

AUBURN DEEP HAS NEW PLAN

May Sink Another Shaft to Avoid Subterranean Water Channel.

A wagon load of officials of the Auburn Deep Sinking company departed this morning for the scene of their operations at the famous old placer camp of Auburn. The party consisted of Mayor C. H. McColloch, who is president of the company, Councilman Charles K. De Neffe, who is a member of the board of directors; Jee E. Reed, superintendent; Postmaster Frank Jewett, a heavy stockholder; A. P. Goss, the ex-banker, who is extensively interested in the company, and J. C. Davies, the surveyor, who will devote a few days of his time to running lines on the property. The plan of the company is to sink below the strata of false, or "webfoot" bedrock and drift through the auriferous gravel known to extend to true bedrock. A shaft has been sunk 150 feet and a drift from the 90-foot level has entered a good pay channel. A heavy flow of water interfered with economical operations, and the party today will discuss the advisability of sinking a shaft in a new spot, to be chosen after a survey of subterranean water courses.

Upon the success of this experiment a great deal depends. Thousands of acres of rich placer ground in Baker county have been sluiced off to "webfoot" bedrock. Tests in various sections have resulted in a discovery that between the false and true bedrock exists strata of gravel rich in coarse gold. Dredgers are incapable of operating below the "webfoot" bedrock, and even the most powerful hydraulic giants fail to make an impression on the intervening stratum. If a shaft and drifts are found to be successful, an interesting problem is solved and a new field for mining operation is opened in Baker county.

A Range War Threatened.

A range war threatens Baker county.

Ranger Terrill, of the Baker City forest reserve, anticipates serious trouble in his field, and the mining men of the Lake creek sub-district of the Cable Cove country, who last year formed themselves into a protective association to combat the encroachments of sheepmen on their preserves, will this year again insist upon keeping the herders out. The range in the Lake creek country is an attractive one to sheepmen, and this year will be better than ever because of the fact that herds were kept out in 1903, thus permitting the grass to get a good start. With sheep excluded from the Baker City reserve, Baker county herders will be forced into the contiguous open ranges, and of these the Lake creek district is the best.

Tom C. Gray, vice president of the Valley Queen mine, is secretary of the Lake Creek Protective association, and Fred Cabel, of the Bellevue mine, is president. Secretary Gray announces that a meeting of the members of the association will be held in the next few days and steps taken to strengthen the organization. Warnings will be sent out to all

sheepmen to keep off the grass.

While, as a matter of fact, the dominion of the Lake Creek association does not extend further than the mining claims owned by members these claims are so numerous and so closely connected that herds cannot be grazed upon unlocated ground without being guilty of trespass upon private holdings.

"We mean business" said Secretary Gray to a Miner representative the other day, "and if we find that we have no law to back us up in our efforts to preserve the Lake creek range, we will make laws. Two years ago the district was overrun with sheep. As a result the miners of that region found themselves deprived of pure water and were compelled to pack in hay and horse-feed for their own stock. At the Valley Queen we kept two horses for use in transporting supplies from town. Because the range was denuded by migratory sheep, one of these horses was kept busy packing in feed for himself and his mate. Last year, by keeping sheep entirely out of the district, this expense was obviated, and so successful was the course adopted that this year we will again insist upon our rights."

According to the text of a letter of instruction received from Commissioner Richards, of the general land office at Washington, by Ranger Terrill, of the Baker City reserve, all sheep will be excluded from that particular piece of territory. The reserve was created to protect and keep unpolluted the water supply of Baker City, and the only way this can be brought about is by keeping sheep entirely out of the reserve. A few head of stock will be allowed on the reserve, but their grazing will be under the direct personal supervision of Ranger Terrill. The territory included in the Baker City reserve has long been a valuable open range for Baker county sheepmen, and their exclusion from the field this year will work a hardship upon flockmasters, until they can adjust themselves to new conditions. Herds will be forced into the upper Burnt river country, which range is always overrun, and into the Lake creek and the North Fork of the John Day regions. Herders, when they enter the Lake creek district, will find themselves confronted with warning notices and, according to the mining men of that region, these warnings will be backed up with Winchester.

At the Mountain View.

Harry T. Booth, the Baker City insurance man, returned last night from a trip to the Mountain View mine above Bourne. He made the trip on the hurricane deck of a cayuse and is today taking his meals from the mantel. He reports five feet of now on the north slope of the summit, which fact by no manner of means interferes with steady operations at the Mountain View, which is owned by a Portland company, and which is making a most flattering showing.

