

COVERS
THOROUGHLY
THE
GOLD FIELDS
of the
INLAND EMPIRE



THE SUMPTER MINER

EASTERN
INVESTORS
IN
OREGON MINES
Pay for
AND READ IT

HOIST SOON TO GO IN AT THE BLACK BUTTE.

Machinery Will Arrive as Soon as Roads
Will Permit Its Being
Hauled.

Ed C. Allen, superintendent of the Black Butte, which was taken over last fall by Wheeler & Company, of New York, came in yesterday to confer with Manager O. C. Wright and left on this morning's train.

Active preparations, Mr. Allen says, are being made toward the installation of a sinking plant. The machinery is expected to arrive in about six weeks, which is perhaps as soon as the roads will admit of its transference from Whitney to the property. By this time the buildings will be completed and ready for the installation of the plant. It was the original intention to put in a 500 foot depth capacity hoist, but the plans have been changed and it will have a depth capacity of 850 feet.

The property is already equipped with a ten stamp mill, which will be operated as soon as sinking is begun. The Black Butte is located in the

John Day country, and Superintendent Allen thinks on the same vein system as the Dixie Meadows. It's on the same porphyry belt which he says is easily traceable from one to the other.

During the early operation the mine is accredited with the production of over \$250,000, and the deepest working is only 100 feet. A great deal of rich ore was taken out, some, it is stated, going as high as \$1 to the pound. Much of this ore, it is said, was stolen, pounded and panneled. One man was accused of having taken away thirty pounds from which he got \$30. Mr. Allen installed the stamp mill and was running it at a profit when the dull times came on, creditors rushed in and the mine was forced to close on account of litigation. The way appears clear now, and with sinking machinery the property will soon be in the producing class again.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ASBESTOS.

One of the Most Wonder- ful Substances Dug Out of the Earth.

Asbestos, one of the most wonderful substances dug out of the earth, has been much in the public eye since the Iroquois theatre disaster. Now, it is reported, the bulk of the world's supply for many years to come has been secured by the Standard Oil interests, for the purpose of making fire proof "timber" and tunnel sheathing.

The supply of asbestos is limited. Most of it comes from Canada, and it is found in Oregon, Idaho, California, and other western states. It also is mined in the Italian Alps, whence most of the supply came before it was discovered in Canada. But except in the latter country, the veins of the greasy-feeling silky-like fibrous stuff are too thin to be worked with profit, for the problem of mining asbestos is found in the disposition of the foreign matter in

which the asbestos is entombed. In the Canadian mines only about 4 per cent of the material quarried is asbestos; the rest is made up of rock and other refuse.

Asbestos occurs in veins varying from half an inch to four inches thick between layers of hornblende crystals. The longer, tougher fibers are found in the deepest diggings the less valuable asbestos — that is, the short, easily pulverized fibers — are found near the surface. The mining is much like rock quarrying. Holes are drilled and dynamite exploded to blast out a layer, which falls to the floor of the working. The workmen break out as much of the pure asbestos in as large lumps as possible, load the lumps into tubs or skips and send it to the surface, where boys and young men "cob" or crumble the rock away from the asbestos.

The lumps of asbestos are packed in rough bales and shipped to this country to be manufactured into the finished product. The asbestos as it comes from the mine is of a yellowish or greenish color, the edges frayed with loose fiber. The best grades of asbestos are white, and the fine fiber is long enough to be carded and spun into yarn and then woven into a greasy-feeling, dirty white cloth, which is fire proof, acid proof and weather proof.

When the lumps of raw asbestos reach the factory they are placed in machines, which crush them

until the fibers are loosened into fluffy, cottony masses. From the crushing mill the fibers pass into another machine which separates the long and short fibers; at the same time it throws out any stones or other refuse matter. The short fibers are ground up into pulp or powder, according to the use for which they are intended, while the longer fibers are gathered together to be woven into cloth.

It is this cloth which is used for making fireproof drop curtains for theaters. The asbestos yarn is also made into gloves and mittens for glass and iron workers and a finer cloth is woven for acid filters. To catalogue the uses of asbestos would



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