

## SMELTER BLOWN IN THURSDAY.

**Important Institution in Connection With Mining Industry Now at Work.**

One of the most important events of the year in connection with the mining industry of eastern Oregon took place when the Sumpter smelter was blown in last Thursday. The furnace was charged at 7 o'clock this morning and the blast put on. The first tap was made at 8, and barring a slight accident shortly after 8, everything so far is in the perfection of working order.

The accident referred to was due probably to an imperfection in the water jacketed copper spout which discharges the melted ore in front of the furnace. This fused, causing a small explosion, but no one was injured, and the damage was speedily repaired by the substitution of a new piece. The breaks and mishaps usually present at the starting of new machinery, with this exception, so far have been entirely absent, and the plant bids fair to prove an unprecedented success in point of mechanical perfection.

Superintendent Neal appears to be master of the situation and is thoroughly conversant with the most minute detail of operation. A good force of men, who for the most part are experienced smelter hands, is employed. The Sumpter smelter, with the exception of a few minor matters, has been completed and ready to blow in for some time.

The institution is one of the Killen, Warner, Stewart flotations, which firm conceived the idea that such a plant would be an important factor in the development of the mines of eastern Oregon, and accordingly organized a company to this end for carrying through the enterprise. The company, known as the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, was organized under the laws of Arizona, in 1902. Following are the officers: W. E. Lindsay, of New York, president; Professor Ebermann, of Sumpter, vice-president; D. L. Killen, Sumpter, secretary; J. W. Scriber, of La Grande, treasurer; Dr. Ed W. Mueller, of Sumpter, general manager. Later Carr B. Neal, a Houghton graduate, and a smelter man of large experience, was chosen superintendent.

Ground was broken for the erection of the plant last September a year ago, and the major part of the construction was performed last winter and during the spring and summer months. The enterprise represents an approximate outlay of \$200,000, and is one which in time will do a great deal toward furthering the mineral industry in the Sumpter belt.

The plant is of the matte or semi-pyritic class and has a daily capacity close on to 200 tons. The product which it turns out is known as copper matte and is shipped to refining institutions for further treatment. It is of the modern type, thoroughly complete throughout, and exactly adapted to the ends for which it was intended. An elaborate description in this connection will hardly be nec-

essary, as The Miner has gone into descriptive details on former occasions.

The situation in the DeNeffe & Muzzy billiard contest remains practically unchanged. Three games were played last night, in which neither of the McEwens, who are in the lead, figured.

The games were as follows: Bellman and Derry, Bellman won; DeNeffe and Derry, Derry won; A. L. McEwen and Derry, McEwen won.

This leaves A. H. McEwen and K. O. McEwen with their same records of yesterday, and the chances of victory largely in their favor.

## MAYOR McCOLLOCH BACK FROM PORTLAND

Mayor McCulloch returned this forenoon from Portland, where he went a week ago to spend the holidays with his family.

He brings back cheerful information regarding business conditions in the Webfoot metropolis; says that the Christmas trade was greater than was ever known before, and that everybody seemed to have more or less money that they were willing to let go of. He says, further, that the financial situation, as viewed from the standpoint of loans, is greatly improved over what it was six weeks or two months since; that the market has entirely recovered from the stringency existing at that time and that the effects of that incipient flurry have entirely passed away.

Regarding the kindergarten scrap now on over the sewer question, the mayor had heard nothing about it at one o'clock today and was not prepared to discuss it, further than to intimate that he will push the good thing along.

## MAGNOLIA DEAL TO BE PERFECTED

A. Burch and Fred Burbridge, of Spokane, constituting the firm of Burch & Burbridge, operating the Independence and other mining properties in the district, arrived this morning and left at once for Granite.

It is understood that the object of their visit is to perfect the matter of taking over the Magnolia, which was recently bonded by George J. Barrett for them. They will probably start operations at the Magnolia in the near future.

## NEW BOOK-KEEPER AT THE SNOW CREEK.

Edward R. Carter, formerly book-keeper for the Sumpter Light and Water company, left on the train to Whitney this morning to take a place at the Snow Creek mine as book-keeper and assayer.

Fred D. Smith, general manager of the Snow Creek, who was in to attend the Masonic meeting, also returned this morning. Mr. Smith reports the satisfactory operation of the new mill, which recently went into commission.

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## SILVER DOLLAR SELLS FOR TWO THOUSAND.

A United States dollar, now in its ninety-ninth year, has been sent from Denver to Portland, Oregon, after having lain in a Denver collection of coins for more than eighteen years. Though the dollar is about the size of those coined during the present year, and contains about the same number of grains of silver, it brought in the neighborhood of about \$5.335 per grain of pure silver in its combination, and all this because it has been in the one form for nearly 100 years.

The dollar is one of the coinage of 1804, of which there are only seven now known to be in existence. It was bought by the late J. V. Dexter, at the Chapman sale of coins in 1885. At that time the coin had been but lately secured from a collection in Berlin, being the only one of the dollars that is known to have been in a foreign collection. Mr. Dexter paid \$1,000 for the dollar, having to bid against several other collectors, the price being at that time the largest that had ever been paid for one of the coinage named. Since then one of the other coins has been sold for \$1,200, a record that held good until Thursday, when H. G. Brown, of Portland, Oregon, paid \$2,000 for the coin to R. G. Parvin, who succeeded to the ownership of the Dexter collection. Mr. Parvin did not willingly part with the coin at that price, for he has held it as the key piece of his numismatic collection.

The scarcity of dollars of the 1804 vintage is explained by an accident at sea. The largest part of the silver dollars of that year were struck off to pay United States soldiers and sailors doing duty in Tripoli, North Africa, and were shipped to that place. The vessel that carried them away from this country was never heard from again, so the entire cargo is supposed to rest somewhere upon the floor of the Atlantic ocean. Just seven copies of the dollar of that year are in existence, two lying in the mint at Philadelphia and the others being in private collections. In 1858 some copies of the coin of 1804 were struck off, being known as "restrikes," but all but two of them were called in, the records show, and destroyed. One copy of the "restrike" is in the mint at Philadelphia, and the other is owned in England. No counterfeit of the 1804 dollar was ever known.—Denver Republican.

### Charcoal as a Gold Saver.

Charcoal was first used for the recovery of gold from cyanide solutions by Mr. Aitken, of Reefton School of Mines, New Zealand. Mr. Aitken succeeded in saving only about seventy per cent of his gold and abandoned the process. In the following year, July, 1894, W. D. Johnston, of San Francisco, claimed it as an original discovery, and secured letters patent in the United States. Mr. Johnston also failed in making his method a practical success. Messrs. Duncan Brothers, of Tarnagulla and Stawell, Victoria, were the first to employ the process and obtain actual working results. Their success was so encouraging as to lead others to use it. At the present time it is the method almost universally adopted throughout the Victorian gold fields. Aitken's and Johnston's failures appear to have been due to insufficient charcoal and improper preparation and handling.—Mining World.

### Annual Stockholder's Meeting.

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the regular annual stockholders meeting of the Golconda Consolidated Gold Mines company will be held at the office of the company in the Pendleton Savings Bank building, in Pendleton, Oregon, at 10 o'clock a. m. on Tuesday, January 12, 1904; at such annual meeting an election will be held for the election of Directors of the said corporation, and all other and general business pertaining to the affairs of the company will be transacted that may come before such meeting.

C. B. WADE, President.  
J. H. RALEY, Secretary

Dated Dec. 9, 1903.

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