

SPRAGUE VS GRAYSON.

Gallant Colonel Denies Every Allegation And "Challenges The Allegator."

Sensational Suit Grows Out of Mining Operations in Cable Cove.

Some weeks since A. H. Sprague, who has been connected with Colonel Grayson, in some indefinite way, for the past few years in his mining operations, instituted suit for a settlement. The Baker City Herald of last evening tells of the defendant's reply as follows:

Colonel Emmett Callahan, as attorney for the defendant in the now celebrated A. H. Sprague vs. J. T. Grayson and the Alpine Gold Mines, today filed with the county clerk an answer to the complaint of the plaintiff, which puts a different face on the matter.

The defendant denies all the material allegations as follows: He denies that he and Sprague ever entered into a partnership or agreement during the year 1900, whereby they were to engage in the sale and promotion of mines, sharing equally in all profits; denies that they entered into an agreement to purchase the Gerard, McKinley, Mormon Girl, Alarm, Occidental, Oriental, or the Davenport quartz claims in the Cable Cove district, whereby each was to pay half the purchase price; denies that Grayson accepted a deed to the above named claims as part of the aforesaid agreement; denies that he held such title in trust for himself and Sprague.

Defendant Grayson, on the other hand, alleges that he purchased the above named claims with his own money in purely a personal capacity and that Sprague did not enter at all into the transaction.

Grayson denies that he sold these claims to the Alpine company for \$20,000 in cash and 20,000 shares of stock; denies that the Alpine company is now or ever was indebted to him in the sum of \$20,000, or that he holds or ever held 40,000 shares of stock in that corporation; denies that at any time he conspired or confederated to cheat, wrong or defraud Sprague out of the sum of \$20,000 or any part thereof, or any part of 20,000 shares in the Alpine company.

In summing up, Defendant Grayson denies that Sprague has, or had, any interest in the above-described claims and that the defendant does now owe Sprague \$20,000 or any sum. Wherefore, the defendant, Grayson, prays the court that this action be dismissed and that the costs be assessed to Sprague.

Associated with Colonel Callahan in the case is Hon. Henry E. McGinn, of Portland, who is chief counsel for the defendant, Grayson.

"Pockets" of Native Mercury

Native mercury occurs in small tin white globules scattered through the gangue. It is not plentiful, but

there are instances of where metallic mercury has been found in pockets, of sufficient quantity to be dipped up in pails. The greatest pocket of native mercury ever found was at Huanacollea, Peru. At this place was discovered a pocket containing 600 pounds of native mercury. The metal was contained in a depression or natural dipper in the rock and was doubtless the accumulation of ages. Near Alameda, California, a pocket containing 200 pounds of metallic mercury was found, and at New India, same state, a few years ago was discovered a geode that, on being broken open, was found to contain several pounds of the metal, and which was doubtless a freak of nature, and, had it been preserved, would have been worth its weight in gold to a museum. In Austria-Hungary some masses of native amalgam have been found; native amalgam being native mercury alloyed with native silver.—Exchange.

MACAULAY ON A PERIOD OF WILD, FAKE PROMOTIONS.

Commenting on the "redundancy of capital" existing in the seventeenth century, in the period well toward its close, Lord Macaulay uses language thoroughly descriptive of conditions frequently recurring from that day up to this and on this side of the ocean as well as in Europe. He writes:

"The natural effect of this state of things was that a crowd of projectors, ingenious and absurd, honest and knavish, employed themselves in devising new schemes for the employment of redundant capital. It was about the year 1688 that the word stock-jobber was first heard in London. In the short space of four years a crowd of stock companies sprang into existence.

"Some of these companies took large mansions and printed their advertisements in gilded letters. Others, less ostentatious, were content with ink and met at coffee-houses in the neighborhood of the Royal Exchange. 'Jonah's' and 'Garraway's' were in a constant ferment with brokers, buyers, sellers, meetings of directors, meetings of proprietors. Time bargains soon came into fashion. Extensive combinations were formed, and monstrous fables circulated, for the purpose of raising or depressing the price of shares.

"Our country witnessed for the first time those phenomena with which long experience has made us familiar. A mania of which the symptoms were essentially the same with those of the mania of 1720, of the mania of 1825, of the mania of 1845, seized the public mind. An impatience to be rich, a contempt for those slow but sure gains which are the proper reward of industry, patience and thrift, spread through society. The spirit of the cogging dicers of Whitefriars took possession of the grave senators of the city, wardens of trades, deputies, aldermen.

"It was much easier and much more lucrative to put forth a lying prospectus announcing a new stock, to persuade ignorant people that the dividends could not fall short of twenty per cent and to part with five thousand solid guineas, than to load a ship with a well-chosen cargo for Virginia or the Levant. Every day some new bubble was puffed into existence, rose buoyant, shone bright, burst—and was forgotten."

MINER RIESS BURIED TODAY

J. W. Riess, the miner who was killed in the explosion at the Virginia mine a few days ago, was buried this afternoon from the Case undertaking establishment in the Blue Mountain cemetery, under the direction of the Greenhorn Miners Union.

Henry Riess, of North English, Iowa, a brother of the deceased, arrived here yesterday to attend the funeral. J. W. Riess was 34 years old and his brother, of North English, was the only relative in this country. He has another brother and two sisters, living in Germany. He left Iowa about thirteen years ago and engaged in sheepherding for a long time, but within recent years he has devoted his attention to mining.

ANCIENT CORAL FOUND IN STEVENS CO MARBLE.

Ancient coral is being found in the Stevens county marble. Professor Samuel Aughey said yesterday: "The variety and beautiful forms of Stevens county marble seems to be endless. E. E. Alexander has returned from the Wanderer claim, one of the Egyptian group northeast from Colville, and brought with him some odd specimens. One of its peculiarities can only be understood when polished. It has curious white specks, the size varying from a small to a large pinhead. These specks when scanned under a large magnifying glass are seen to be six sided and with a radiate structure. In short, they are very ancient fossil corals. The species have not been deciphered, but some of them belong to the *Archaeosidaria*, a family that flourished in the warm beds of portions of the carboniferous age. Species of the ancient chain can also be deciphered. The organic matter in these lowly animal and vegetable forms has given a clouded form to this marble ranging in color from black to brownish with more or less white and greenish hues. It is medium hard and takes a marvelously fine polish.

"Alongside of this stratum another occurs, in which the the coral specks are black, and the enclosing marble is also clouded and with more of the greenish hues. The latter is harder than the former, but is also susceptible of polish and fitted for ornamental work."—Spokesman Review.

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