumpter association has said nothing concerning the pending bill in the lower house for the establishment of such an office in Baker City. It is therefore presumed that the Sumpter mining men would rather see the establishment of a government assay office in Portland than in Baker City.

For four consecutive years Congressman Malcolm A. Moody, representative from the Second congressional district of Oregon, has presented at each session of congress a bill providing for the assay office in Baker City. Coincidentally during that period Congressman Thomas Tongue, representative from the First Oregon district, introduced a similar bill for the benefit of Portland. The Senators from Oregon permitted the representatives in the lower house to fight it out.

Congress, seeing a divided delega-

tion, quite naturally refused to permit the passage of either bill, and thus the matter has remained for five years.

The grave and reverend senators this year have taken the fight from the lower house to the upper house and it now appears probable that Portland will be selected, as the congressman from the Second district, Hon. J. N. Williamson, has so far made no move to look out for the interests of this section of the country.

The fact remains, however, that if there is to be a Government assay office established in Oregon, its location should be governed by the territory to be benefitted.

Baker City is the center of the richest gold fields in the West. Eastern Oregon produced eighty per cent of the precious metals produced by the state. This section annually adds from four to six millions to the wealth of the world. Because there is no assay office in the state, all the gold bullion produced in this region is shipped to the Government assay office at Boise, or to the United States mint at San Francisco, and is therefore added to the accredited yields of California and Idaho.

The establishment of an assay office in Oregon would remedy this evil, whether the office be located in Portland or Baker City. It is a fact, however, that should the office be located in Portland, a large percentage of the bullion produced in Baker county would be shipped to Boise, owing to the nearness of that point. Thus the main object of the establishment of the office in Oregon would be defeated.

The specious arguments in support of the claim that Portland is the better location for the office is that a large amount of gold from Alaska would come to that point. This, in the face of the fact that a bill has already been introduced in congress for the establishment of a similar office at Juneau, with every reason to believe that bill will pass, despite the efforts of Seattle to prevent it.

The move to establish an assay office in Oregon is for the benefit of the miners of Oregon. In view of the fact that eighty per cent of the miners of Oregon constitute Baker City their headquarters, the selection by congress of this point as a location for the institution is imperative. —Herald.

CALIFORNIA MILL WILL START AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS.

Reports from the California, state that the reverberatory furnace is nearly completed and will be ready for operation in a few days.

The cyanide tanks have arrived and were taken out to the mine. With the setting of the tanks and the completion of the furnace, the California mill will be ready to start up again in a short time.

Looking After Interests.

E. and A. E. Klingbeil and G. J. Ulricks, of Milwaukee, interested with the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, arrived here on Friday to look after interests in the district. They will remain in the city several days.

Gimlet Creek Placers.

L. A. Albee, one of the owners of the Gimlet Creek placers, near Whitney, is in the city today. Mr. Albee will work the claims all winter. Some very rich gravel is reported.



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