

MINED AND MILLED ORE FOR 40 CENTS A TON.

Because he has proven that he can mine and mill ore for forty cents a ton, Colin McIntosh, a former Spokane mining and civil engineer, has been offered \$15,000 annual salary to take charge of the properties of a London company in South Africa. Mr. McIntosh has accepted the offer and is in Spokane today on his way to his new post.

Mr. McIntosh left Spokane about three years ago to accept the position of general manager for the Big Indian Mining company, operating a property four and one half miles south of Helena, Montana. The previous five years he had made his home here.

Speaking about the Montana property Mr. McIntosh said yesterday: "We have a mountain of low grade ore and little water. Novel arrangements were therefore necessary. Our sixty stamp mill is being operated with but twenty-seven gallons of water per minute, by using the water over and over again. We mine and mill our ore cheaper than anywhere else in the world. It costs about forty cents maximum. Our ores run a few cents above \$3, on an average."

"We mine in an open pit and blast the ore into the shoots. From them it is dropped into cars and trammed to the mill. One man and a mule have hauled as high as 520 tons in ten hours on the tram. Our mill is arranged so that the tailings run into a series of six settling tanks and from these in turn the water is pumped back to use in the mill. The result is that we save seventy per cent of the water and use it over and over again.

"Each of the settling tanks is of 60,000 gallons capacity and they are arranged to fill one after another, so that while the sixth is being filled with the tailings, the first has settled so that clear water can be poured back from it to the mill.

"Our mill was probably the first in the country to be operated entirely by electricity. Power is secured from the Missouri river and transmitted more than thirty miles to our plant.

We work about twelve men at the mine and three shifts of two men each at the mill. One man tends the crushers and conveyors and the other man handles the ore from the mine to the mill. Between five o'clock at night and seven o'clock in the morning only two men are employed at the property.

"We are handling about 300 tons a day at the property. There is plenty of ore in sight for years to come. The dyke is 200 to 300 feet wide. It is a veritable mountain of ore. Conditions, of course, are all unusually favorable for cheap operations, still we feel proud of the world's low record of mining and milling at forty cents."

Mr. McIntosh resigned his position with the Montana company December 15. He has entered into a contract with the South African Exploration company for a term of years and will report for duty in South Africa April 1.—Spokane Review.

PRINCE OF LAND SHARKS ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, dated yesterday, says: John A. Benson, a wealthy San Francisco real estate operator, charged by the interior department with being the head of the alleged land frauds extending over a dozen

western states and territories, was arrested here today.

The charge on which the arrest was made was bribery, it being alleged in an affidavit by Burns and in the warrant that Benson had paid \$500 to Woodford D. Halam, formerly chief of the special service division of the general land office and now clerk in that office, on March of this year for the purpose of extracting information regarding the operation being made by United States Commissioner Anson Stator.

Benson gave \$5,000 bail for his appearance December 30.

The statement was made by an officer of the government tonight that the information obtained regarding the alleged conspiracy implicates a number of persons at present employed in the interior department at Washington and elsewhere. Numerous arrests are expected to follow in short order and some employees who may not be arrested will be dismissed from the service.

The government attorneys, Arthur B. Pugh and Oliver Pugin, stated in asking for the large bail bond for Benson, he had been guilty of bribery during his present visit at Washington since last Monday and in the interior department itself, notwithstanding that he was fully aware that his connection with the alleged frauds was fully known by the department.

The statement was made later that Secretary Hitchcock was so incensed at the flagrancy of this alleged offense he told the officers to have Benson arrested at once, although it had not been planned to apprehend him at present.

Benson is a member of the firm of Benson and Hyde, San Francisco, and it is asserted, has defrauded the government out of at least 100,000 acres of land, by various schemes since the passage of the forest reserve act in 1897.

It is alleged that Benson obtained information as to the land that would be held for forest reserves and by means of fraudulent entries, or by purchase, immense tracts of such lands were obtained and afterward exchanged for valuable public lands in Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Arizona and New Mexico.

MOUNT RASTUS DISTRICT IS COMING TO THE FRONT

L. Sommers, the big merchant, is home from a trip to the Mount Rastus mining district. He brought in several sacks of ore for assay and the returns are of such a nature as to all most cause excitement. One sample assayed \$165.98 per ton. Mr. Sommers was piloted to the new camp by George Reynolds, one of the pioneer locators of that celebrated district. Mr. Sommers has valuable holdings, Reynolds having located him a number of the choicest claims near Murray hill.

"One hundred men are in the camp," said Mr. Sommers to the Herald man. "I confidently expect to see 5,000 men there next summer. The whole region is highly mineralized."

The recent returns received from assays of ore from the Bonta holdings on Murray hill prove the existence of sylvanite ore in place. Jacob Erphenbeck, the Philadelphia capitalist, who is heavily interested in the Mount Rastus region, has a force of men working his claims and he expects to expend \$6,000 before summer opens.—Herald.

