

CRACKER OREGON TO RESUME SOON.

President Michael Here And Brings Good News About His Properties.

Joseph Michael, of Minneapolis, president of the Turnagain Arm company, operating the California, and largely interested in the Cracker Oregon and Cracker Jack in the Cracker Creek district, arrived this morning to look after the operation of his properties. Mr. Michael brings most encouraging news. The Cracker Oregon will resume operations within the next three months, or probably a sooner limit.

"We would start up at once," says Mr. Michael, "were it not for the fact that the roads are in a deplorable condition, and the getting in of supplies is a matter attended with great difficulty. Just as soon as the weather opens up, however, we will begin operations, and we hope that it will not be so long as the time I have mentioned."

This property is equipped with a ten stamp mill and adequate machinery. Operations, according to Mr. Michael, are to be resumed on an extended scale.

Regarding the temporary closing of the California, Mr. Michael says:

"Among the prominent conditions which made it necessary to suspend milling operations for a short time, was the difficulty with which the transportation of supplies was attended, due to the snow and the bad state of roads. It was next to impossible, at least a very strenuous

matter, to get in our cyanide and other supplies, so we figured it more expedient to close down temporarily than to attempt to run under such conditions. But the suspension will be very brief. Just as soon as the weather opens up, we will be going again.

"And let me say right here that those who are wagging their tongues about the California's mill not being a success, are speaking about something concerning which they have not the remotest knowledge. The California mill is a success, as has been thoroughly demonstrated during the time it was operated. It is admirably suited to the treatment of the ore, and there is not the remotest fault to be found in this direction. No defect or deficiency in the mill has anything to do with the close down. It was due to the conditions I have stated. Here is a point. We are absolutely sure that the California is a mine, and a good one; we have all kinds of ore in sight, and our mill has satisfied us that the treatment is a success. It is only a question of time, and a very brief time at that, until we will be going again at full blast."

Mr. Michael will remain in the city several days looking after his interests. The situation in the east, he says, is very encouraging, and his companies are in most excellent shape.

FACE OF DRIFT NOW IN TALC.

Tom C. Gray, superintendent of the Valley Queen, came in from the mine last night. He reports Charles Warren, vice president of the company and foreman of the works, much improved from a threatened attack of pneumonia. While Mr. Gray does not take any of the credit of the approaching recovery to himself, it is believed that it is due to his judicious nursing and application of simples. Mr. Gray is here on urgent matrimonial business which would not brook delay.

Work at the mine, he says, is going on in good shape. The drift on vein No. 1, recently started, is now in twenty feet and the face is in talc, which, as is well known by mining men, is a good indication. Work in the other parts of the mine is proceeding satisfactorily.

WENT TO EXAMINE MAGNOLIA MINE.

Al Jones, Al Geiser and Engineer Esselstyn, who left for the Magnolia yesterday to make an examination of this property, met with bad luck before they reached Granite. The report came in this morning that their team gave out before they reached Granite, and the three had to foot it to Granite, where they secured a fresh span and proceeded on their trip this morning. The informant states that when the horses gave out the trio got busy to give assistance, and when seen in this act about a foot of Al Jones' person was sticking out of the snow, and barely the tops of Esselstyn's and Geiser's heads could be seen.

There are sundry rumors regarding the mission of these men to the Mag-

nolia. Mr. Jones is one of the owners of the property, and it is thought there may be a new deal coming up. They will probably not return before tomorrow.

LOOKING AFTER THEIR SUMPTER INTERESTS

D. Jones and A. Snyder, of Duluth, who are interested in Oregon mineral and timber holdings, arrived here this morning to look after business matters. Mr. Snyder is the father of Mr. Snyder, a member of the former mining brokerage firm of Burks & Snyder, of this city.

Mr. Jones is one of the heavy stockholders in the Esmeralda in the Cracker Creek district. It is reported that this property is to resume operations at an early date, but Mr. Jones had nothing to give out in confirmation. However, it is a valuable mineral holding, situated in a favored locality, and the general impression here is that it is soon to be worked.

Mr. Jones is extensively interested in timber lands in western and southern Oregon, also in Utah, and in mines in Colorado, Arizona and British Columbia. He is one of the stockholders in the Calumet and Arizona smelter at Douglas, which has just completed a most successful year's run. Messrs. Jones and Snyder will be here several days looking after their interests.

Prussian Potash Mines.

The potash that is dug from the royal Prussian mines, located at Stassfurt, ninety miles from Berlin, is the sole source of the world's supply. Before the mines were discovered the best substitute that could be found for the product was wood ash, such as the southern plantations used in the old days for making lye soap. The Prussian mines are twenty-seven in number and were devoted to the production of salt before the salt rock was discovered. When the new variety of salt was given to the world about forty years ago, the Prussian mines were temporarily abandoned, and in a few years a search for rock salt was instituted. The salt was found, but in a badly adulterated condition, and an analysis of the adulterant revealed the fact that it was the most valuable part of the mineral. The potash was at once turned to use as commercial fertilizer, and establishments in Kentucky and other southern states took a large proportion of the production. It is an ingredient of the material in which the Tennessee and South Carolina phosphate is largely used. The mines are controlled by a syndicate and are under the supervision of the emperor of Germany and king of Prussia. They employ 21,000 men, and yield 1,200 carloads a day of potash. Of the entire output 75 per cent is used for agricultural purposes, while the remainder is used for chemical purposes. It is largely utilized in the cyanide process of extracting gold from the ore.—Exchange.

Resume Work at Gold Coin.

The Baker City Democrat reports that Tom Kennerly, of the Gold Coin, in the Greenhorns, has returned from the east, where he has been for six months past, and will resume work on that property in the spring. He is accompanied by F. C. Ganter, of Philadelphia, who will have charge of the work.

MISTAKES OF MINE OWNERS

Rush Into Mills Without Knowing Kind Best Suited To Ore.

In the opinion of John Arthur, of the Sumpter Sampling and Testing works, the thing which is militating most against the best interests of mining in this district is the establishment of mills unsuited to proper treatment of the ore.

"Of course," says Mr. Arthur, "you will accuse me of talking up my own business, since I have gone to considerable expense to equip a testing plant for the recommendation of the process best adapted to a given ore, but you have only to look about you to reach the conclusion that the mistakes in this direction are not a few. A great many alleged mining men seem to think that among the first things to be done is to equip their property with a reduction plant. For the most part they are ex-farmers or dry goods clerks whose knowledge of mining, to say the least, is limited. The machinery man who can put up the smoothest spiel unloads a mill on them, without any reference to its adaptability to the reduction of their ore. With a great flourish of trumpets it is then announced that such and such a property is going to install milling machinery, and the eastern stockholders begin to imagine themselves rolling in wealth and luxury. But in many instances their dream is short lived, for the first thing you know the plant is closed down and some vague reason assigned, when the truth of the matter is that it wouldn't save the values. I am not mentioning anybody or any property, but speaking generally and one will not have to start any very exhaustive inquiry to learn that what I am saying is gospel truth. This gives the district a black eye. Outsiders begin to wag their tongues and say, 'Why did such and such a mill close down? Why does not this or that mine pay dividends?'"

"The ore is here undoubtedly and indisputably. It is here in vast quantities, and of a quality that if treated correctly will yield immense returns. If before rushing into a mill with a flare of tin horns, the operator would pay a small sum to some reputable and therefore unprejudiced testing institution which would guarantee the process, it would save the absolute throwing away of large sums of money in useless machinery, and at the same time save the district from slanderous talk. I know I am preaching up my own trade, but at the same time I am giving straight goods, as far as the best interests of the camp are concerned."

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 La Grande.