



# THE SUMPTER MINER

## MAJOR BONTA'S RAIL ROAD PROPOSITION FINANCED.

### Secretary of The Company in The East For The Purpose of Signing The Bonds.

Baker City papers have announced that W. G. Drowley left there several days since for New York, expecting to arrive east today, but made no mention of the object of the trip.

Mr. Drowley is attorney for Major Bonta and is the secretary of the Baker City and Oregon Wonder Railway company. The Miner has learned, from what it considers an authentic and reliable source, that he has gone east to sign the bonds of the company, in his capacity as secretary; that their sale has been consummated and the money paid into a trust company, to be turned over to Major Bonta on the completion of the necessary formalities.

The fact that a few days since, as mentioned in these columns, a surveying crew was placed in the field at this time of year to make some slight change in the route, would seem to confirm the report of the sale of the bonds and indicate that Major Bonta is in position to hasten construction work and is in a hurry about the matter himself.

This road will be of vast benefit to

all eastern Oregon. By building a branch from Burnt river to Sumpter, a distance of only fourteen miles, the business of the company will be practically doubled, and will prove the salvation of this town. The route has already been surveyed for this branch and it will surely ultimately be constructed.

There is another rumor afloat, which The Miner has not been able to substantiate, that the road is designed as a link in a comprehensive system, and that for the present electricity as a motive power will not be used, steam having been substituted in the plan of operation instead.

The general impression prevails that Senator Clark is the financial power behind this great enterprise, though on this point Major Bonta would never make a definite statement. One thing the writer does know, however, that the report made by Senator Clark's brother, now dead, on the Quartzburg and Strawberry districts, was last fall in possession of Major Bonta. Mr. Clark examined that section about two years ago.

### MORE BURNT RIVER PEOPLE ARRIVE.

A bunch of Burnt River people came in last night with beeves, butter and eggs. They were B. C. Elliot, who has been coming regularly, R. A. Rogers and Mr. Whitehead, who are new men. Mr. Thompson, who was here last week, is now on the way and will probably be in tomorrow. His stuff is engaged at wholesale to the Sumpter Meat company. The others are selling out to the retail trade. There has been no difficulty in selling. Mr. Whitehead took a load to Bourne today.

Several teams are now on the way to purchase grain and provisions of various kinds in Sumpter, and will probably be in tonight.

### WILL VISIT THE STORM KING

Mr. F. A. Walters, of Stevens' Point, Wisconsin, the heaviest eastern stockholder in the Storm King, and Manager Costello will leave tomorrow for a five or six day visit to the property. Dr. Walters arrived here several days ago, but the snow storm prevented his visiting the mine sooner.

Manager Costello will take several men out with him to increase the working force. Although the reports which Dr. Walters has received from the Storm King, both from the management and from those familiar with the property, have greatly pleased him, he feels justified in securing an outside expert opinion. To this

end W. J. Keough, formerly of the Red Boy, will accompany the party. Dr. Walters is greatly pleased with Sumpter, and has great faith in the possibilities of the surrounding mining country.

The matter of sending Mr. Keough out to examine the property has been approved by Professor W. S. Eberman, engineer for the company.

Dr. Walters has been used to encounters with about everything from the old high bicycle to the meek and lowly broncho and is prepared to take his medicine without a grimace. Mr. Costello has assured the doctor that he would look well on skees, but would probably get along better on webs; so, as the doctor is not out for appearance's sake, the snow shoes go.

The eastern stockholders are to be congratulated on having Mr. Keough examine the properties; as there is no one the local stockholders would be more pleased to have an opinion from.

### WILL ERECT A MILL IN SPRING

W. E. King, general manager for the Portland Commercial Mining company, operating in the Mormon Basin, made a run up from Baker City today and remained between trains. Mr. King is making his headquarters in Baker City for the present. His wife, who lost her father in the Clallam disaster, recently returned from Victoria.

Mr. King's company has eight properties in the Mormon Basin, near the Morning Star group, in which Judge Newbury, of Sumpter, is interested. Operations are being concentrated on the Rainbow group, recently acquired. Mr. King says.

A ten stamp Chilean mill, having a daily capacity of about twenty tons, will be erected there in the spring. The machinery will be installed just as soon as the weather opens up. Mr. King exhibited some specimens of lively looking quartz with lots of free gold in sight taken from the ledge recently cut at this property.

### Snow Slides In Cable Cove.

M. E. Bain returned last evening from the Overland. He says that the snow slide at the Alpine did little damage, owing to the fact that it had such a short distance to travel before striking the buildings, and only moved them from their foundations. The snow is settling fast on the hill above the California and it is expected that there will be a snow slide there soon, though no injury can be done to the mill.

### BIG ORE BODIES IN THE MIDWAY

Some days since The Miner announced that the Midway vein had been encountered in the crosscut from the shaft, at the 200-foot station, at a distance of thirty feet.

Al Geiser states that they have now driven through the vein, which is full twenty-five feet from wall to wall. They are also drifting in both directions. At the point of intersection the ore carries fair values, enough gold to pay for mining and milling at a profit. In the drift, however, the values are increasing with every foot driven, and the management will not be surprised to uncover a sensationally rich shoot almost any day.

It is now considered that the Midway is proven, and the policy of the company in future will be to systematically block out the ore and make a mine of the property, before installing a mill. With this end in view, sinking will be resumed at an early day and they will go down another hundred feet. In the meantime, drifting on the 200-foot level will be continued.

It looks as if the next group of producers will be "brought in" on this extension of the Cracker Creek mother lode. Large bodies of pay ore have already been revealed on the Orleans and Mayflower and The Miner is informed that the Ruby, which is situated between, the end lines adjoining, the Midway and Mayflower, will be opened up this season.

### J. W. SCRIBER, PRESIDENT FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National bank, held today, the following directors were elected for the ensuing year: J. W. Scriber, E. W. Mueller, R. H. Miller, N. C. Richards and H. T. Hendryx. The only change in the board is the substitution of the name of H. T. Hendryx for that of J. B. Stoddard. It is understood, though not officially, that the latter has disposed of all his stock in the bank.

The directors present, Messrs. Scriber, Miller and Mueller, met immediately after the adjournment of the stockholders' meeting and re-elected the old officers, except that J. W. Scriber was made president, in place of J. B. Stoddard. The other officers are: E. W. Mueller, vice president; R. H. Miller, cashier; H. S. Durgan, assistant cashier.

Other business transacted at this meeting was merely routine, reports Cashier Miller.