

ORE BUYING FUND FOR THE SMELTER

Representative of Eastern Stockholders Has Finished Investigations.

F. D. Fuller, of New York, who has been here for several weeks at the instance of the eastern stockholders of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, in the matter of formulating a recommendation relative to an ore purchasing fund, asked for by the local management, has completed his investigations. Mr. Fuller left on this afternoon's train.

While he declines to make any specific statement for publication as to the character of his report, the gist of it, as far as the ore purchasing fund is concerned, is no doubt prefigured in what he has to say about the smelter and the district in general. From this it is inferred that his recommendation is highly favorable. Mr. Fuller, although handicapped by bad weather and an extraordinary amount of snow, has visited the principal producing properties in the district with a view to determining the amount and value of ore they can furnish. He has made a systematic canvass of the situation, omitting not the smallest detail in collecting data on which to base his report. He says:

"You, no doubt, appreciate the position in which I am placed. I was sent here by the eastern stockholders of the Smelter company to report to them in this matter. While

I realize the fact that the conclusions I have reached and the recommendations I have to offer are of more or less importance to this mining district, yet at the same time, this information is for my employers and not for the general public. Therefore, I do not feel at liberty to give it out. I wish I could, for I fully realize the important relation the smelter sustains toward the mining industry of the camp.

"But I will say this: After a thorough examination of the smelting plant and the ores of the district, I find that the plant is thoroughly adapted to their reduction. It is modern in equipment and appointment, in fact A 1 in every respect. Of its kind and capacity, very few better smelters are to be found in the country. The only thing upon which its success hinges, that I can see, is a sufficient fund to purchase an adequate ore supply."

While, as stated above, the general character of Mr. Fuller's report may be inferred, yet he declines for reasons stated, to go into details. The conclusions reached by Mr. Fuller relative to the district are very favorable and coming from the eminent authority on smelters and mining that he is, carry more than ordinary weight.

DOES NOT THINK DAMAGE AT CHLORIDE VERY GREAT

H. C. Armstrong, of Baker City, manager of the Chloride, whose buildings were recently demolished by a snow slide, was on the train this morning, going out to the Greenhorns on mining business.

Mr. Armstrong says no attempt will be made to operate the property until the sun relieves the weight of snow now covering the machinery and housings. These are buried to a depth of some thirty feet. He does not think, however, that the damage will amount to a great deal. The mine, he says, will be operated when the snow is gone, as usual.

Franklin Group At Pine?

Roy Clarke, of Juessen & Clarke, the engineering firm formerly located here, was in town today between trains. Mr. Clarke has the superintendency of the Franklin group at Pine, Idaho. He says that work is proceeding satisfactorily and the property making an encouraging showing.

MOUNT RASTUS CLAIMS SHOWING UP GREAT

Claims on Murray Hill, in Mount Rastus district, upon which development work has been carried on all winter are turning out to be bonanzas and that there will be great activity in the district as soon as the weather and roads will permit is without peradventure of a doubt.

Dr. H. E. Curry, of this city is in receipt of a letter from a mine owner in the camp under date of March 15, from which the following excerpt is given to the public by the Democrat:

"The Hayseed Mining company have struck it rich in their tunnel. They are offered \$80,000 for their group of claims. They have a put a door and lock on the tunnel and will not allow any stranger to go into the tunnel."

A number of Baker City people who last fall located claims in Mount Rastus district are preparing to send in supplies to carry on development as soon as possible.

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, capitalists,

through local representatives, have already forwarded to the camp several wagon loads of supplies and will operate there on a large scale the coming summer.

The Democrat has good reasons for believing that the Mount Rastus gold camp will produce many rich mines this year and before fall several stamp mills will be in course of erection.—Democrat.

WAS MISSED BY AVALANCHE

Charles Warren, vice president of the Valley Queen company, is in from the property Friday. Mr. Warren has been indisposed for some time, but is much improved.

