

MONEY NOW AVAILABLE FOR BONTA RAIL ROAD

**He Wired Yesterday That a Half Million
Dollars Worth of Bonds Have
Been Sold.**

The Baker City Herald of last evening stated that a telegram had been received there yesterday from Major Bonta at Philadelphia, stating that \$500,000 of his railroad bonds had been sold and that the money would be available at an early day, when building operations would be commenced. Speaking of the Sumpter Valley's positive announcement some weeks since that it would build into the John Day country, its petition for the withdrawal of certain lands along the proposed extension from the forest reserve, and its subsequent change of attitude regarding the extension, the Herald says:

It was the popular opinion at the time of the filing of the Sumpter Valley's celebrated petition that the plan was to secure the lands lying at the head of Upper Burnt river on the divide between that stream and the John Day, which lands cover the only available pass through the mountains. This was stated to be a scheme to shut Bonta out of the John Day Valley.

It is said the Sumpter Valley is in no position to enter into competition with Major Bonta's road. The Sumpter Valley is simply a logging road and its extensions in the past have been made simply to tap the bodies of timber for the Oregon Lumber company's sawmill in this city.

It is a part of Major Bonta's plans

to build the branches from the main trolley line to the various towns along the line. Whether or not he will enter Sumpter, appears to rest with the citizens of that town.

Despite the fact that the government suspended action on the petition of the Sumpter Valley road, its management authorized the announcement in the Evening Herald a few months ago that the road would emphatically and unequivocally be extended to the John Day this spring. Last week a high official announced that part of the plan will remain in statu quo, but that only the Tipton extension would be built this year. This second announcement was interpreted by the knowing ones as a back-down on the part of the Sumpter Valley, and the suspicion is now freely expressed that the first "positive" announcement regarding the John Day extension was another bluff at Major Bonta. If it was a bluff the Major has evidently shown his hand and raked in the pot.

Major Bonta, all during the initial stages of his promotion of the electric road, has met with vigorous opposition from opposing factions. Three newspapers in Baker county have attempted to throw almost every conceivable obstacle in the way of a successful consummation of his enterprise. Now that he has landed the big deal, it will be interesting to note the future stand of these organs.

WILL DIVE IN THE DEEP SEA FOR GOLD

A recent press dispatch from Seattle says:

There sailed from Seattle last night a treasure-seeking party for the waters of the Alaskan coast 100 miles south of Juneau. That party, well equipped with all modern machinery will attempt to bring to the surface the \$30,000 in gold that sank to the bottom of the sea when the steamship Islander was wrecked in those waters three years ago and more than fifty lives lost.

The Neptune Salvage company will attempt the herculean task of raising the ship and securing the treasure that lies buried in six iron boxes. The company has been preparing for the work for several months. A Neptune diving machine, recently invented, has been built on a barge and that, with other necessary apparatus, started for the north last night, towed by the sea-going tug Henry Finch.

Many attempts have been made to reach the submerged ship, but each has been a failure. In each instance the divers have reported that the water was too deep. With the Neptune diving machine it is claimed

that a depth even greater than where the Islander lies can be reached. Barring accidents the present expedition, which, from its inception, has been shrouded in a sort of mystery, should prove to be a success.

A. J. TRIMBLE BACK FROM CALIFORNIA

A. J. Trimble, who has large mining interests in the district, returned this morning from California, where he spent the winter.

It has been reported that the Annalulu, one of the properties in which Mr. Trimble is interested, is soon to resume operations. He says, however, that this is news to him, and that no definite arrangements to such an end have been made. Mr. Trimble will be in Sumpter for several days.

MACHINERY FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW PLACED WITH DENVER COMPANY

A. W. Sayles, representing the Mine and Smelter Supply company, of Denver, left this afternoon after closing negotiations, it is understood, with the Mountain View

people to supply the machinery for their new mill.

It will be a Chilian mill of about thirty tons capacity, with cyanide plant and slime tables. It is the purpose of the management to get the machinery installed as soon as possible.

