

CAUSE OF WAR

We have always been warned by an old adage that it is dangerous to give a man an inch, because if you do that he is very likely to take an ell. This unfortunate habit of taking more than is tendered is indulged in not only by individuals but by nations, and a striking example is to be found in Korea, where Russia is just now engaged in taking the proverbial ell. This has called forth some protest from little Japan, and there seems to be some possibility that the cannon of the Japs and the subscription departments of the illustrated weeklies will begin to boom before long.

In 1896 occurred an uprising in Korea, during which the emperor, a somewhat weak young man, was compelled to take refuge in the Russian legation at Seoul. During his residence there, before peace had been restored, he made a remarkable grant to the Russians, giving them the right to cut timber in the Yalu valley. How much influence was brought to bear upon the emperor by the Russians while they had him held thus tightly in their claws is not a matter of record; but it is reasonable to suppose that the grant was the result of some pressure brought to bear upon the gorgeous little monarch.

This grant was the inch for which Russia had been longing. She knew that Japan hoped to establish herself as firmly in Korea as Russia hoped to intrench herself in Manchuria. She set about stretching this inch into an ell. The treaty gave the Russians the "right to cut timber in the Yalu valley." The Russians early availed themselves of the privileges extended by this treaty. Having established themselves in the Yalu valley they set up the claim that the grant gave them a right to cut timber not only in all parts of the Yalu valley but on the lands of all tributaries. In other words, they claimed the right to cut timber in the entire northern half of the Korean kingdom.

It would seem that this was nervy enough for any ordinary purpose to serve. They claimed not only the right to cut the timber but to erect buildings, claiming that these were natural consequences of such operations. They purchased a large tract of land at Yongamtho, one of the best of the Korean harbors, and, stretching their treaty to the bursting point, erected here large and substantial buildings, which put Russia in command of the harbor and in a position to control Korea and protect her interests there by sea and by land.

These improvements at Yongamtho are the thorn in the side of Japan which threatens to precipitate a war in the orient. Japan can already see the glister of the bear's left paw at Port Arthur. The claws of its right paw are exposed at Yongamtho. Japan demands that these paws shall be withdrawn, and all that holds war from sweeping down upon the orient is the Russian hope that the powers at St. Petersburg, noted for their cleverness in this regard, can conceal the claws without removing the paws from the position north and south in which they have been placed.

The Korean timber concession, in any event, is entitled to a place in history. It is doubtful if ever such a grant has been stretched to such a degree by a nation or individual. Russia may yet claim the right to

ship arms into Korea under her timber concession, because wood enters into the composition of the stock. The beautiful possibilities of such a concession in the hands of such skillful gentlemen as those of St. Petersburg have never been more plainly demonstrated. — American Lumberman.

FACE OF DRIFT IN GOOD ORE

Tom C. Gray, superintendent of the Valley Queen, in the Cable Cove district, came in last night to attend a business meeting of the Eagles, of which order he is past president. Regarding development at the Valley Queen, Mr. Gray says: "The drift on vein No. 4, is giving evidence of the best ore yet encountered at the property. The face shows six feet of highly mineralized rock, with a predominance of talc, which must be taken as a highly favorable indication. We are pushing work rapidly along and are making preparations to materially increase the force within the next ten days."

PROPOSED CHANGE IN LAW ON VEINS IN PLACER GROUND

Mining men all over the northwest are awaiting with expectation and some anxiety, action on a measure which has been introduced into congress by Representative Dixon, of Montana, and which, if enacted, will change the existing law relative to mineral veins and lodes on placer locations. The proposed alteration is to section 2329 of the revised statutes. It follows:

"The deputy mineral surveyor making a survey for any application under his section shall examine and state in his field notes whether there is within the boundaries of such claim a vein or lode such as described in section 2320, and if so, shall designate the location of the same upon the plat to be filed with such application."

He also proposes to change section 2333 by inserting the following:

"When a vein or lode such as is described in section 2320 is shown by the field notes and plat filed with the application to exist within the boundaries of a placer claim, an application for a patent which does not include an application for the vein or lode claim shall be considered as a conclusive declaration that the claimant of the placer claim has no right of possession of the vein or lode claim; but where the existence of a vein or lode in a placer claim is not so shown, a patent for the placer claim shall convey all valuable mineral and other deposits within the boundaries thereof." — Telegram.

DRIVING FOR MAIN LEAD AT THE PLATT'S GROUP

Bert Rusk, of Bourne, who has been superintending development work at the Platt's group, in the Rock Creek district, came in from the property today.

He has started a crosscut for the main ledge and has driven some fifty feet. It will take about fifty feet more, he thinks, to reach the vein.

Confectionery.

