

ALASKA IS ON THE BUM

Chalres S. McCord, who left here in April for Seward, Alaska, returned today, with enough of the territory to last him the rest of his natural life. The country, or at least as much as he saw of it is distinctly on the bum.

Mr. McCord spent some time at Seward, while he was away, and was also on a prospecting trip to Sunrise on the peninsula, but the country didn't look good to him. Sumpter looks a lot better. He says:

"The Alaska Central is working away, but the wages paid are so low, that it is next to impossible to keep men. As soon as they get a little stake they leave. I saw men coming in from the Slate Creek, Tanina and Zena countries, and they were all dead broke. When my partner and I left Sunrise we tried to sell some flour we took in but there was not money enough in the camp to buy it."

Mr. McCord saw the Flannery boys from Sumpter but did not know what had become of them when he left. Ira Isaacs, also of Sumpter concluded to stay, and will go into the Tanina country this winter from Valdez over the snow. The De La Mar mine near Juneau. Mr. McCord says has shut down but the Treadwell is going full force. Juneau was the liveliest town he saw. But on the whole Alaska doesn't look good.

MINING CONGRESS PROGRAM COMPLETE

A press dispatch from Portland says that the program has been completed for the session of the American Mining congress that will take place in that city August 22 to 27. The list of speakers includes many of the most prominent in the country, and from the character of the subjects that have been selected for the addresses the promise that the coming congress will be the most important in the history of the organization may well be expected to be fulfilled.

Although the day set for the opening session is yet two weeks hence, candidates for next year's congress are appearing in numbers. The first was received about the middle of July and was from Cincinnati, Ohio. More ambitious than these are Denver, Salt Lake, Omaha and several other cities of the middle west, who have aspirations to become the permanent home of the congress. Edward G. Reinert, editor of the Daily Mining Record, of Denver, is there looking after the interests of that city. According to Mr. Reinert Denver has the lead in the race and will make every effort to stay there.

"However, Salt Lake is prepared to make large inducements, and claims that it has quite as many qualifications as has her eastern neighbor.

LETSON BALLIET WILL BE TRIED AGAIN IN NOVEMBER

Des Moines, Iowa, August 11.—Letson Balliett, contrary to expecta-

tions, will be tried November 22 for mining stock swindles he is alleged to have committed. When the daring promoter was granted a new trial in the circuit court at St. Louis, it was thought that he had heard the last of federal prosecutions and the case would be allowed to die a natural death.

Today, upon the application of United States Attorney Lewis Miles, Judge Smith McPherson ordered a second trial to be held during the second week of the November term of the United States court here. Postal authorities also announce that they intend to push the prosecution and land Balliett in prison if possible.

The entire session will be given over to a second investigation of the White Swan mining stock business, and witnesses will again be summoned from California and Oregon to testify.

Jail sentence was imposed on the promoter, but he is now in San Francisco on bond.

STEADY IMPROVEMENT AT RED CHIEF MINE

W. N. Gardner, one of the owners and superintendent of the Red Chief in the Cable Cove district, is in today from the mine.

The ore in the face of the drift he says is looking mighty good. The drift is in now over 900 feet and there has been a steady improvement of values. Mr. Gardner is creating an ore supply as rapidly as possible, with a view to installing a mill, perhaps next year.

BLUE MOUNTAIN GOLD MINING CO.

S. H. Norton, superintendent of the Blue Mountain Gold Mining company, operating the Justice and Cracker King groups, which were recently consolidated; came in today to look after the shipment of supplies.

Work, Mr. Norton says, is now being concentrated on the Justice group, where a crosscut is being run for the main lead. The company is in a position to prosecute vigorous development.

FINE WORK AT THE FRANKLIN

Roy H. Clarke, formerly of the Juessen & Clarke assay office, Sumpter, but now superintendent of the Franklin mine at Pine, Idaho, arrived here today to look after some mining interests in the Granite district.

The mill at the Franklin, Mr. Clarke says, is in full swing, and about \$2,000 is being turned out a week. The high grade ore is being hand sorted. This will run from \$100 to \$120 a ton.

Snow Creek Hoist.

The new hoist for the Snow Creek went out yesterday, and will be installed at once. The raise has broken through to the surface and the foundation for the hoist is being cleared. The mill has suspended operations temporarily while the sinking plant is being installed.

