

# CUSTOM MILLS IN CABLE COVE A GO

## One To Be Located Near The Baby McKee In The Spring.

L. G. Lilley, superintendent of the Baby McKee, who is also interested in the building of custom mills in the Cable Cove district, is in the city today, and states that work will be started on one of these mills in the spring beyond any question of doubt. Mr. Lilley says:

"There is no question but that a custom mill will be built near the Baby McKee in the spring, and the matter of the others will be determined later according to the demand. Our people are willing to finance the proposition, and they are fully convinced that it is not only a paying venture to themselves, but that it will help greatly in the development of the mineral resources of the Cable Cove district. The characterizing features of the district are large bodies of ore which according to the present transportation rates, and smelter charges it

will not pay to ship, but which can be profitably treated on the ground, both to the custom mill owner and to the mine operator. Cable Cove has boundless bodies of ore, which are awaiting treatment on the ground.

"Our people are willing to go ahead with the enterprise, and will construct one mill of 100 tons capacity in the spring. Others, as the demand justifies, will follow."

Questioned as to the recent report published in The Miner as to rich ore in the Last Chance shaft, Mr. Lilley said:

"The report was substantially correct. The entire shaft is in vein matter all highly mineralized and there has been more change in the last a few feet than there was in the past fifty. There is fourteen feet of vein matter and neither wall has been reached. The fourteen feet shows rich stringers averaging from six inches to a foot.

## PERMANENT LEVEL IN THE OVERLAND.

M. E. Bain, returned last night from the Overland, in the Cable Cove district, of which property he is manager. Speaking of the assessment work now being done on the Cable Cove district, Mr. Bain says:

"I do not recall a time when there was so much activity, as for as the doing of assessment work in this district is concerned. Locators seem to think that there is something to it, and they are eager to finish the work before the first of the year."

Mr. Bain has abandoned the shaft on the Overland, and will start the permanent level this week. This tunnel will tap the five veins of the property, and give a depth of 800 feet on the one farthest away. One of these leads was discovered by Mr. Bain on his recent trip.

## NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE MIDWAY MINE

S. G. Williams, formerly superintendent of the Bonanza, but lately connected with the Gem, has been appointed by the Geiser-Hendryx people to supersede Lew Walker in the superintendency of the

Midway. Mr. Walker resigned to take charge of the development of certain coal deposits in the John Day country in which he is interested. He will leave this week with a force of men to start operations. Mr. Williams assumed charge of the Midway yesterday.

## EASTERN OREGON MINERS

### AHEAD OF ALL OTHERS

C. A. Robbins, manager of the Travellers' Gold Mining company, operating at Atlantic City, Wyoming, formerly of Robbins & Robbins, assayers and metallurgists, Sumpter, arrived here yesterday to engage men to work at his mine. Mr. Robbins finds that the class of miners in the section where he is operating is not satisfactory. He says:

"It has been my experience that the miners of eastern Oregon are the best to be found in the country everything considered. The sheepherding and cowpunching assortment which Wyoming furnishes is not in any degree satisfactory. My observation has been that a miner, to be a real miner, must stick to this line and not try to shine as a cowpuncher or a sheepherder on the side. I know what the eastern Oregon miners are. I know that they pride themselves on their ability and proficiency, and that they are to be relied upon for good honest service, which more than

anything else accounts for my present trip here.

Mr. Robbins states that his company will install a ten stamp mill on the property in the early spring. The buildings which were consumed by fire some time ago have been replaced, and everything with the exception of a shortage of men is in good working order. The shaft is now down 200 feet and a crosscut has been started from the bottom. On the first level a big body of ore carrying satisfactory values was opened up recently. He will remain in the city several days.

The property is located in a productive mineral belt, 135 miles from the railroad.

