

## ALAMO OFFICERS VISIT PROPERTY

Will Make Investigations With View to Determining Future Policy of The Company.

A party of Alamo officers and directors, of Spokane, composed of N. E. Nuzum, vice president; J. R. Cassin, secretary and treasurer; E. D. Trenholm, and M. C. Dunne, directors; arrived this morning and left shortly after noon for the mine. It is probable that a formal meeting of the directors will be held while the officers are there, to decide upon some changes and improvements.

"I am familiar with the mine and its operations myself," said Mr. Cassin, "and Mr. Trenholm also has spent some time there during recent months, but neither Mr. Nuzum nor Mr. Dunne are so familiar with the mine, and it was thought best for all of us to make an investigation before

taking up any new matters. I am not in a position to state now just what will be done. I do not believe in making a big display over contemplated improvements and then failing to make good. When our company does anything, I am perfectly willing to give it to the papers, but before a matter is absolutely passed upon, it is poor policy to make a blow about it. If the plans fail to materialize, it hurts.

"Our new mill is working like a charm and giving good satisfaction. We are going over to make an investigation to determine our future policy, and may decide upon some matters of change now under advisement, but it will be time enough to speak of these when a decision is reached."

## CABLE COVE HEARD FROM

Cable Cove mine owners and operators are very much in favor of the annexation project. They point out that in addition to the advantages already mentioned, which will accrue from taking this strip of Grant county, it will save a world of trouble in the matter of filing papers on assessment work, locations and other legal documents, since in instances of this kind various Cable Cove properties, as well as many others, now have to file in both Grant and Baker counties.

The main properties which are affected in this way are the California, Overland, Imperial, Red Chief, Alpine, Crown Point, Mormon Boy and Emeralds. The fact that they are partly in Baker county and partly in Grant makes no end of trouble in the way mentioned, and these people are praying that the change may be brought about.

## KEARNS PROPOSED CHANGE

### IN EXTRALATERAL RIGHT LAW.

By the Kearns amendment to the mining laws of the United States, now pending in congress, extra lateral rights are abrogated and the right of the locator to follow his ledge beyond the perpendicular limits of his claim would be destroyed.

It is unnecessary to discuss the question as to whether or not such a rule would have been a good thing if enacted in 1866, instead of the law which now prevails. There is no absolute guide in such cases. Every law is generally good or bad, according to its conditions and environment. We think that it is now too

late in the day to make such a radical change in our mining laws.

It is a fundamental principle of both government and jurisprudence, in relation to property, that where a certain practice has been for a long time legally recognized it is not proper to change it except it has been found to work the gravest injustice. In other words, that in such cases "it is better to bear the ills we have rather than to rush to others which we know not of." That such a change in our existing mining laws would result in great confusion and endless litigation cannot be denied.

No law can be made, under our constitution, that can injuriously affect rights already vested, for this would be akin to confiscation. That the proposed Kearns law could be made to govern all future locations we, of course, admit. With such a law we would, however, have one set of locations governed by the present system alongside of others existing under the proposed Kearns amendment. The old system, with its right to follow the veins into adjoining lands, and the new system giving no right to do any such thing.

Such a result would, we think, produce confusion, worse confounded, that we cannot see how the results would be beneficial as a whole. The passage of such a law would impose a new burden on the mining industry, grievous to be borne, and would renew an era of mining litigation that has now almost burned itself out for lack of fuel supplied from "unsettled points of law."—Pacific Coast Miner.

## BARTHOLF HAS A PIECE OF UTAH RADIUM ROCK.

Eugene Bartholf has received a sample of the ore recently found in Utah, from which the new, rare and most valuable metal, radium has been extracted. An account of this dis-

covery was published in The Miner several days since. The specimen was sent to him by his sister, who is postmistress at a town near the deposit.

The rock is like ordinary sandstone, through which is scattered thin layers of many colored metallic looking material, about the size of a silver dime. It is presumed that it is from this substance the radium was extracted.

