

## FOOL QUESTIONS ONE MUST ANSWER

A reader of the Arcata Union who has been through the "mill", with the land officials, has handed into this office for publication the following questions propounded to him by the special agent, says the Ashland Record. As they were reproduced from memory some of them may be a little out of the way, but on the main we believe them to be fairly correct.

When and where were you born and are you sorry it happened?

Were any of your ancestors ever hung and what for?

Are you taking up this land to defraud the government and if so why are you so wicked?

If you build a mill on this land will you sell the lumber or give it away?

What is your business and what do you save each month?

Do you know the difference between speculation and the doctrine of infant damnation?

Were you ever married and if so why did you happen to be so careless?

Who are the greatest smashers—Del Norte timber locators or Carrie Hatchet Nation?

What is your laundry mark and how often do you send your clothes to wash?

Is the land office greater than the Supreme court, and if so, why not?

Do you use Force and what is your opinion of sawdust as a breakfast food?

What is home without an auto?

Are you in favor of expansion and what is your chest measure?

How far is it from here to there, and if not, why so?

Were you ever in jail and who bailed you out?

Is it true you stole the money out of your little boy's bank to pay for your claim?

Were you ever baptised, inoculated or fumigated, and did it take?

Do you know what made Milwaukee famous, and what is your liquid capacity?

Tell all your private affairs which have taken place since childhood not revealed by the above questions.

Are you a union man or a seab?

Don't you feel ashamed of yourself for trying to keep the poor scrip syndicate from getting hold of your claim?

Were you ever in love and how long before you came to?

How many running feet of logs is there on your claim and how long will it take you to cut down all the trees, working sixteen hours a day?

Who is the author of the famous "Back to the Woods?"

Now will you be good?

## IDAHO AUDITOR REFUSES TO PAY SUGAR BOUNTY

For several days there have been many rumors about as to what State Auditor Turner would do when claims were filed with him by the sugar beet manufacturers for one cent a pound on sugar manufactured in the state, in accordance with the law passed by the last legislature. Mr. Turner was seen today by the Capital News reporter and asked what he would do when such claims were filed. In response to the question, he said: "The matter of payment of a bounty upon beet sugar in conformity

to the provisions of the act passed by the legislature at its seventh session is one of great importance to the people of the state of Idaho. Such payment would establish a precedent for the payment of other bounties and subsidies in the future and would impose upon the people a burden much too great to be assumed hastily or before the validity of the act is properly determined."—Boise Capital News.

## I. X. L. MILL IS IN OPERATION

Fred T. Kelly, manager of the I. X. L. was on the train this afternoon going to Baker City after repairs for the boiler. The mill, which was started a few days ago, Mr. Kelly says, is giving good satisfaction. The cyanide plant was started up today. Asked in regard to the recent reports of rich ore at the I. X. L., Mr. Kelly said:

"We are now making a raise from the 200 to the 100 level to a shoot which carries ore averaging \$100 to the ton and at the same time we are pushing the drifts on the 200 both north and south. We are highly satisfied with the showings being made."

## PRIMITIVE MINING METHODS IN MEXICO

A mining man recently back from Mexico has this to say about operations there:

"Mining is conducted in the most primitive manner. Elevators, trains, windlasses and even ladders are unknown in many of the mines.

"The peons carry the ore to the surface in sacks, each containing about 150 pounds of ore. A strap fastened to the sack passes over the forehead. Thus the hands are left free. In lieu of ladders notched poles are used. The carrier climbs from ledge to ledge on these poles. It is dangerous and fatiguing and a white man refuses to make more than a trip or two. In fact the white man's shoes won't cling to the worn and slick poles. The peons wear a sort of soft sandal.

"There are no pumps in the mines, the greasers carrying the water out in leather bags. When the water runs too fast the mine is abandoned. Then along comes a bustling American, buys the property for a song, puts in modern machinery and has a completely developed mine at a very small outlay."

## CAVE IN AT COLUMBIA REPAIRED BY SUNDAY

Frank Baillie, general manager of the Columbia, who went to Baker City yesterday with his monthly "washing", as he puts it, stated that the damages due to the recent cave in on the No. 2 level, will be repaired and everything going again as usual by Sunday.

It was a pretty bad slip, the stope giving way, carrying down with it over 100 feet of track.

## WILL START WORK ON GIPSY QUEEN

Eugene Bartholf has been authorized to do the assessment work on the Gipsy Queen, by the people who bought and paid for the property last summer, and will put a crew of men on the job in a few days.

As The Miner has before mentioned, that was a queer deal, the sale of this group of claims, engineered by W. H. W. Hamilton. One day Mr. Bartholf and his associates who originally owned the property, were notified that money was at the Bank of Sumpter with which to make the last payment. Not until a few weeks ago did they know who had bought it. Then Mr. Bartholf received a letter asking about the cost of doing the assessment work, which showed that the present owners are not familiar with mining business. He answered, giving the desired information, and a day or two since received a reply instructing him to have the work done.

The average man wouldn't even buy a farm in this way, yet these have bought a mine without knowing anything about it, when the closest examination and most careful scrutiny would be advisable. And, wonderful to relate, they haven't been swindled either. The Gipsy Queen is unquestionably a valuable property and will make a rich producer with little development; now that the smelter here is to begin operations and furnish a market for these high grade ores.

## PROCESS OF OBTAINING RADIUM FROM PITCHBLEND.

The separation of radium from pitch blende is a long and tedious process. The rare ore is first crushed and the powder is roasted with carbonate of soda. After washing, the residue is treated with dilute sulphuric acid, the sulphates being then converted into carbonates by boiling with strong carbonate of soda solution. Radium sulphate, an exceedingly insoluble salt, is contained in the residue. The soluble sulphates are washed out, and from the residue hydrochloric acid dissolves out polonium actinium and other elements. Radium sulphate remains, with some barium sulphate. These sulphates are converted into carbonates by boiling with carbonate of soda solution, and the carbonates are dissolved in hydrochloric acid, and precipitated again as sulphate by means of sulphuric acid. The sulphates are further purified and finally converted in chlorides. A ton of pitch blended yields about fifteen pounds of the mixed chlorides of radium and barium, from which a small fraction of radium chloride is separated by crystallization.

## New Peat-Fuel Process.

In a new peat-fuel process lately exhibited at Charlton, England, the water is removed by mechanical and electrical means. The freshly-cut peats packed into rotating cylinders, and fans beat out part of the moisture, while an electric current is passed through the mass, heating it and aiding in expelling the water. The material is finally pressed into briquettes. The fuel is claimed to be economical, but nearly two pounds must be burned to give the effect of a pound of steam coal.



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