

WATER CO. SOON TO RESUME WORK

To Start on The Power
Plant And Pipe Line
About April 1.

The Sumpter Light and Water company will resume operations on its power plant and pipe line just as soon as the weather will permit. A. G. Smith, consulting engineer and one of the officers of the company, who is now at North Yakima, rounding up the work connected with the water system there, controlled by the same people, is expected here about April 1, to recommence operations if the snow has sufficiently disappeared at that time to allow work to proceed.

When the weather forced a suspension last fall, the power house had been practically completed and the major part of the pipe line laid. The foundations for the machinery are all in and only a small amount of interior work connected with the building remains to be completed. Outside of the pipe line extension which the company contemplates making within the city limits, 2,000 feet will cover the rest to be laid.

The engines and boilers at the old plant will be moved to the new location, but the dynamo now in use will be held for shipment to some other point, the new one coming being of sufficient power to furnish light to a much larger place than Sumpter. The growth of the town was figured on in the purchase of machinery. The new dynamo was ordered some time ago, and Superintendent Ball expects its arrival now any day.

LISTEN LAKE WELL FIXED FOR BREAKUP

J. Win Wilson, manager of the Listen Lake, returned from the property on this afternoon's train. The shaft, Mr. Wilson says, is now down over seventy five feet, and is out of the ledge and in country rock. At the 100 foot level the vein will again be crooked.

Mr. Wilson says he is well fixed for the break up of snow, when the roads will be almost impassable. He has now on hands nine tons of supplies, which will tide him over until runners can be discarded for wheels.

MINERAL WOOL NEAREST THING TO ASBESTOS MADE BY MAN.

"Mineral wool" is the nearest thing to asbestos which man has been able to make on a commercial scale. At first it was made from slag, the refuse from blast furnaces, but the "wool" was too brittle and melted at too low a temperature to be used as a substitute for asbestos. Metallurgists took the matter in hand, analyzed asbestos, and made up the proper mixture from sand, fire clay, limestone, kaolin and iron slag to give a product which possessed many of the characteristics of asbestos. Now limestone, broken glass, broken dishes, iron slag and pieces

of fire brick are melted down in a suitable furnace and blown into the fibrous stuff called "mineral wool."

When the mixture is melted into a liquid by the intense heat of the furnace a small opening is made and the molten stuff escapes in a stream about an inch in diameter. As it falls a jet of steam or compressed air, issuing from flat nozzles, is turned on to it and blows it in a fine spray through a window into an adjoining room. The action of the jets upon the stream of molten sand, iron, clay and glass spins it out into beautiful white fibers, which on cooling look like washed wool. This material is used largely as a non-conductor of heat. It is packed around steam pipes and boilers to retain heat and packed around refrigerators to retain cold.—San Francisco Chronicle.

ADVANCE ELECTED OFFICERS THURSDAY

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the Advance Mining company held Thursday afternoon in the company's offices, for the purpose of increasing the directorate from three to five, electing officers and extending their terms of office from one to two years, and revising the by-laws, the following officers and directors were elected:

President Thomas J. Costello; vice president, S. S. Start; secretary and treasurer, Dr. F. A. Walters, of Steven's Point, Wisconsin; directors, G. H. Blanchard of St. Paul, and E. P. Bergman.

The company operates the McKinley and Roosevelt group in the Cable Cove district, and is controlled by practically the same people who compare the Forest company operating the Storm King group.

Dr. Walters called attention to the fact that the eastern stockholders get the terms Forest, Advance, Storm King, etc., mixed up, and it takes a lot of his time to set them right. He suggested that in the company's literature closer distinctions be made in this matter.

Various reports were read and things were found to be in excellent shape.

TO START WORK ON NINE STRIKE

Joe Mikel, an old time resident of Sumpter and largely interested in mining property in the district, arrived from San Jose this morning. Mr. Mikel is here to look after his mining interests and will probably remain for some time. He is the original locator of the Ibez, and one of the present owners of the NineStrike, in the Cracker Creek district. He will make arrangements to carry on work at this property during the coming season. Mr. Mikel located here about eighteen years ago, and was among the earliest operators in the district. Besides his holdings here he is interested in California and Alaska.

M. E. Bain Will Return Soon.

Professor W. S. Eberman has had a letter from M. E. Bain, written from Minneapolis, stating that he will return to Sumpter in about ten days and make things hum out at the Overland. He had just returned from a visit to his old home in Canada.

FINE FIRE OPALS FOUND IN IDAHO

Demand For And Price of
This Jewel is Constantly
Increasing.

Some fire opals have lately been found in the opal depots near Moscow, Idaho, and renewed attention is called to the district. A few opals were uncovered last fall in rock taken from the farm at the Idaho Agricultural college at Moscow. The same rock was used in paving Main avenue at Moscow. Golden streets are common in the mining towns of the northwest, where tailings from gold mines are used for paving, and silver streets have proven a great success in the Coeur d'Alenes. Moscow, however, is the first place in this district to have an opalescent thoroughfare.

Opals in the Spokane market retail at from \$5 to \$15 a carat. A medium grade stone is worth \$8 to \$9 a carat. There has been an enormous increase lately in the demand for opals, and first class specimens are commanding fancy prices. The old time superstition about the opal being a bad luck stone is only laughed at, and all kinds of folk are wearing the wonderful little jewel. In combination with diamonds, it is meeting its greatest success. There appears to be no reason why, with an increasing price for the opals, the Moscow fields should not become a steady source of wealth in future.

Some magnificent opals have been taken out of the Moscow fields. Fire opals were discovered there on the farm of William Leisure in August, 1890. James Allen, a jeweler of Yonkers, New York, is reported to have made the find, looking over some rocks taken from a well twenty-two feet deep. In the last four feet the opals were more or less plentiful in the cavities of the rock. The formation is a basalt, in which most if not all of the feldspar and pyroxene, as well as the green mass, appear to have been altered. Some of the original constituents appear to have changed, but whether or not it is olivine is difficult to determine.

The pieces of opal vary in size from the size of half a pea to that of a hen's egg. The material is found in a vesicular lava. The smaller nodules are rich in color but the larger ones often have little life. The trouble in working them appears to be that the stones are cracked in removing them from the matrix. The quality of some of the stones is excellent. One opal, the largest taken from the mine, was about four inches long and two and three eighths inches thick, and it was estimated to be worth from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The mines, however, are not being worked. The expense of recovering the stone is so high that the product can not be marketed in competition with the cheap opals from Australian or central Europe, where they are plentiful and labor is cheap.—Spokesman Review.

Back From Snow Creek.

W. W. Elmer, consulting engineer for the Snow Creek mine, returned from the property yesterday afternoon, and will remain in his office for several days. Mr. Elmer reports things moving along at the mine after the usual satisfactory fashion.

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