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TO OPEN THE BURNT RIVER ROAD AT ONCE

W. C. Calder And J. N. Doane Will Leave Tomorrow to Break Way Through.

W. C. Calder and J. N. Doane will leave early in the morning with a couple of teams to break the new Burnt River road, through to King's ranch. They have telephoned to King's ranch, and secured the promise of several people with teams to meet them from that end and assist in the work. The entire distance from here to King's ranch is fifteen miles, but some six miles of the road this way completed last fall, is broken, and in good shape for travel. About all there is to be done on the remaining distance to put it in condition, is to drive over it a few times in order to break the snow.

At King's ranch the new road connects with the Unity road, and puts

Sumpter in touch with a vast scope of the productive Burnt river country, which hitherto has looked to Baker City as a market, making a forty-seven mile drive instead of fifteen. The Burnt river people will come here to trade. They are anxious to do it. Messrs. Elliot and Chamberlain, who were here a few days ago, were the advance guard of an army of ranchers yet to come. These early ones fared well. They sold their stuff without any difficulty, and will be back next week via the new road. They had to come by Whitney, out of their way, but when the news of the opening of the new road spreads, the entire scope of the Burnt River country will bring its products to Sumpter.

PLENTY OF MONEY FOR INVESTMENT

Judge Newbury had communications today from two well known promoting firms in New York, stating among other things, that the market for unlisted securities is rapidly improving in the east, and urging expedition if he has any sort of a proposition to submit.

The firms in question are in touch, it is stated, with the big money interests in both New York and London, and appear anxious to take hold of some business movement in Sumpter. They assure ample capital for financing any feasible proposition.

VICTOR GASOLINE ENGINE ROLLED DOWN MOUNTAIN

The sixty horse power engine being taken out to the Victor, in the Cracker Creek district, by Clint Haynes, toppled over on the mountain between the Columbia and Bourne yesterday, and rolled down a considerable distance. The mountain

was scarred up, and it is thought was injured internally, but the engine was unharmed.

Ropes will have to be used to get the engine back in the road and start it on its journey again.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT AT THE MIDWAY MINE

In view of the death of S. G. Williams yesterday, Richard Eckman, former superintendent of the Columbia, has been appointed to the superintendency of the Midway, the position held by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Eckman, has been in temporary charge since Mr. Williams left for Hot Lake, and the Geiser-Hendryx company, which has the management of the property, has made the place permanent.

Looking After Mining Interests.

Dr. Samuel Blume, of New York, is here to look after his various mining interests. He contemplates a trip to Europe in the near future, and before leaving concluded to visit Sumpter. This is his first visit here. He will remain here about ten days, and visit the properties in which he

is interested. He left this afternoon with Harry Hendryx to visit the Victor in the Cracker Creek district.

I. X. L. HAS \$8,000 ORE

Fred Kelly, superintendent of the I. X. L., who was on the train this afternoon returning from Baker City, confirms the reports regarding the rich ore recently disclosed at the property in the south drift from the 200 foot level. Mr. Kelly says the ore shoot is from six to eight inches wide carrying ore which always as high as \$8,000. It is very similar, he says, to the telluride ores of Cripple Creek, so he is informed by old Cripple Creek miners. So all appearances the drift is just skimming the top of the shoot, and even better values and greater strength may be expected with depth. He intends going 200 feet deeper this summer. Last week, Mr. Kelly says, water connection was made between the I. X. L. workings, and the Hidden Treasure, and that the shaft on the latter is now being drained through the I. X. L.

The mill is in perfect working order, he states, and the cyanide plant is giving entire satisfaction.

Lowest Reading of Mercury Last Night

The mercury reached its lowest reading of the winter here last night. In fact, the "oldest inhabitant," is slightly up against it to recall a time when it was ever much colder. The lowest yet reported was thirteen degrees below zero at the Sumpter hotel, about two o'clock this morning. From this various thermometers in different parts of the city ranged to five degrees below. It is stated that thermometers registered seven below on the coldest day last winter. A report from the North Pole mill states that it was eleven below there early this morning.

Very little damage is reported on account of the freezing of water pipes. In a few instances, where folks forgot to turn the water off, the pipes froze, but not to any extent worth mentioning.

Despite the fact that it was admittedly pretty cold, very little inconvenience was felt from it. People went around last night without their overcoats, and were not really aware of any great change in the temperature until they consulted their thermometers. Owing to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere here, cold is not felt to the extent that it is in damper localities, and while the mercury on rare occasions does creep down bulward, the winter days are usually bright and sunshiny.

SOMETHING NEEDED

L. Varn Hecke, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a director in the Midway company, who returned home yesterday afternoon, cannot understand why Sumpter does not support some sort of a commercial or business men's club. In conversation with a Miner representative regarding the matter, Mr. Van Hecke said: "This is one of the things I am not able to understand. With the amount of business centering in Sumpter, the big mining district tributary and other varied interests, this presents one of the finest fields for effective work by a well organized business men's club I have ever seen."

"I have been officially connected with several such organizations, and I am familiar with the amount of good, in the way of interesting capital and bringing in new industries, that can be accomplished."

"In my opinion, one of the greatest drawbacks to the district, and one which I believe could be counteracted in a measure by a commercial club, is the conflicting statements made concerning well known mining properties. A stranger coming here usually goes away guessing. As many times as I have been here and as familiar as I am with the mining interests of the district, I sometimes have my faith shaken by the array of unsolicited information thrust upon me. Even on this trip I was told by one man that the Columbia had worked out all its rich ore bodies, and that the mine is practically valueless. Another volunteered the information that the Columbia is producing \$100,000 a month, and that the property is conservatively valued at \$16,000,000. Similar reports and just as contradictory were given in regard to the Golconda. In neither case, I am persuaded, did the persons have the remotest idea as to the truth of their statements. But in the case of strangers who hear such conflicting stories regarding properties, what are they going to think? You have them guessing, and the chances are that many of them will keep on guessing and never arrive at a conclusion as far as investing their money is concerned."

"Now, a business men's club could do much to counteract this influence. It could give out reliable information, as far as obtainable, which would bear the stamp of honesty and authenticity. The truth about the Sumpter district is sufficient to attract investors, but between the knockers and the hot air peddlers, the prospective investor does not know when he is hot or cold."