## ENOUGH PLACER GROUND TO LAST FIFTY YEARS

Jack Hazlewood returned this forenoon from the Brown Bear placer diggings, on East Eagle creek, which he and Tom Brown are working. He claims to have a great layout there; "enough ground to last us fifty years," he says.

About that time Clark Snyder came along and expressed a doubt regarding the accuracy of the statement. Then Jack substantiated all that he had said by showing about \$1.35 in coarse gold.

Mr. Hazlewood says they have some water on the ground, enough to run a giant a couple of months in the year, and that their supply is unlimited. By the time the washing season opens they will have completed their ditches and flumes and expect to make a big clean up this year.

## "CONSERVATIVE" INVESTOR NO LICENSE TO CONDEMN MINING

The "conservative" investor has absolutely no right or license to condemn the mining industry as a field for investment, simply because it pays a much higher rate of interest than his narrow prejudice allows him to think is safe. He has no ground to stand upon, or can be present an argument which would convince an impartial jury that his position is a correct one. He can tell you all about the relative values of the different railroads, mortgages, etc., because he has studied these subjects thoroughly.

But he has passed over mining, with possibly a casual glance, whereas if he would give this subject as much thought and study as he has the others he would understand it and not condemn it because it pays a higher rate of interest than six per cent. Naturally, he is the principal loser by adhering to these prejudices, for he loses many dollars a year in interest. But it is to be regretted that in this century of enlightenment there are so many people of intelligence who are bound hard and fast by a foolish, unjustifiable prejudice.

It is within the right of everyone to condemn a single proposition, if there is reason to doubt its solidity, or the integrity of those back of it; but to condemn the whole field with one sweeping stroke because it pays a high rate of interest is wrong, unjust and unbusinesslike.—American Mining News.

Comic, and fancy Valentines at the Racket Store.

## 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 Le Grande.

## PLATINUM AT RASTUS

Discovery of This Valuable Metal in The New District Reliably Reported.

Rock Also Assays High in Gold Values And Much Work Will be Done There.

Mining circles in Baker City were startled last night by the announcement of the discovery in paying quantities of that rare metal platinum in gold ore in the Mount Rastus district, the newest camp which has been so much heralded of late. Mr. E. D. Gallagher, representing a Seattle syndicate, returned here from camp tonight. Mr. Gallaher has been quietly exploiting some new mineral territory for more than thirty days past, and has made these valuable discoveries just mentioned, which are situated about seven miles from Mount Rastus. When interviewed by a reporter, Mr. Gallagher displayed some handsome samples of ore which runs from one-half to twelve ounces in platinum and from \$5 to \$350 in gold.

It is a new character of ore to anything known in eastern Oregon. He says that the leads are well defined and in place. The belt seems at one age to have been in rock form, but has undergone a change and now both the country formation and the ore are soft and easy to work. On account of this great change in the formation, to the casual observer it does not look like a mineral territory and has been passed over by prospectors for years; cattle men have ridden over it for thirty-five years, little suspecting that there would be discovered beneath their feet the greatest mining camp on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Gallagher says that there have already been located some 75 or 100 claims in this new camp adjoining Mount Rastus and that he looks to see quite a rush there in the spring. He has secured a large number of claims for his Seattle syndicate and yesterday exhibited assay certificates from a local Baker City assayer made upon the ore he brought in, showing values in platinum of from \$12 to the ton to \$230 and \$10 in gold to \$326. The samples of the ore were taken six feet below the surface and the claims are situated not far from the Al Curry and the Bowen-Small and Panting Mount Rastus claims. Mr. Gallagher says that they will push development work and a tunnel has already been started on the Seattle property.—Democrat.

## Listen Lake People.

George W. Poague, of Fargo, general manager of the Listen Lake property, who has been here for some time in connection with the business interests of his company, left this afternoon for Fargo, to stop en route for a short time in Idaho. Mr. Poague was accompanied by T. H. Tennyson, who is also interested in the Listen Lake and has been spending some time at the mine.