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CRIPPLE CREEKERS STAY WITH RASTUS

Believed That Formations Are Similar And That Development Will Reveal Rich Deposits.

"The old Cripple Creekers are staying with Mount Rastus, because they understand the formation and know what it means," says W. C. Kelman, of Bourne, who returned yesterday from the Mount Rastus district. He was accompanied by M. W. Beckwith and S. W. Cline, who are interested with him in five claims, located on the southern slope of Rastus. An assay from the Red Nigger claim made in Baker City a few days ago went \$44.80, according to Mr. Kelman's statements. He brought back with him a line of phonolitic and porphyritic quartz samples which he will have assayed here and at the various mills in the Cracker Creek district. The phonolite appears to carry heavy iron sulphides, with the major values in the oxidized quartz. Judged from the appearance it is good looking ore. To a Miner representative last night Mr. Kelman, after exhibiting his Rastus rock, continued:

"I am not an apostle of hot air, and do not believe in unwarranted booming. There has been too much of that even about Mount Rastus. As stated to you on my first return from our claims, the stampede, in the main, was a wild cowboy rush. Claims were staked at random without the slightest regard to the location of mineral in place, as the law requires. Others, who were not cowboys and sheep herders, went in, ate their dinners, and because they didn't see gold sticking out of the country rock, came back and gave the district a black eye. My associates and myself were five weeks in making five locations. Our claims are on the southern slope of Rastus, adjoining those in which Major Bonta is interested. We prospected our ledge and saw what we had before locating. On the Red Nigger claim we have a shaft down fifteen feet, on a porphyritic and phonolitic quartz contact, between phonolite and trachyte. The vein is four feet in width, and there is every indication, if the formation counts for anything, that sylvanite and other tellurides of gold will be encountered with depth. I am familiar with the geology of Cripple Creek, having spent four years there as an assayer, and I am fully convinced that this formation is practically identical. As said at first the Cripple Creekers are staying with the proposition. They know what it means and what may be expected with development.

"Major Bonta's chief engineer, Mr. Hutchins, and Mr. Graham, of Baker City, are old Cripple Creek

miners, and they are among the stayers. There are others less familiar to the public whom I could mention. Mr. Hutchins is going back in a few days. The Major now has a force of men employed in building a road from Rastus City to the forks of East Camp creek, where his tunnel site is located.

"The values are not in the phonolite, but in the contacts, as is the case in Cripple Creek and in the Black Hills, the only other two places I know of where a similar formation is found. And in each instance tellurides are encountered with depth. Two-thirds of the claims located in the first mad rush are now vacant. Only a few people are left there, but they think they know what they are about."

Mr. Kelman and his partners will return to Rastus in about two weeks and remain there during the winter.

THIS THE GREATEST MINING REGION EVER

Its Greatest Drawback Is The Persistent Butter-in, Who Never Lands a Victim.

John R. Cassin, of Spokane, president of the Alamo Mining company, passed through Sumpter Sunday, on his way home from the mine. Mr. Cassin is a mining man of wide experience and his favorable opinion on a district is of value. He says that he believes eastern Oregon constitutes the greatest mining region on the globe, so far as its natural resources in minerals and the necessary adjuncts to work the ores, wood and water, are concerned.

Notwithstanding all this, he says, this country has one serious drawback: It is a difficult matter to induce capital to invest here. One reason for this is that the mining men who live here don't work together, and when men are not united in any effort, they are very apt to be antagonistic. On this point, Mr. Cassin says:

"On a previous visit to Sumpter I was accompanied by some gentlemen from the east, whom I was trying to induce to invest. A local broker butted into the game and endeavored to get them interested in another proposition. He was doing his work in the lobby of the Hotel Sumpter and I had to go to the manager of the house and demand protection from that variety of pirate. That is the only trouble of the kind I have ever had here in Sumpter, but in Baker City this species of interference is a positive nuisance, a menacing danger.

"And the strange feature of the proposition is that they persist in this, when they have never 'landed' yet and never will. The only result is to drive men and money out of the country. You people ought to organize against such practice, for it is working a great injury."

SUMPTER SMELTER MAY BLOW IN NOW ANY DAY

Two cars of ore from the Golconda were sent out today for the Sumpter smelter. This makes the first consignment received here from this well known Cracker Creek producer, and while there is no definite information obtainable relative to this phase of the matter, the natural supposition would be that the Golconda intends transferring its patronage to the Sumpter institution.

The fact of the Golconda's shipment would also seem to warrant the conclusion that the smelter people have made an arrangement whereby all ores offered may be purchased. When approached relative to this aspect of the situation, Dr. Ed W. Mueller, manager of the smelter, had nothing to say either in confirmation or denial.

Again, the activity at the lime kiln, and the general overhauling and fixing up of the machinery at the plant, leads to the belief that operations may start now any day. Dr. Mueller was also non-communicative on this point, but admitted that early blowing in is contemplated, though he declined to name a date.

WILL BORE AN ARTESIAN WELL

V. R. Meade, than whom no one knows the Blue mountain country more thoroughly, says he is of the opinion that artesian wells will have to be resorted to to solve the water supply for Sumpter.

His reason for this belief is that in every shaft sunk on this slope of the range, water is encountered at from fifty to 100 feet, the supply growing greater as depth is attained. The greatest flow yet encountered was found in the Golden Wizard, on Deer creek; where, at less than 200 feet depth, so great a volume was encountered that no machinery yet installed has been able to keep the shaft sufficiently free from water to permit it being worked in that particular place.

So convinced is he that artesian water can be found, that he has decided to buy a drill and bore a well on his Mill street lot, where he lives. The machinery will be ordered so that it will arrive here in time to begin operations in the early spring.

If Mr. Meade's theory is proven correct, it will prove of vast benefit to this whole section of country.

DIXIE GROUP MILL STARTED OPERATIONS

A report from the Dixie group states that the Kinkead mill recently completed on the property began operations Monday, and so far the plant has given entire satisfaction. The Dixie group has a six foot

porphyry ledge from which the ore can be literally quarried, reducing mining expenses to the minimum. For this character of ore it is thought the Kinkead mill will give the best of treatment results.

WILLIAM WELLS ELMER

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