THINGS DOING IN RE GOVERNMENT LAND

A special dispatch to the Oregonian from Washington, dated yesterday, says:

Within a few days the bureau of forestry will submit to Secretary Hitchcock the final and definite recommendation that four forest reserves be created in eastern Oregon, embracing an aggregate area of four million acres or more. These are the Blue Mountain reserve, Wallowa reserve, Walla Walla, or La Grande reserve, which extends into Washington and the Joseph river or Cheshnumus reserve. The bureau of forestry, since the withdrawal of these vast tracts, has made a detailed examination of each quarter section and knows definitely the character of each sub-division. In recommending the creation of the permanent forest reserves, the bureau has drawn the boundary lines very irregularly, so as to eliminate, as far as practicable, all agricultural land and all lands which have passed into private ownership.

Before recommending the creation of the reserves, Chief Forester Pinchot aimed to head off all opportunity for fraudulent or unfair operations, and believes he has so drawn the reserve boundaries as to practically prevent the creation of base for lien selections on any considerable scale. Those lands lying around the outer limits of the Blue Mountains in withdrawal, which were apparently entered a year or more ago for speculative purposes, are thrown outside of the permanent reserve recommended, and will not become base lands.

The Oregonian's special correspondent at Washington sends the following dispatch:

The interior department in preparing the advertisement of the lands of the Grande Ronde Indian reservation, Oregon, which are to be sold under the act of the recent congress, has discovered trace of what it believes is a nigger in the wood pile. The act contains a provision authorizing the sale of this land in small tracts or the entire tract to one purchaser. The department does not understand the reason for the latter provision and says the sale of 27,000 acres of land to one person or corporation would be contrary to the administrator's policy of getting public lands into the hands of actual settlers and home builders. Secretary Hitchcock will, if possible, take advantage of the provision in the law authorizing him to "reject any or all bids" in order to prevent all Grande Ronde lands falling into the hands of one purchaser. Half of the lands to be sold are valuable timber lands, the other half are rich grazing lands. The department will endeavor to sell to numerous individual purchasers.

Supplies for Snow Creek.

Fred D. Smith, manager of the Snow Creek, and Lefe Farmer, who works at the Snow Creek placers, left this morning with a load of supplies for the mine. Preparations are being made for early work on the placers and the mine is going full force.

BIG WORK PLANNED

**Kokomo, Indiana, People Will Develop
Mining Properties Here This
Season.**

Dr. G. W. Frederick, of Kokomo, Indiana, L. M. Willcuts, F. L. Kosmerl and F. W. Sullivan, of Duluth, left this afternoon for their respective homes. T. K. Clark, of Baker City, and Eugene Bartholf have been showing them around the mines for several days past.

Early in the week they visited the Burnt River district and yesterday the Ruby, Cracker Creek district, in both of which Dr. Frederick and his associates in Kokomo, are interested. The Duluth people are merely "looking around," having no money invested here as yet. This forenoon the party inspected the Tabor Fraction. Just before leaving, Dr. Frederick said to a Miner representative:

"I have been interested in Oregon mines for several years past and have been here a number of times before. I, therefore, know you have the greatest gold mining region on the globe. I am going home now, but will be out again at an early day. We will do some extensive and rapid development work here this season. On my return I will be in a position to tell you all about it, but deem it not advisable to do so now."

OPERATIONS AT THE SNOW CREEK MINE

Snow Creek operations are progressing with satisfactory results, according to Manager Fred Smith, who came in from the property last night.

A raise is being made from the tunnel level to the surface, a distance of some 120 feet, at which point the new hoist is to be installed. This machinery is to go in this summer, it is understood. Manager Smith left his afternoon to return to the mine.

TO START COMPRESSOR AT GOLD COIN SOON

Tom Kennerly, superintendent of the Gold Coin in the Greenhorn district, passed through the city this afternoon on his way east.

Mr. Kennerly will be back early in June, when he says the compressor plant will be started. At present only hand work is being done owing to a shortage in the wood supply.

Imperial Mill.

Captain A. M. Paul, superintendent of the Imperial went to Baker City this afternoon on business connected with the mine. It is the intention to install a mill this summer, and Captain Paul's trip to Baker has to do with this matter.