Fresh Candies and Fruit, Choice line of Cigars and Tobaccos, at STURGILL'S.

THE MONITOR NOW SHIPPING ORE.

E. G. Stevenson, formerl of Greenhorn, but who has been operating at Susanville since last August, came in on the train this afternoon. Tomorrow six tons of ore will arrive at the smelter from the Monitor, a claim he has opened up this season.

He doesn't know how valuable his ore is; but thinks it is pretty good, and is here to look after the sampling. If it carries sufficiently high values to handle at a profit, he will ship regularly, as a large body has been blocked out.

Mr. Stevenson is associated with J. W. Spaulding and E. Simpson in this and other mining enterprises in that district. The Miner has several times mentioned the mill which Mr. Simpson had hauled in about six weeks since. It will begin operations about the fifteenth of the present month, on a big dump of tailings which have accumulated there for thirty years, from an old antiquated customs mill. These tailings run \$8.50 in free gold that the old mill failed to save. They will be re-ground in the mill recently erected and most of the values will be saved.

New York Mining Engineers.

There are 182 mining engineers having offices in New York city, and all engaged in the examination of mining properties. Many of these engineers are constantly on the move and their investigations take them into every country on the globe. One of them is now in New Zealand, another in Patagonia, another in China, another in Siberia. A prominent engineer has just returned from an elaborate trip into the wilds of Cuba, and another has returned from a two months' excursion through the mineral region of Santo Domingo, while a third is back from examining some gold prospects in Rhodesia, South Africa. The American mining engineer is supreme in his profession, his field being everywhere, and the greatest mining districts the world over having arisen from his investigations. — Mining World.

Ore Shipments.

Five cars of ore were shipped today from the Columbia, Golconda and E. and E., over the Sumpter Valley to the Tacoma smelter. The incoming freight was two cars of general merchandise.

New Time-Keeper at Pole North

Elmer Wright, formerly of Union, arrived yesterday to take a place at the North Pole mine as time-keeper.

A Business Proposition.

If you are going east a careful selection of your route is essential to the enjoyment of your trip. If it is a business trip time is the main consideration; if a pleasure trip, scenery and the conveniences and comforts of a modern railroad. Why not combine all by using the Illinois Central, the up-to-date road, running two trains daily from St. Paul and Minneapolis, and from Omaha to Chicago. Free reclining chair cars, the famous Buffet-Library-Smoking cars, all trains vestibuled. In short thoroughly modern throughout. All tickets reading via the Illinois Central will be honored on

these trains and no extra fare charged. Our rates are the same as those of inferior roads—why not get your money's worth? Write for full particulars.

B. H. TRUMBULL, Commercial Agent, Portland, Oregon.

J. C. LINDSEY, T. F. & P. A., Portland, Oregon.

PAUL B. THOMPSON, F. & P. A., Seattle, Washington.

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of a warrant issued by the City Recorder of the City of Sumpter on the 2nd day of December, 1903, to me directed, commanding me to collect the assessment levied upon each of the lots or tracts of land hereinafter described and set forth for the improvement of Auburn street from the east line of Center street to the west line of the alley in the center of Block 11, Sumpter Heights, McEwens' addition to the town of Sumpter, extended southerly would cross said Auburn street, I will at the front door of the City Hall, in the City of Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. on the 16th day of January, 1904, sell at public auction, to the highest and best bidder for cash in hand each and every lot, tract, or parcel of land hereinafter described, for the assessment levied thereon for the improvement of Auburn street, together with the costs and accruing costs of this sale, as declared by Ordinance No. 205 of the City of Sumpter.

Each lot, tract, or parcel of land hereinafter described will be sold separately for cash in hand, but no bid will be accepted on any lot, tract, or parcel of land that is less than the amount of the assessment levied thereon, together with the costs and accruing costs as hereinafter set forth.

The following are the lots or tracts of land that will be offered for sale with the name of the owner and the amount of the assessment against the same:

Lot 6, block 6, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$29.15.

Lot 7, block 6, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$35.45.

West 1/2 lot 8, block 6, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$19.14.

Lot 1, block 7, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$32.56.

Lot 2, block 7, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$36.69.

Lot 3, block 7, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$34.12.

Lot 4 block 7 Sumpter Valley R. R. Co. owner, assessed for \$28.52.

Lot 5 block 7, Sumpter Valley R. R. Co., owner, assessed for \$7.29.

All of the foregoing lots and parcels being in the original townsite of the town, now city, of Sumpter, as shown on the plat thereof, entitled: Revised plat of the town of Sumpter, of record in the office of the recorder of conveyances of Baker County, Oregon.

Witness my hand this 15th day of Dec., 1903. ED RAND, City Marshal of the City of Sumpter.

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.