## INTERESTING FIGURES

### ON SALE OF STAMPS

Third Assistant Postmaster General Edwin C. Madden, in his annual report, says that the reform of the abuses of the second class mailing privileges is moving steadily forward, and can be completed in two years. Upward of thirty publications are still involved in court proceedings on the question of second class privileges, and on the result of these cases a great part of the reform depends. Mr. Madden expects court proceedings will be ended within the next few months, and the way then opened to complete the reforms.

Mr. Madden recommended that congress consolidate the third and fourth classes of mail matter and fix the rate of postage at one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

The report compares the expenditure for rural free delivery and the deficiency in postal revenue for the last three fiscal years, and says:

"The rate of increase in expenditure for the introduction and maintenance of the rural free delivery was more than 100 per cent per year, whereas the normal per cent of increase for the whole service has been approximately 11 per cent. But for this sudden and extraordinary increase in expenditure for a practically new though necessary branch of the postal service, the deficiency in the postal revenue by the natural operation of things under the system of administration now prevailing would have been almost if not entirely eliminated."

The gross selling value of stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers issued to postmasters was \$18,751,852, leaving \$1,079,375 to defray the cost of manufacture and distribution. The total number of pieces of stamped paper issued to postmasters during the fiscal year was 7,024,902,750, of the value of \$129,331,880, an increase over the previous year of sixteen per cent in number and fifteen per cent in value. To these stamp supplies should be added 9,829,240 stamp books, the selling price of which, over the value of the stamps collected thereon, was \$98,292, making the total number of pieces of stamped paper and stamp books issued to postmasters 7,034,732,035, of the value of \$39,032,075. There were 770,665,950 postal cards issued.

Mr. Madden recommends that congress authorize the postmaster general to accept the mailing on large quantities of identical pieces of printed matter and small articles of merchandise without the necessity of affixing postage stamps to the individual pieces.

## HOIST AT THE MYERS GROUP

J. W. Messner, manager of the Prairie Diggings and also of the Myers group, operated by the Indiana Copper company, was on the train this morning returning from the latter property, where a 500-foot depth capacity hoist has just been installed. The hoist, Mr. Messner states, will start operations this week.

Development operations are being steadily prosecuted at the Diggings. The mill is now idle, but it is understood to be the purpose of the company to block out ore this winter and start the mill up probably in the spring, if not sooner.

## PENDLETON PEOPLE

### WIN IMPORTANT SUIT

Attorneys Stillman and Pierce won their famous Victoria Island case. A decision was handed down yesterday in the courts at Stockton, California, to that effect and Mr. Pierce, who was there at the time, immediately telegraphed the news to Mr. Stillman. By the decision handed down yesterday the Victoria Island property becomes worth half a million dollars or more.

The suit was over an island in the San Joaquin river in California. The island contains 7,500 acres. The original owner gave a mortgage for \$36,000 on this property and the mortgagee agreed to make certain improvements on the property. This he did not do and Mr. Pierce and associates made the improvements at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. The holder of the mortgage attempted to foreclose and to offset the money claimed under the mortgage Mr. Pierce and his company put in a bill for the improvements, which they made and which should have been made by the man who owned the mortgage. This was what the fight in the courts was about, whether or not this bill for improvements should be allowed to stand against the original face value of the mortgage, and by the decision handed down in the courts yesterday the bill was allowed.

The case was a very lengthy one and closely contested on both sides. The answer filed by the defendants, Mr. Pierce and associates, alone contained 120 pages of typewritten manuscript and it required six weeks of time in which to take the testimony.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are now in California, but will soon return to Pendleton—Pendleton Tribune.

It is reported here that J. H. Robbins has been in California looking after this business, that he has become interested in and will give his personal attention to the proposition.

## HAVE ACQUIRED CANYON

### MOUNTAIN PROPERTY.

John Davies and Charles Stickney, of Sumpter, have taken a bond on the Canyon Mountain property near Canyon City. The bond is for \$5,000 and the property takes in two claims.

It is understood to be their intention to undertake development work at once.