

LADD SMELTER WILL BURN WOOD FOR FUEL

Zera Snow, formerly of Salt Lake, and now a practicing attorney at Portland, is largely interested in the Ladd Metals company, which markets regular consignments of copper matte to the valley points plants. The Ladd company is now installing a smelter in the Seven Devils district, while the one now in operation is located at Mineral. The new plant, according to a statement made by Mr. Snow in Boise a day or two ago, will probably handle sixty tons of ore per day. The plant is being built along new lines and in consequence its capacity can only be determined in practice. It will be a combination of reverberatory and stack furnace, designed to utilize wood for fuel. The ore is of such a character that most of the values can be saved in the reverberatory. Wood is to be used for fuel owing to the impracticability of getting coal and coke from the outside.

Mr. Snow said there would be ample ore for the plant. While the amount in sight so far was limited, the fact of the smelter being in operation would stimulate mining and lead to the opening of an adequate supply. While there was rich ore that would bear transportation to distant points for treatment, there were quantities carrying values too low to be disposed of in that manner.

Of the operations of the new company at Mineral, Mr. Snow said there had been some very rich strikes recently in the company's mines, but the great bulk of the ore was ordinary grade. Plans had been made for changing the furnaces so as to utilize coal for fuel in the place of coke. With this change they would be able to handle ores running as low as six per cent copper, whereas they cannot now utilize ores that get much below eight per cent.—Weiser Signal.

WILL OPERATE THE MAYFLOWER

G. W. Boggs, the mining man from Tacoma, was in town between trains today, looking after interests in this district. Mr. Boggs, it will be remembered, made strenuous efforts to secure the Morning for his people, but failed on account of the various and many complications.

Mr. Boggs has since taken up the Mayflower in the Cornucopia district, and will develop the property as rapidly as possible. The property has the same lead as the Last Chance, which shows most encouraging results.

Mr. Boggs says that outside of a thorough and systematic development policy, the company will place a mill on the property in the spring.

W. H. ELLIS WINS PLACER GROUND CONTEST CASE

Mayor McColloch received a telephone message from the La Grande land office today stating that a decision had been rendered in the contest cases involving title to the Ellis placer ground on the west side of the river from Sumpter, in favor of Mr. Ellis and those to whom he had conveyed the land, V. R. Mead et al.

These contests were instituted by Mrs. Richen, Dustin and Jackson, based largely on the allegation that Ellis had been more or less negligent regarding assessment work in years past. All these cases involved practically the same evidence and law. That of Mrs. Richen was made the test case.

The telephone message stated that the Ellis end of the proposition had been sustained on every point at issue.

Associated with Mr. McColloch as attorney for Ellis was E. W. Bartlett, former register of the land office at La Grande, and to him Mayor McColloch accords credit for conducting the trial in a most skillful manner.

ENGINEERS START ON PRELIMINARY SURVEY

The preliminary survey of the Sumpter-Bourne railroad was started yesterday afternoon under the charge of P. A. Green, the engineer who came in a few days ago with J. M. Van Berg, of Lincoln, who is interested in the financial end of the proposition. Mr. Van Berg and party left Sunday for Pendleton to have a look at the country, but will return in a few days.

The survey is to be completed just as soon as possible, and if no local contingency arises, it is understood, that actual construction will start as soon as the preliminary work is completed.

The value of such a road toward the upbuilding of Sumpter and the district is inestimable, and little doubt is to be expressed but that every encouragement will be given from this community.

IMPERIAL IS UNDER BOND AND LEASE

Lease and bond on the Eagle Consolidated group, which embraces the Imperial mine, was granted today to McEwen, Arthur & McEwen. John Arthur, of the firm, has already negotiated for the machinery required and work will be started at once.

A mill, it is stated, in practice carefully thought out by Mr. Arthur for some years, will be installed.

This general policy will probably prove profitable to many small mines of the Cable Cove district, now that there is a smelter in Sumpter to take care of the product of their jigs and concentrators.

It is understood that Captain Paul, superintendent under the old management, will represent the owners and that shipping will begin almost immediately.

VALUABLE ADJUNCT TO MINING INDUSTRY

Dr. C. M. Pearce is of the opinion that the logged off lands surrounding Sumpter will make excellent farm plats on which may be grown the various grasses, fruits and grains. He bases his belief on the fact that in several instances fruit on trees in the vicinity give every appearance of reaching maturity, and the further fact that near the Sumpter hospital there is some timothy which sprang from seed accidentally sown, matur-

ing without any irrigation whatever and bearing every evidence of health and vitality.

He gives it as his opinion that the surrounding country may be made to produce the various grasses without having to resort to irrigation, as is the common custom in the lower regions of eastern reigon. If this be the case, mining will have a valuable adjunct in building up the community.

Annual Meeting Golden Wizard.

President L. O. Miller, of the Golden Wizard, and his son, J. A. of Three Rivers, Michigan, and General Manager J. M. McPhee left this afternoon for Tacoma, to attend a meeting of the directors of that company, which is incorporated under the laws of Washington. At this meeting the future policy will be decided. It is understood that Messrs Miller and McPhee will recommend that a crosscut tunnel be run to tap the vein at 500 feet depth. The shaft is now down 150 feet, but heretofore it has been found impossible to handle the water. There is some friction among the eastern stockholders in the Golden Wizard and the result of this meeting will be watched with much interest.

SINKING AT THE GOLDEN CHARIOT

L. V. Swiggett, who recently took over the Golden Chariot, in the Bear Gulch district, came to town yesterday afternoon.

The new two compartment shaft, he says, is now down thirty feet. A whim has been installed and will be started tomorrow, and three shifts will be set to work. The shaft will be sunk to the 100-foot level and the vein then crosscut. The shaft was started fifty feet from the ledge, but owing to the dip, will probably not be more than ten or fifteen feet away when the 100-foot level is reached.

OREGON KING IS AGAIN IN TROUBLE


It is rumored that the Oregon King mine at Ashwood is about to become involved in more litigation over the title to that famous property. Last week an attorney from Walla Walla was in Ashwood in the interest of his client, Victor Wilson, who is reported to be the plaintiff in the new case against the Oregon King. Although nothing definite can be learned of the suit, as no papers have yet been filed, it is surmised that this view of new litigation arises out of Victor Wilson's claim that he "grub-staked" G. M. Wilson who located the Silver King claim, and through which location the Oregon King people claim title by purchase.

Whatever the nature of the present claim against the famous mine, one fact stands out clear and distinct above all others, and that is, but for the fact that the Oregon King people opened up a great mine, after spending thousands of dollars on development work, there would not have been all this troublesome litigation. The litigation instituted by Tom Brown would never have

been begun had not the information leaked out that a great body of extremely rich ore was being uncovered at the Oregon King mine. Brown got the information in a letter from relatives in the Ashwood camp, and within thirty-six hours he was on his way back to the camp to lay claim to the property. Brown himself does not believe that he would ever have returned to the camp had the Oregon King people not opened up a mine. Victor Wilson stands in much the same light. The King people spent fifty thousand dollars defending their title to the mine, and they have spent fully that much more converting a prospect in an unproved camp into a great mining property. Does anyone believe that Wilson would have fought the Brown claims for years in the federal courts, and finally have won out, or that the mine would ever have been developed under his ownership? We have no prejudice in this matter, but there is surely occasion for a protest when the development of a section of country is being retarded by such methods as these. To the men who have spent their capital in opening up a mine, and then spent thousands of dollars more in defending the title to that mine, there certainly must accrue some rights.—Antelope Herald.

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