

PREPARATIONS TO OVERHAUL E & E MILL

Machine Shop Being Fitted Up And All Repair Work Will Be Done On Ground.

The E. and E. is making extensive preparations to overhaul its mill, with a view, it is understood, to early operations. A machine shop is to be fitted up and the necessary repairs are to be made at once. Machinery for this purpose has been arriving for several days, and today a machinist turning lathe came in to furnish part of this equipment. Expert workmen will be employed and the changes to be made and the repairs needed will be done on the ground. The mill has

been idle for a number of years, and in consequence of this fact will require considerable overhauling and improving before it can be started up again.

The mine is employing a big force of men and the high grade ore taken out is being shipped. This old and well known property will soon be in its former producing basis. Since operations were resumed the company has pushed steadily ahead to this end.

RECALLED ON ACCOUNT ZACK MARTIN'S DEATH

Frank E. Hobson, the mining engineer, was on the train this morning going back to Canyon City, to attend a meeting of the Oregon Development company. Mr. Hobson took his family to Portland a short time ago and was going east, but was recalled by wire on account of the suicide of Zack Martin, treasurer of Grant county, and president of the Oregon Development company. Mr. Hobson is vice president of this company, and the death of Mr. Martin, necessitated a meeting of the stockholders, and as the next highest executive officer, Mr. Hobson's presence was demanded. The company owns water rights on Reynolds and Indian creeks, and Mr. Hobson's mission east was in connection with their development.

Regarding the rights claimed on Rail creek and the upper John Day river by both the Oregon Development company and McNaughten, of the Strawberry Lake proposition, Mr. Hobson says he anticipates no trouble. He is perfectly willing to concede McNaughten's claims without any hard feelings, if the same are legitimately substantiated.

LUMBER MARKET IS PICKING UP.

W. R. Manson, superintendent of the Sumpter Lumber company, returned today from a visit of several weeks to Sound cities. The coast lumber market, Mr. Manson says, is decidedly dull, but he sees signs of improvement, and does not think lumber inactivity is destined to last much longer.

Mr. Manson's return may be interpreted as an indication of an early resumption of the mill here, which has been closed for some time.

TO OPERATE ON A LARGE SCALE THIS YEAR

N. E. Imhaus, of Baker City, who is extensively engaged in mining operations, was here between trains today. Mr. Imhaus has the Camp Carson placers, in the Grande Ronde, the Clark Creek placers, placers on the Snake, besides being interested in the Flingstaff quartz property, which has been bonded to an eastern syndicate.

He contemplates extensive operations the coming season. His working forces will be largely increased in a short time. Mr. Imhaus is of the opinion that wars and presidential elections are not good for the mining industry, as a general proposition, but he expects to see a revival before long.

MACHINERY SENT TO BIG CREEK.

J. K. Zimmerman, general manager of the Big Creek placers, near Susanville, left this morning for the property, after having made arrangements for the transportation of the machinery recently purchased from the Golden Wizard company from McEwen. This machinery, as stated a few days ago, consists of a hoist, pumps and boilers. It was loaded today and the start was made. It will require about three days to make the trip.

Mr. Zimmerman says that the machinery will be installed immediately upon its arrival, and that operations will be prosecuted on a good scale. Mr. Zimmerman spent the winter in Portland, but will be at the property from now on till the close of the season.

Gold Mining in The Days of Pliny.

In Pliny's Natural History, written in the first century of our era, occurs the following: "Gold is found in our part of the world, not

to mention the gold extracted from the earth in India by the ants, and in Scythia by the griffins. Among us it is procured in three different ways; the first of which is in the shape of dust, found in running streams, the Tagus in Spain, for instance, the Po in Italy, the Hebrus in Thracia, the Pactolus in Asia, and the Ganges in India. Indeed there is no gold found in a more perfect state than this, thoroughly polished as it is by the continual attrition of the current."

TAX ROLLS FOR 1903

The Baker county tax rolls for 1903 were turned over by County Clerk Combs to County Sheriff Brown and Tax Collector Lachner today. The rolls show an increase in the assessed valuation of the county of approximately \$300,000 over 1902. The grand total of taxes to be collected under the 1903 levy is \$207,086.37, segregated as follows:

State, county and county school tax (levied on valuation of \$4,040,125) \$141,404.

County road tax (levied on same valuation) \$16,160.50.

County tax (levied on valuation of \$1,230,185) \$12,301.85.

Special school taxes for the 24 districts in Baker county, (levied on an aggregate valuation of about \$2,800,000) \$36,788.02.

The above levy provides a trifle over \$16,000 for county roads. Last year this segregation was about the same.

People may begin paying their taxes next Monday. Deputy Assessor G. F. Johnson has had an arduous task. He has had to segregate the sum of \$207,086.37 into 28 different funds on a pro rata basis and he is delighted over its completion.

The sheriff's office is busy sending out notices. At least 5,000 of these will have to be mailed by the tax collecting department of the sheriff's office.

On next Monday the office will be ready to receive money from the taxpayers.—Herald.

Mineral Smelter Nearly Finished.

Word reached Portland yesterday that the Ladd Metals company, which is operated near Mineral, Idaho, has about completed the new smelter being built on the patent of the Improved Mineral Smelter company, and will have it blown in by March 15. The plant is to be of a fifty-ton capacity, and will be the first of its kind to be in operation since the test was made at Oswego and that plant dismantled. The Ladd people have secured the right to erect five plants throughout the west of 100 tons capacity, but this is the first they have undertaken. Much interest is being manifested in the success of the new smelter, as proof of its practicability will cause a great change in the smelting world, and will very materially reduce the cost of treatment. It is contended by the inventors of the furnace that ore which now costs \$4.50 for smelting can be handled by their process for less than \$1.50 per ton. Coal is the fuel used and its cheapness over coke is an important factor.—Telegram.



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