

HOW A NEW YORK EXPERT SAMPLED \$4,000,000 MINE

Star Witness In the Iron Dyke Case
Told How He Did a Rapid Piece of
Work With His Own Fair Hands
and Eagle Eye.

There was a material contribution to the eternal quiet of the northwest the other day at Baker City during a trial of the celebrated Iron Dyke foreclosure case. The mortgagors, in defense of their rights in the premises, brought out an alleged mining engineer and expert from New York, to testify to the value of their holdings. This expert told the court that in 1901 he investigated, examined, experted and valued the Iron Dyke mine in the interests of a New York Trust company, which stood ready, in the event of a favorable report, to assume the mortgage indebtedness of the company and advance a couple of million dollars for development and equipment. He explained that after sampling the mine and measuring its ore bodies he arrived at a conclusion that four million dollars was a fair and conservative valuation for the property. He found, according to his testimony, 125,000 tons of seven per cent copper ore "in sight." All of which sounded pretty good, coming from the lips of an "eminent New York mining expert." The quiet part of the proceedings, however, came when the chief counsel for the plaintiff placed the witness on the cross-examination rack and drew from him a detailed explanation of exactly how he sampled and experted the property as aforesaid. It developed that he arrived at the mine on the evening of a certain day and remained the following day and night, during all of which time he was under the watchful eyes of the superintendent and foreman. His method of "sampling" was to select a specimen at random from each of the three ore dumps and from the croppings. His underground explorations included the finding of a piece of ore on the floor of each tunnel and beneath the breast of two crosscuts. Measurements were made with his eye, including tunnel lengths and vertical distances. Upon this comprehensive data he based his estimate that the mine was reasonably worth four million dollars. In the course of his cross-examination he was asked to name the constituent parts of chalcopiritic ore and could not. He further admitted that he had neglected to learn the nature of the country rock at the Iron Dyke.

When the plaintiff's counsel, who is himself a mining man of wide note, completed the cross-examination, the "eminent mining expert" was bathed in a profuse perspiration.

A real mining engineer, in the person of Bela Kadish, of Baker City, was then placed on the stand to explain the proper sampling of a mine,

which in the case of a property like the Iron Dyke, would require a month's time, the taking of perhaps a thousand samples and the making of hundreds of laboratory tests.

The Iron Dyke mortgage holders are wealthy men of Erie, Pennsylvania, who intend, in the event of their success in securing title to the property by foreclosure, to open the mine on a gigantic scale, complete the Northwest railway down the Oregon side of the Snake and build a 250-ton smelter at Homestead.

The defendants, on the other hand, have outlined similar plans, contingent upon a favorable decision, and are said to have money to make good.

If they lose they will carry on their six million dollar damage suit against the mortgage holders, which suit has already been instituted in the Federal court at Portland.

Whichever way the bug hops, it appears certain that the Iron Dyke will be operated on a large scale and a railway built from the mine to a connection with the O. R. & N.

Ore Buyer Here.

D. C. Johnson, ore buyer for the American Smelting and Refining company, commonly known as the smelter trust, arrived in Sumpter this morning for a few days' visit in what he recognizes as the exact center and heart of the rich eastern Oregon gold fields. Until recently Mr. Johnson was ore buyer the Northport smelter, which position he resigned at the earnest solicitation of the A. S. and R. company. He is thoroughly familiar with the Sumpter district and always has a few verbal bonnets therefore. Mr. Johnson's mission at this time is to arrange for ore purchases from this camp.

BUFFALO MONITOR WILL SHIP TO SUMPTER SMELTER

Norborne Berkeley, of Pendleton, who is interested in mining property in the Granite district, was here between trains today. Mr. Berkeley is just back from a two months trip to his old home in Loudon county, Virginia. He stopped returning and visited the world's fair at St. Louis.

It's a great show he says, and there are many visitors in attendance. The Oregon mining exhibit, however, he says looks like thirty cents alongside the exhibits of Colorado and Montana. Mr. Mellis, manager of the exhibit, was out of town, and Mr. Berkeley thinks the display probably had not been completed when he was there, and that it may compare

favorably with the others when the finishing touches are put on.

Mr. Berkeley has not yet been at his home in Pendleton. He will return there and then make a business trip to Portland. In about a week or ten days he will be back and resume work on the Buffalo-Monitor, in the Granite district. Recent work at the property carried the crosscut to within fifty feet of the vein. Mr. Berkeley, on resumption, will proceed to tap the lead at once. The depth attained at this point will be about 400 feet.

