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SMELTER COMPLETES A SUCCESSFUL RUN.

Test Shows Thorough Adaptation of Machinery to Ores of The District.

The test run at the smelter was closed last night, and it has demonstrated beyond any question the success of the process. General Manager Mueller stated today that his most sanguine expectations regarding the operation of the plant were fully realized.

The run has shown to a nicety the adaption of the machinery to the treatment of the ores which the district furnishes. Further, it has reduced the matter to an absolutely scientific basis as far as the percent of coke and copper needed in the charge, are concerned, and has clearly established the high saving which can be effected.

A very low percentage of coke is required, and the amount of copper needed to clean the slag is also comparatively low. The slag so far has been practically clear, thus fully establishing the high degree of saving.

On the whole the test run has been an eminent success from every point of view. The machinery, notwithstanding the fact that it was new, and breaks might naturally be expected, has gone smoothly from the very start, without incidental hitches worthy of mention, and the success of its adaptation to the ores treated is without qualification.

RECEIVER THOMPSON'S LAST CHANCE GONE.

A late press dispatch from Washington states that Oregon senators have concluded to accept the final decision of Secretary Hitchcock in the case of Asa B. Thompson, and within a few days will recommend some one else for appointment as Receiver of the La Grande land office. While neither senator is satisfied with the secretary's action and both are convinced no reason has been presented why Mr. Thompson should not be reinstated, they recognize the futility of prolonging the contest. The two

senators have not conferred over this appointment but they expect to submit a new name to the President early next week.

Thompson, who is still in Washington, is sore disappointed over the decision of Secretary Hitchcock. He had hopes of being cleared of all charges and of being reinstated. His hope was strengthened after his conference with Secretary Hitchcock, but he now realizes he must give up the office he held so short a time. He will return to Oregon soon.

DRIVING FOR COPPER SHOOT

Zoeth Houser, vice president of the Standard company, who is looking after development work at the property, came in last night on his way to Pendleton. Regarding development, Mr. Houser states that active work is being done on the Cleveland drift, carrying it forward to a rich gold and copper shoot, which has been proved on the surface. The distance yet to drive before encountering this shoot is between fifty and seventy-five feet. The surface values indicate that exceptionally good ore may be expected at depth.

In addition to this, a lower crosscut is being driven to the Standard vein, which will give 160 feet added depth. This crosscut is in about seventy-five feet, and Mr. Houser thinks the change of formation now taking place indicates that the vein is near.

TESTING PLANT IS PROBABLY COMPLETED

A. Burch, of Burch & Burbridge, returned from Boise this morning

and left for the Magnolia. Mr. Burch stated that the firm is proceeding as rapidly as possible in the matter of sampling the Magnolia, but that no conclusions have yet been reached.

He thought the small sampling and testing plant being installed for this purpose, was probably completed by this time.

BORNEITE AT THE COPPEROPOLIS.

W. W. Gibbs, managing director of the Copperopolis, left this morning to resume work at the mine, after the holiday suspension. Mr. Gibbs spent his Christmas vacation with his family in Portland. One man was left working at the property during the time. The rest of the crew will be collected at once, Mr. Gibbs states, and active operations resumed. Just before the holidays a bornite ledge was encountered, which showed high copper values. Regarding this Mr. Gibbs says:

"A short shaft from the surface some time ago encountered a bornite ledge and later in following a fault on the main lead it was again met with. The vein is between three and four feet in width, and by reasonably close concentration it shows thirty-five per cent copper. While the ore I do not think is straight bornite, it very closely resembles this mineral, and it carries the characteristically high copper values found in bornite, which are vastly better than the average chalcopyrite values of the district.

"We are putting on a good development force and it is our intention to put ore in sight as rapidly as possible. Some of our stockholders have been clamoring for a mill, but I think I convinced them while I was in Portland that the first thing to be done in a mine, is to block out ore. It is a mistaken idea among a great many operators to rush into mills at the behest of stockholders who are anxious to realize early dividends, when the ore in sight will justify no such proceeding."

Speaking of the Quartzburg district in general, Mr. Gibbs said:

"Quartzburg has received a few good hard knocks from Sumpter stock dealers, but notwithstanding this fact we are going steadily ahead. I am advised that it has been told here that there are all kinds of snow over there and that it is next to impossible to get in, when the facts in the case are that the climate is much milder there and there is less snow-fall. These pin heads should realize that the welfare of Sumpter depends upon the welfare of all tributary districts. And I believe that Quartzburg is one of the coming districts."

TO RESUME WORK

Auburn Deep Mining Company Will
Start Operations in Two
Weeks.

Will Drive Crosscut to Lowest
Point in The Pay
Channel.

At a meeting of the directors of the Auburn Deep Mining company, held late yesterday afternoon in the office of Mayor McColloch, it was decided to resume work at the Auburn placers, owned by this company, within the next two weeks. There were present at the meeting, Mayor McColloch, A. P. Goss, Frank Jewett, C. K. De Neffe, William Kitchen and Joseph Reed, superintendent.

The immediate development policy outlined at the meeting, and practically decided upon, involves the running of a crosscut from the 100 foot level in the shaft northward, to intersect the pay channel at its lowest point. In sinking the present 240 foot shaft, at a depth of eighty-seven feet a pay channel was encountered. This was covered to the depth of about three feet with a black loam, which, from the presence of charred timbers and vegetable matter, gave evidence of a wash at some former period. Beneath was some five or six feet of gravel. The channel pitches about thirty degrees north, and it is argued that by driving under it from the 100 foot level, it will be encountered at its lowest point, where the best pay may be expected. This is the policy which will probably be inaugurated upon the resumption of operations.

It is probable also that the company will install a Keystone drill in the spring, and do extensive prospect work.

To Visit Listen Lake.

J. Win Wilson, general manager of the Listen Lake company, George Fosgue, of Fargo, fiscal agent, and J. S. Johnston, of Idaho, one of the directors, left this morning on the Whitney train for the property, in the Greenhorn district. The party will remain several days at the mine. Active development is being carried forward.