C. A. JOHNS TALKS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Hon. C. A. Johns, of Baker City, spoke before the students of the university at Eugene Wednesday on "Mines and Mining." The speaker said in part:

"In all ages mining has largely controlled the destiny of nations. There is no authentic account as to which of the precious metals was first discovered, and where and how mining first began. The oldest coins which are in existence were used by the Greeks seven centuries before the Christian era. Both the old and new testament contains many references to gold and silver. In 1860 B. C. gold and silver were used as a medium of exchange. At the time of the death of Emperor Augustus, 14 A. D., it has been computed that there was \$1,014,000,000 of gold in existence.

"Gold mining in the United States is confined principally to the West. Mining in the West began with the discovery of gold in 1849. Each diggings had its own laws. Right ruled and every man was secure in his rights.

"The first mining law in Oregon was passed in 1864. Between 1864 and 1898 mining disputes were settled by Federal statutes. In 1898 Smith, of Baker county, introduced a law for regulating mining claims.

"Mining is becoming the great industry of Oregon. Time alone can tell what is in store for us. The general welfare of the citizens is the prime object of the state. So in furthering this end the State of Oregon should foster its mines."

OVER 25,000,000 ACRES PUBLIC LAND IN OREGON

In the six land districts of Oregon there still remains open to settlement many million acres of public lands. During the present year there have been a larger number of entries than usual, but a vast area of good land still remains unclaimed or unsettled upon. Most of the best lands nearest the cities and settlements have been taken, the only difference offered the new settlers between the present and previous years being that he must now go farther away from the towns and villages. More than 25,000,000 acres are still open.

The La Grande district, comprising the counties of Baker, Union, Morrow, Umatilla and Wallowa, is one of the largest and most important in the entire state.

The greatest number of unappropriated acres, 938,463 is in Baker county; the second in Wallowa, 520,267, and the third largest in Grant, 429,686. The total area of land surface in the district is 8,843,000 acres. Of the unappropriated land more than 2,402,000 acres are reserved, either permanently or temporarily. The total number of appropriated acres is about 600,000 more than the unappropriated acres in the district.

Total area of land in the State of Oregon, 61,277,440 acres.

Area appropriated, 25,369,824.
Area reserved, 12,801,800.
Total of vacant lands, 23,105,816.
Surveyed in unappropriated and unsurveyed lands, 17,182,749.

PROBABLY MORE THAN APPEARS ON SURFACE

There may be more to the story of the disappearance of Miner Swift

than has yet appeared on the surface. While no one discredits Mr. Ryan's statement as published in The Miner of recent date, that he saw Swift at Granite, it is understood that there was some difficulty between Swift and Ryan in regard to the ownership of certain mining property in the Cracker Creek district, and the former's friends allege that Ryan is anxious to make it appear that he missing man has gone east, with a view himself to taking possession of the claims and doing the assessment work.

Whatever merits these statements may have, Swift's associates here do not credit the report that he has gone east. S. S. Terrill, who has known Swift intimately for the past three years, believes that he has either perished in the snow or is to be found in the neighborhood of Alamo. He says:

"In the first place, Swift's name is not George B. as the papers have had it, but Gordon Burk Swift, having been named after the first governor of New York, of which state he is a native. He was sixty-one years old last November. I saw him here just seven weeks ago today, and he said nothing whatever about any intention to go east. It was a week later when Mr. Ryan saw him at Granite. Ryan stated to me that he met Swift in Attorney Bannon's office, and also mentioned the story about his having a ticket from friends or relatives in Illinois. He said further that Swift was out of money and he gave him \$5, though he left the impression that Swift was expecting money from the east.

"The truth of the matter is that Swift never left. He is either stopping around Alamo where he has friends and where he formerly did prospect work, or else he has perished in the snow. Had he returned to Sumpter to leave for the east, some one would have seen him.

"Again, he would have stopped with his old friend J. P. Wagner at Gold Center on his return more than likely. Wagner knows nothing about the missing man.

"Swift was a well educated man, a civil engineer by profession and was formerly connected with the Denver & Rio Grande in this capacity. He drank a good deal and was slightly intoxicated when I last saw him. I fear that he has fallen by the wayside and died from exposure."

NOTICE.

To interlopers and trespassers: Notice is hereby given to Randall H. Kemp and the Great Eastern Power and Light company, or any of its representatives, that I have strictly complied with the law as to my water rights and that work is being steadily prosecuted. And I hereby give notice to Randall H. Kemp, the G. E. P. & L. Co., or any of its representatives that I will protect my said rights at all hazards. And that Randall H. Kemp, the G. E. P. & L. Co. or any of its representatives are hereby notified to keep off my property without my written consent.

Dated Strawberry Camp, December 2, 1903.

W. A. McNAUGHTEN, Owner.

Timber and Homestead Filings.

Timber and homestead filings, as well as final proofs, can be made before Charles H. Chance, United States Commissioner, office in First National Bank of Sumpter building, Sumpter, thus saving applicants expense of a trip to La Grande.