

SMELTER WILL SOON BE RUNNING AGAIN.

It is Understood Through Eastern Stockholders That Mr. Fuller's Report Was Favorable.

It has been learned through the correspondence of eastern stockholders of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, with local people interested in the proposition, that the report of F. D. Fuller, who was sent here from New York in the matter of recommending an ore purchasing and operating fund, is as favorable as was expected. Mr. Fuller came here, made a thorough examination of the various mines of the district, with a view to determining the adaptability of the smelter plant to the treatment of the ores. He spent several weeks in Sumpter and at tributary properties, gathering data on which to base his report. From general statements upon leaving it was inferred that his conclusions were favorable to the recommendation of the funds asked for by the local management, but Mr. Fuller was not in a position to make a public declaration one way or the other, since the information was for the stockholders alone, until such time as they should deem fit to make it public. It is stated further that the action of the stockholders in the matter hinged solely on Mr. Fuller's report being favorable, and that they had finally passed on allowing the fund requested, if the conditions surrounding the enterprise justified such expenditure.

It is understood that the local management asked for an ore purchasing fund of \$100,000 and an operating fund of \$25,000. Instead of this, through the sources mentioned above, it is learned that Mr. Fuller recommended a larger ore purchasing and operating fund than asked for. This information comes straight from eastern stockholders to local people interested, and can be depended upon, though The Miner is not now in a position to make known its informant. It is stated further that Mr. Fuller's report is as favorable as any which this district has received.

Dr. Ed W. Mueller, general manager of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, when asked as to the truth of the report, stated that he was not in a position to confirm or deny, but said the smelter would soon again be ready for business. It looks good, however, and putting two and two together there is little room for doubt. It may be expected before long to see ores coming in by the car load and the black smoke from the smelter again settling over the valley. This is another instance of encouraging intelligence leading to the belief that the coming season in Sumpter will be the most prosperous in its history.

OREGON OWNS WORLD'S BIG FISH HATCHERY

The state of Oregon owns and operates the largest fish hatchery in the world. It is located at Ontario, Malheur county, on the Snake river, and is now turning out its first batch of young salmon.

About 25,000,000 young Royal Chinook salmon, or sixteen times as many as are annually caught in the Columbia river, will be turned loose at Ontario this spring. The fish are now scarcely more than an inch long and they will go down the Snake and Columbia rivers and out into the Pacific ocean, where they will grow to maturity. Four or five years hence many of them will return, weighing on an average thirty pounds each and worth to the fishermen five cents a pound. If only one of every twenty returns, the hatchery will more than keep up the supply of salmon.

Last Saturday evening the state fish commissioners, accompanied by Governor Chamberlain, Secretary of State Dunbar and State Treasurer Moore, went to Ontario to make an inspection of this important institution. They were accompanied by

Master Fish Warden H. G. Van Dusen, and one or two others. They found the hatchery plant in excellent working condition, and were much gratified to learn that the first season's operations had proven the wisdom of the selection of that site for a hatchery.

The eggs taken at Ontario are from the best specimens of Royal Chinook salmon, thus increasing the number of fish that make the best canned product. The reputation of Columbia river salmon, already the best in the world, will be further strengthened by this artificial propagation of the best variety.

The site at Ontario has the advantage of a never failing water supply and distance from the ocean. The fish that ascends the streams the farthest are the ones that come into the river earliest and have flesh of the best flavor.—Democrat.

Ozocerite or Mineral Wax.

Ozocerite, a mineral wax, dug from the bowels of the earth at depths varying from 400 to 600 feet, is the substance out of which most candles are now made. In America the mineral is mined in Utah and in California, the European beds being located in Wales, in Galicia and in Roumania. When found in its natural state ozocerite appears in translucent, dark brown, thin films, which, upon being refined, resembles beeswax. The wax mines of eastern Galicia, leased and operated by a syndicate of American capitalists, form one of the most curious fields of industry imaginable. They are located around Boryslav, which is also the center of the eastern oil district of that part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The entire wax fields are but fifty acres in extent, but more than 1,000 shafts have been sunk in that limited area, and almost 10,000 men are at work. The veins of the mineral are frequently sixteen inches thick, and it is dug with shovels and hoisted from the shafts by windlasses. Many uses are made of this wax besides moulding it into candles, and fortunes have been made by the men interested in these curious mines, the value of the crude product being eight cents a pound at the mouth of the shaft.

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