The Buffalo-Monitor is an old property, having in time past shipped some very rich ore. It is the present purpose to ship to the Sumpter smelter this season. The grade of ore formerly produced at the mine warranted shipment to the Jacoma smelter, when the transportation rates were such as to exclude all but the richest rock.

Mr. Berkeley says that in all probability a compressor plant will be installed soon after work is resumed.

CROSSCUT NEARING SCANDIA LEDGE

Wait Wade, superintendent of the Scandia tunnel, is back from the property. Things are going satisfactorily there he reports. The long crosscut is now in over 2,700 feet, and it is the main lead may be encountered now any day.

The evidence leading to this conclusion is the increase of water in the tunnel, and the fact that several little stringers have been cut recently, which to all appearances are feeders to the main ledge. The vein dips away, or it would have been struck before this. Mr. Wade thinks that at the outside it will be met within the next fifty feet. The depth attained at the point of intersection will be over 1,100 feet.

Off For Thunder Mountain.

Andrew Gamba, formerly superintendent of the Cracker Summit, left today for Thunder Mountain, Idaho, where he is interested in mining property. Mr. Gamba is a mining man and machinist of experience. He will remain in the Thunder Mountain country indefinitely, looking after his interests there. His successor at the Cracker Summit has not yet been appointed. The crew, however, is going steadily ahead with development work.

Satisfied New Yorkers.

Eugene H. Satterlee, of Rochester, New Hampshire, accompanied by his son Hugh, were visitors between trains in Sumpter today. They are associated with R. E. Strahorn in the Sumpter Light and Water company, and came to look over the field. During their brief stay they were shown about town by the local officers of the Water company and departed with a high opinion of the past progress, present activity and future possibilities of Sumpter.

1,000-Foot Tail Flume.

William Hassleton, owner of the Astor group of twenty quartz claims near Gold Center, is in Sumpter today from the classic precincts of Buck Gulch. He has just completed the installation of a 1,000 foot flume from Bull Run creek for use in the development of the placer deposits on the Astor group.

COUGAR MINE IS ONCE MORE REPORTED SOLD

The Baker City Democrat of last evening published the following as a special from Spokane:

"The Chronicle today announces that W. H. Plummer, of Spokane, and his eastern associates have purchased the Cougar mine in eastern Oregon. The price is six hundred thousand dollars."

No one here has heard of this deal; though that doesn't necessarily throw any doubt on the truth of the above statement. Mr. Larkin and the other owners live in Spokane. W. H. Plummer is one of the successful and wealthy mining operators of the northwest.

The Cougar has been reported bought and sold oftener than any other mine in eastern Oregon. It unquestionably has a great quantity of ore blocked out, generally thought to carry from ten to fifteen dollars in gold. The treatment process, however remains unsolved. There is on the property a mill and a 250-ton cyanide plant, without proper agitation. Last year roasters were installed, but little or no bullion was produced. It is not known whether this last process failed to save the values, or proved to be too expensive. Anyhow, the plant was operated only a few weeks.

No one believes that the price paid was \$600,000; as it is known that the property has been offered for a half million.

That the Cougar is a valuable property there can be no doubt; but it is equally true that some different reduction plant from that already installed will be necessary to make it pay.

RICH TABOR FRACTION ORE BEING SHIPPED

A car load of rich Tabor Fraction ore was shipped today to the Baker City Sampling works. The property is shipping steadily. Two cars were shipped last week.

A report from the mine states that the richest ore yet encountered is appearing in the shaft. No estimates as to its value, however, are obtainable.

NEARING A SHOWDOWN IN THE CLIMAX DEAL

Philip R. Bishop, of the Climax mine, passed through Sumpter today on his way to Cracker creek. A small crew of men will be employed at the Climax for the next few weeks, at the expiration of which time it is expected that the pending deal, which is in process of incubation for a sale of the mine for \$125,000 to a Houghton, Michigan, company, will be consummated.

Thatcher Will Marry.

General Manager W. H. Thatcher, of the Bonanza mine, passed through Sumpter yesterday on his way to Baker City. The Bonanza mill has been closed down since June 1, the entire force being concentrated on development of the ore bodies between the 900 and 1100 foot levels. No official announcement has yet been made as to the temporary successor of Manager Thatcher, who is to be married this month, and whose wedding tour will extend to Mexico as to place and next winter as to time.