LUMBER MARKET IS ON THE MEND

William H. Hewitt and Seymour Bell returned yesterday from a trip to Tacoma, Seattle, Everett and other Sound cities. Messrs. Hewitt and Bell, who represent the Henry Hewitt, Jr., interests in Sumpter, were sizing up the general lumber situation on the Sound. Mr. Bell, of whom it may be said that he is next to the lumber trade, is of the opinion that the outlook is exceptionally good for an increased business. Mr. Hewitt was born to the timber business, and outside of a few years spent in a German university, has devoted his life to the business. He knows the industry from the straits of San de Fuca to the Tillamook Head, or in other words from January to Christmas.

"The general depression has, of course, affected the lumber market, but within the last month there has been a vast improvement, and today there is a general revival of the timber trade. Sound mills are now running under increased orders, and the prospects for next year are exceedingly good. A revival of the trade is now on, and better conditions are prevailing.

"Sound cities are enjoying this revival. But whatever may be said of Seattle and Everett, and they are good towns at any time, Tacoma has the lead. It is quiet and conservative, but it gets there with the business. I know a representative of Milwaukee capitalists with headquarters in Everett, who has lately invested \$100,000 for his people in Tacoma real estate. And I am fully convinced that his tip is correct. Recurring to lumber, however, the situation is much improved, prices are better, the demand is better, and in my opinion next year will be a banner year in the history of the industry."

GREAT ACTIVITY IN MORMON BASIN

Judge Newbury returned yesterday from Mormon Basin, where he is interested in the Morning Star group. The judge says that the property is making a better showing than it has in the last three years.

Judge Newbury says that Idaho and Montana people are rapidly taking Mormon Basin properties, which have been passed over for years. There is more activity in the Basin now than there has been during the last twenty years.

TO EXAMINE THE MORNING MINE

D. W. C. Nelson, the mining engineer of Baker City, passed through Sumpter this morning en route to the Morning mine in the Greenhorn district, to make an examination of the property and test the ore.

Just whom Mr. Nelson represents and the purpose of the examination, he declined to state. Whether this is another turn in this much-litigated property, the whys and wherefores, is not known. Mr.

Nelson stated that he was going to make an examination but vouchsafed no further information.

HAVE CAUGHT THE GOLDEN MONARCH VEIN

Tom Moffett, superintendent of the Oregon Monarch, is in town today and states that beyond any question the Golden Monarch vein of the Red Boy has been caught.

So far the ledge shows twenty feet and no walls. Mr. Moffett has worked steadily to this end for some time, and there is no question he says but that the vein mentioned has been reached.

CALIFORNIA ROAD IS NOW IN GOOD SHAPE

Pete Estes, road supervisor, completed the repair of the California road Saturday. The road is now in good shape, the best it has been in the last forty years, says Mr. Estes. A member of the crew, S. W. Frost, says that Supervisor Estes is one of the few men he has ever known in a similar position who will get in and work themselves. Mr. Estes threw dirt with the best of them.

There is a little more work remaining to be done on the Columbia road, and Mr. Estes will undertake this at an early date.

GOLD COIN COMPRESSOR PLANT SENT OUT TODAY

J. M. Doyle, superintendent of the Gold Coin in the Cracker Creek district, was in town today arranging to have the compressor plant, which arrived a few days ago, sent out to the property.

The foundation, Mr. Doyle says, is being cleared and the machinery will be installed in a few days. It is a three drill plant. Mr. Murrin, of Wheeling, West Virginia, who is interested in the property, will have charge of the installation.

NO PUMPS ARE NEEDED AT THE LISTEN LAKE

J. Win Wilson, superintendent of the Listen Lake, was in town yesterday and returned on this morning's train.

Sinking, he says, is still proceeding and the crosscut to the vein will be started in a short time. The water, Mr. Wilson says, has let up, and there is now no immediate necessity of putting in pumps. As the workings are now below the water level it is not thought that a pumping plant will be needed in the future.

Intrinsic and Tiger.

J. Ardway, of Portland, one of the owners of the Intrinsic and Tiger in the Greenhorn district, arrived in town yesterday, and left on this morning's train for the properties. He will start work at once.

An Indiana man took the automobile route to bankruptcy the other day. The machine originally cost \$600 and more than \$2,000 was spent for repairs. Hundreds of others have the same trail for the Golden Hencoe.