THIS TUNNEL WILL GAIN DEPTH OF 3,600 FEET

Advices from Baker City are to the effect that work was begun Monday on one of the biggest mine development schemes ever inaugurated in Oregon—the running of a 6,000 foot crosscut tunnel to tap the United Elkhorn mine. The portal of the tunnel is at the bottom of a deep canyon and when it enters the

claims of the Beaver Gold Mining company, will have attained a depth approximating 3,600 feet. Two machine drills are employed in the face of this tunnel, which will be large enough for a double track. The United Elkhorn, which was formerly the Baisley-Elkhorn, is owned by F. P. Hayes, of Pittsburg, who is reported as having cleaned up a cool million dollars through the sale of a controlling interest in the Bonanza mine. Edwin Field, a noted Colorado mining man, is his superintendent and general manager.

LOOKING FOR BAISLEY- ELKHORN MOTHER LODE

W. C. Randall came in this morning from the skyline summit of the Baisley-Elkhorn range, where he is working on the Le Roi group of claims. He departed this afternoon for Baker City, from which point he will return to the hills and resume work. He is working in conjunction with the owners of the United Elkhorn mine, formerly the Baisley-Elkhorn, and within the last few weeks has brought about a showing on the Le Roi which equals anything in that district. A 100-foot crosscut has entered a vein which is fourteen feet between walls. Ore values are high and the rock is susceptible of easy treatment. Randall believes—and there is every apparent reason for the belief—that somewhere in that neighborhood is a mother lode, of which the United Elkhorn is an offshoot and which has supplied in the past the immense quantities of placer gold taken from the Carpenter Hill and Auburn diggings. Randall is an old prospector whose faith in the richness of the Baisley Elkhorn region is of the most enthusiastic variety.

BOWMAN IS HUNTING FOR 100 LABORERS

General Manager Archie Bowman, of the Utah Construction company, which has the contract for extending the grade of the Sumpter Valley road from Tipton toward John Day, has established an office in Baker City, and is in the market for laborers.

Yesterday he shipped two carloads of horses and several carloads of implements and miscellaneous equipment, with twenty-five men, to the front, and on this morning's train to Whitney a dozen graders passed up the line. Mr. Bowman announces his desire for 100 men at \$2 per day. Board at the grading camps costs \$4.50 per week.

Manager Bowman announces that the John day extension will be rushed to completion with all possible rapidity.

Placer Paying Big.

P. D. Healy returned yesterday from his placers on Pine creek, Burnt river district. Today he is showing a vial of gold dust worth about ten dollars, which he says he washed out from two shovels of gravel taken from near and on bedrock. He says the property is showing up better than ever before, that they have plenty of water this season that will last far into July and he expects to make a big clean up.

E. D. GATEWOOD WRITES FROM GRASS VALLEY

The Miner is in receipt of a letter from E. D. Gatewood, who left here about two months ago, written from Grass Valley, California, where he now is. In part, he says:

"I arrived here a few days ago from Reno, Nevada, having returned from Goldfield and Tonopah. There are about 125 men working at the former and about 200 at Tonopah. Tonopah will possibly within the near future be a great camp, when the railroad is completed from Rodes, so as to make cheaper transportation for ore. I think the railroad will be finished about September 1. The grading is nearly finished and about thirty-five miles of rails are laid.

"Goldfield looks good to me. It is twenty-five miles south of Tonopah. It has about three or four hundred inhabitants, almost a tent town. There are about six prospects shipping ore, but not very extensive. The cost of living is high, two to one for Sumpter, and no accommodations. Common, rough lumber sells for sixty dollars per thousand, and them fellows never draw a long breath either. Unless you have a good long sack, keep away from either place until the railroad is finished.

"There are ten men for every job in that country. Miner's wages are \$4.00 and eight hours work. Goldfield has three wells of water, which is free, but not as good as Sumpter water.

"Grass Valley, California, is a fine camp, with about a thousand stamps dropping in this vicinity. It is a prosperous town of about 5,000 inhabitants. The North Starr Mining company is constructing a 40-stamp mill, with cyanide plant, and sinking a tripple-compartment shaft. You see more mining here in one day than you see in Oregon in a month.

"I have made my word good when I last saw you. I have secured a position with the above company and expect to stay here until the railroad is finished to Tonopah."

ORE ARRIVING AT SUMPTER SMELTER

Ore in small shipments from various Baker and Grant county mines is being received at the Sumpter smelter, where spot cash is paid as soon as the sampling works test is made. The word has gone out that the Sumpter plant is in the market for ore with a big cash purchasing fund on hand, and already tangible responses are being received. General Manager Fuller is convinced that a sufficient supply can be contracted for to insure early and perhaps steady operation. The sampling works department of the plant is uninterruptedly busy these days, and the whistle at morning, noon and night is a welcome sound in Sumpter's ears. It is understood that negotiations are under way between Manager Fuller and the owner of a big silicious ore mine in Idaho for a purchase by the Sumpter company of the entire output of the property.

About twenty men are employed at the Smelter.

E. L. Kennon, Whitney, Oregon, lumber, sash, doors, shingles, building material, mining timbers.