As he and Tom Gray, superintendent of the mine, came over to the California yesterday, they narrowly missed being engulfed with a snow slide. It came thundering down the mountain—snow slides always thunder—and stopped dead short within three barleycorns of their feet.

Mr. Warren says the mine is looking mighty good. Drift No. 1 has proceeded thirty feet, and has about four feet of lively looking quartz in the face. The formation has changed from talc to quartz. Superintendent Gray sent in a line of samples today.

SATISFACTORY WORK AT MOUNTAIN VIEW

H. S. Cake, of Portland, president of the Mountain View Mining company returned home today after a week's visit to the property. Dr. Techow, superintendent of the mine, came in with him and will remain over until tomorrow.

President Cake says that everything is looking good at the mine. A force of eighteen men is being worked and operations are advancing with satisfactory results. Mr. Cake went against about ten feet of snow, however, however, which was not much to his liking.

Revival of Old Times.

That it is hard to estimate the life of a mine is evidenced by a recent development in Ophir, that old Nevada bonanza. After twenty-four years this Comstock proposition has come forward with a dividend amounting to 25 cents a share. As in the days of old, when California was Comstock mad, fortunes were made and lost in a day, Comstock is the enchanting spot where wealth's rejected suitors love to linger. It is not the brilliant memories that cluster about this spot, but the stories of the new wealth that holds public interest. It was said that Ophir has had its day. This is no doubt true, but it is also true that it may see better days. It was thought that the old bonanza had been worked out. It is no wonder then that the report of a wonderful discovery of ore in the 1800-foot level of this property should send Comstock shares soaring. The old treasure vault has been reopened, and was not this fact alone enough to start one of the old excitements? During the first week of this month over two hundred carloads of ore were mined from the Ophir.—Bonds and Mortgages.

I. X. L. WILL DOUBLE MILL CAPACITY

Consulting Engineer Carter Confirms Report of Rich Ore at Property.

G. A. Carter, who runs an assay office at Greenhorn and is consulting engineer for the I. X. L., came in last night and left for Baker City this afternoon.

Mr. Carter says that the I. X. L. will double the capacity of its mill within a short time. The present capacity is about ten tons a day, which will be increased to twenty by the addition of new machinery.

Mr. Carter confirms the reports recently published in The Miner regarding the rich ore at the property. On the No. 1 and No. 2 levels ore has been encountered which runs as high as \$8,000 to the ton. The mill, he says, is running full time and the property making a most excellent showing.

CONTEST OVER POSSESSION OF A WONDERFUL ARIZONA CAVE

A dispatch from Tombstone, Arizona, says that the government last week entered suit against M. J. Duffner, asking for a permanent injunction restraining him from entering into possession of a wonderful cave on the Chiricahua forest reserve. United States Attorney Nave, who filed the suit, also gave notice that he would in ten days apply for a temporary injunction.

The cave in question is said to rival the famous Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. It was discovered some months ago, and Duffner located it as a mining claim, which location the government disputes as fraudulent. Duffner has taken \$3,000 worth of specimens from the property. The beautiful crystals have been sold in all the large cities of the southwest. The government sent an inspector to the scene, and Duffner threatened to fence in the property.

Forest Supervisor Charles T. McGilone investigated the cave and found wonderful labyrinths, beautiful chambers, underground lakes, marvelous specimens and endless corridors. The cave has never been fully explored. It is located a mile northeast of the S. B. ranch, on the Chiricahua forest reserve, in Cochise county.

The applications for a temporary injunction will be heard by Judge F. W. Doan in chambers in Florence.

WHITTIER HAS DONE AN OLD FORTY NINER IN CLAY.

A. D. Whittier, who does things in clay, has turned out another exquisite piece of work at his studio over against the sign of Olympus, where Ed Hauser passes out refreshments.

The new work of art is a study in clay entitled, "From the Frontier," and is a typical Forty-niner. It shows the early westerner to perfection, and as a character study is a work of unusual merit.