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IDAHO-OREGON COMPANY WILL DEVELOP MINES.

Has Made no Noise Here But Has Quietly
Secured Several Good
Properties.

During the past sixty days The Miner has received several letters asking about the Idaho Oregon Mining company. Diligent enquiry failed to elicit any information, until one letter stated that T. K. Clark, whose postoffice address is Baker City, was the general manager. A letter to that gentleman brought a prompt reply and with it came Eugene Bartholf, than whom no one is better or more favorably known in eastern Oregon mining circles.

Mr. Bartholf states that he has had business dealings with the company, through its general manager, during the past six months and that the outfit is all right. It has made no noise in these parts as yet, because thus far it has been quietly buying and bounding properties. The headquarters of the company is at Kokomo, Indiana; the personnel of which includes wealthy business and professional men of that town, wire manufacturers and bankers.

Mr. Bartholf further stated that General Manager Clark is a well posted, conservative mining man, thoroughly on to his job, who has displayed excellent judgment in selecting properties to be developed. He has acquired groups in the Burnt River and Cable Cove districts and one particularly promising claim in the Cracker Creek district, the Ruby. "And," said that gentleman, "if you don't think he is getting the best to be had in eastern Oregon, let me take you up to the Ruby some day, and judge for yourself. I can drive you up there in an hour and a half and back in less than an hour."

In response to that invitation, extended a week ago, yesterday a Miner representative, accompanied by General Manager Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholf, inspected the Ruby. Its end line adjoins the Midway, on this side of the latter. Returning towards Sumpter the next claim is the Mayflower, then the Orleans, next the Golconda extension group, then the great Golconda itself and the other three of the "Big Four" mines of

eastern Oregon.

Standing on the Ruby ground, one can look to the east and see North Pole mountain and the buildings of that mine; the smoke issuing from the stacks of the E. and E., the Columbia and Golconda, all in a direct line, as runs the great Mother lode of the Cracker Creek district, unquestionably the richest and largest gold deposit on the continent.

Good ore bodies have been opened up on either side of the Ruby, in the Orleans and Midway. Professor Waldemar Lingren, of the United States geological survey, in treating of this vein in his official reports, traces it from the Baisley-Elkhorn on the east to the Mammoth on the west, beyond the Ruby and Midway, and says that it is the strongest, most persistent and clearly defined ledge in eastern Oregon.

But the Ruby is not dependent entirely on its neighbors for its good repute. Two veins have been exposed, both making a good showing. The main ledge, which is the famous Cracker Creek mother lode, has been opened in three places distant 400 feet apart, which shows an ore shoot at least that long. As is the case everywhere on this ledge, surface values are relatively low, though this shoot has the earmarks of a grass root proposition. The lowest assay returns give two dollars in gold, and from this up to \$4.50. The ore, all from the surface, is full of concentrates, than which, as all familiar with the subject know, there is no better evidence of high values below. In appearance the rock is identical with that of the North Pole and other mines on this lead.

The Ruby can be developed to advantage through a tunnel, which will gain a depth of foot for foot and give 300 feet of backs. Not only is the mountain side unusually steep, but the dip of the vein is away from the center of the mountain, at an angle from the perpendicular full thirty degrees. These con-

ditions make it a particularly economical developing proposition.

The work of opening up this property on these lines will be started at no distant day.

MORE ELECTRIC POWER FOR THE GOLCONDA.

J. A. Howard, of Sumpter, is in the city for a short business visit. Mr. Howard is the manager of the Golconda Mining company, and is here to confer with the stockholders and directors of the company preparatory to the annual meeting and the compilation of the annual report of the manager.

It is the intention of the company to make a great many improvements in their property during the year now opening, and these matters will come up at the annual meeting, which meets in this city towards the latter part of next month.

One of their contemplated improvements is the installation of a larger and much improved electric power plant at their mine, so that all of the mills and stamps of the mine can be run from the one source of power, and at the same time the station will furnish light for the mine at all times.

Mr. Howard will return to Sumpter in a short time, where he will finish up the work of this year and prepare his reports for the meeting in this city.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

THINGS WILL BE DOING IN LUMBER NEXT YEAR

V. R. Mead, well known in timber circles, is of the opinion that things will be booming in this line of business here next year. He knows of several influential and moneyed concerns which have the matter of operation in the section tributary to Sumpter under serious advisement. This will doubtless mean additional sawmills and much activity in the lumber business.

Mr. Mead has just returned from a timber trip to Spokane and Coeur d'Alene City. He says general business is lively at Spokane but little doing in the lumber way at the former place, on account of the lack of snow on which to haul out the logs. If snow does not come pretty soon, lumbermen, he says, will have to resort to trucks.

PROGRESS AT THE BLUE BIRD MILL.

E. J. Thorp, superintendent of the Blue Bird, came in today and reports

good progress toward the completion of the mill now under construction. The buildings are nearing completion, and work toward the installation of the machinery is going forward.

The smokestacks are up, the boilers set, and the rest of the machinery will be placed in a short time.

Mr. Thorp left this afternoon for the mine with an additional crew of men to continue the work.

THE MORMON CHURCH

IS ONCE MORE RICH

A press dispatch from Salt Lake, dated yesterday, says:

Virtually bankrupt a few years ago, the Mormon church has prospered until now it has again become rich. Announcement has been made that on January 2 the Church of Jesus Christ, the Latter Day Saints, will pay off a bonded indebtedness of half a million dollars, in addition to \$30,000 interest on the bonds for the last six months of their outstanding.

In addition to this large outlay the church is preparing to use a large sum in waging one of the most determined fights it has ever undertaken. That is the defense of Senator-elect Reed Smoot, who, it is declared, must be seated at any cost. The church leaders believe that the Smoot case will furnish the great test whether or not the hierarchy of the Mormons can hope to participate actively in politics.

Behind the election of Smoot to the United States senate was a plan far reaching in its scope and ambitious in design, only hints of which have leaked out from the quorum of the "twelve apostles" and the "first presidency." It is known, however, to pertain to political aggrandizement and general extension of the influence of the Saints.

The bonds that will be redeemed within a few days are relics of more than five years ago. In defending the numerous prosecutions for polygamy brought under the Edmunds-Tucker act, and in other troubles, such as the government confiscation of church property, the treasury of the Saints was badly depleted. Although these funds were subsequently returned conditionally, an immense loss occurred in the interim. The church was heavily in debt and money was borrowed at a high rate of interest.

Lorenzo Snow, at that time president of the church, an able financier, succeeded in refunding the debt on a six per cent basis. That was five years ago. Since that time the Mormons have accumulated wealth, partly from the tithing system, which obliges every member to give one-tenth of his gross income to the church, and partly through the prosperity caused by the influx of gentiles into Utah.