

COVERS
THOROUGHLY
THE
GOLD FIELDS
of the
INLAND EMPIRE



EASTERN
INVESTORS
IN
OREGON MINES
Pay for
AND READ IT

SNAKE RIVER ROAD STARTED

Work Began Today at Neagle's Ferry And Construction to Be Pushed.

Baker City, April 12.—(Special.)—Active construction work was started today on the Snake river railroad as learned today from advices from the scene of operations. The preliminary survey has been completed, and actual grading was begun today, with a view to laying steel in a short time. The forces are now working at Nagles Ferry on the Snake river. The proposition is financed by Pennsylvania people, and while the immediate objective point is Iron Dyke, including a probable length of track of fifty miles, it is altogether possible that the line will tap other sections.

STOCKMEN WILL ASK FOR A SIX MILE LIMIT

It is probable that if the Blue Mountain withdrawal becomes permanent and is set aside in a forest reserve, there will be a six mile limit attached to it for stock purposes. Efforts will be made to induce the Interior department to give this amount of room for the stock interests and Judge Biggs, who recently left for the east, will go to Washington in the interest of the cattlemen who favor the withdrawal.

The move is in accordance with the rules governing the Cascade reserve, with the exception that the limit will be doubled. The Cascade reserve is surrounded with a three mile area for use only by the stockmen in adjacent districts, and it is proposed to extend this limit an additional three miles if possible when the Blue Mountain reserve is set aside. The proposition meets with approval on the part of the stockmen interested and especially by cattle growers who use the area within the withdrawal for summer range. It is expected that an order will soon be issued making permanent reserve and the stock interests are working hard to secure the more extended limit.—Crook County Journal.

Valuable Platinum Nuggets.

Platinum nuggets are by no means a rarity, that is in the sense of unusual size. The largest lumps of platinum ever found were mined in the Russian platinum deposits and the one exhibited in the celebrated

Russian Demidoff mineral collection is by far the greatest mass of platinum ever discovered. It weighs 22 1/2 pounds and that it has been preserved for exhibition purposes is a cause for congratulation. Another nugget weighed 11.57 pounds troy, and from the Ural deposits nuggets varying from a fraction of an ounce up to several pounds have been extracted from time to time. The latest large one found was in 1901, it weighing 4 1/2 pounds. The museum at Madrid, Spain, possesses in its mineral collection a platinum nugget from Condoto, South America, weighing a trifle over two pounds and is the greatest of the Colombia, South American platinum masses. The museum at Berlin, Germany, owns a platinum lump weighing 1,088 grains, and the British museum one weighing about 1,000 grains. The public mineral collections of the United States exhibit of platinum in grains, but no nuggets worthy of mention. There are exhibited in the Demidoff a few small specimens of crystallized platinum nuggets and which, because of their extreme rarity, are most valuable, the metal very seldom taking crystal form.

C. H. MARSH SAYS MONEY IS EASY EAST

Charles H. Marsh, secretary of the Mount St. Helens Consolidated Mining company, has returned from an extended eastern trip, where he has been in the interest of his company. He reports a growing inclination on the part of eastern capital to invest in western mining stocks and properties. To the Telegram he said:

"This is particularly true where it can be shown that the mine is well advanced in development. It is a noticeable fact that the people are growing tired of industrials with their great capacity for carrying water, and this class of securities is rapidly being passed up and meritorious mining investments taken in their place, where the investor, when he does receive dividends, gets something worthy of the amount invested.

"There are chances to be taken in all investments, but the minimum of chance is today to be found in the legitimate mining venture, and this fact is becoming recognized more and more each year.

"In relation to the St. Helens district, Portland's nearest and largest mining field, the public has been slow to learn of the large deposits of sulphide copper ores in that section, but with transportation problems solved, as it is evident will soon be done by the extension of the Tacoma Eastern railroad, now being built toward the center of this copper field, the actual shipment of ores can begin from the Consolidated company's mine and probably several others in a very short time."—Portland Telegram.

MILLION FOR A "PROCESS"

**General Metals Company
Refuses That Sum For
Its Filter Patents.**

A Colorado Springs correspondent writes:

One million dollars is the value placed by a retraction company on the filter process used at the Telluride mill of the General Metals company. In fact, it is stated that a prominent milling concern has offered this sum for the privilege of using it, but, so far as can be learned, the General Metals company, of which Charles E. Finney is president, has shown no eagerness to accept it. The process is that bearing the name of Moore and is used to filter the slimes. Its value lies in the expediency and economy with which it saves the gold. It is also maintained that its saving is greater than that of other processes.

The General Metals company is not reaching for rewards in million-dollar lots. It sees additional millions in the monopoly of its process. So boldly have these profits loomed up in recent months that some of the country's foremost capitalists have been attracted to the company and in the change of owners last October men entered the company who, it is related, are abundantly able to have three or four mills each as playthings. One of these men, John Hagan, the shoe manufacturer, is reputed to be worth 88,000,000. He is one of the directors. Another is importantly identified with the Sugar trust, while a third has manufacturing interests that bring him several fortunes each year.

When these men entered the General Metals company it was with the intention of giving it the importance of any treatment concern in the land. Little can be learned concerning their plans, but it leaks out that one of them is to double the capacity of the Telluride mill. Ordinarily that plant may handle 12,000 tons of ore a month. The grade of the material makes little difference. Ore worth several hundred dollars a ton is as successfully treated under its process, it is related, as that worth considerably less. Recent successes attending the efforts of President Finney and his assistants have been instrumental in influencing a determination to increase the capacity of the plant. Cue plan, the one most favored, contemplates the addition of 12,000 tons. Construction is not to begin at once. Yet it is likely to be not long delayed.

It was suggested to a man informed on the affairs of the General Metals company that it was taking some chances in its wholesale reduction of rates. He replied that the

company owed nothing, had no preferred stockholders, and that its operating and financial departments were in superior condition. It would earn under the reduced rates and would be able to increase the size of its plant without experiencing distress.

LOCATE MINING CONGRESS IN SOME EASTERN CITY

The Denver Chamber of Commerce has made a gratuitous offer to the American Mining Congress of offices in that city, for the permanent home of that association. This question of a headquarters for the congress will probably be settled at the Portland meeting in August. There are great many questions that should be considered before a choice is made. The Mining World, having only the best interests of the association in view, believes that the choice should fall on an eastern or middle west city.

The congress is purely a mining institution and every mining man in the western country should stand as a unit for its good work. There is no need of any campaign or education on that score—or at least should not be. On the other hand, there is in the east. The people should be taught to realize the importance of the mineral industry and its great need of a better representation in congressional matters. By locating the permanent home in a far western city would not bring about such a result. It would rather hamper it, and we believe actually injure our chances of ever gaining the much sought for relief.

If the congress is looking for a "free home and expenses paid proposition," it might just as well go out of business now as a little later, for it surely will if it accepts the best offer made without considering the future usefulness or permanency. There is nothing that can be said against Denver as a mining center, for she stands today at the head of American cities in this line. The American Mining congress won't add a whit to her greatness, but, on the other hand, to locate the congress in a western city will ring its death knell.—Mining World.

THE FAIR ROUTE

Via Chicago or New Orleans to St. Louis, is the one that gives you the most for your money—and the fact that the Illinois Central offers unsurpassed service via these points to the World's fair, and in this connection to all points beyond, makes it to your advantage, in case you contemplate a trip to any point east, to write us before making final arrangements.

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