

BEN WOOD, OF BAKER PRESENTS ULTIMATUM

Ben Wood was in town today. He came down from Bourne this morning and departed on the forenoon train for the Middle Fork of the John Day, where he and Ira Thomas, his pal on this trip, will fish for a spell.

Ben Wood has been very much in the public eye during the recent dog days. He is the Baker City saloon man who accepted McLeod's challenge for a rock drilling contest. His acceptance, which was on behalf of William Madden, of the Virtue mine, was contingent, however, upon the match being pulled off any where in the world except in Sumpter. Wood has the Hill Town on his private black list. Just why this is so has not been coherently explained. Mayhap there are reasons. This is doubtful.

As before said, Wood was in town today. He called on the horse editor of The Miner, who summoned the snake editor for a conference.

"My man is dead willing to drill for money, chalk, marbles or mining stock," said Mr. Wood. "I have on my clothes at this time a hundred plunks, which I am ready and clamorous to post as a forfeit for a match for \$250 or \$500 a side. I want the match to come off in Baker City, but realize now that you fellows up here won't stand for that. Consequently I am here to meet you half way and arrange for the selection of Bourne as the scene of operations.

"I saw in the morning paper yesterday an item to the effect that the man with forfeit money was looking for me. He would easily have found me, had he possessed the coin.

"I'll be back here in a week and will then be ready to cover any sum of money up to \$500 for a match between Madden and McLeod at Bourne or Baker City, to take place two weeks after signing articles of agreement, the man with the deepest hole to take the coin.

"There's no use to talk to me about drilling in Sumpter. I won't do it. If you fellows up here think McLeod the best man, and are willing to back your judgment with legal tender, you can get action quick, because I'm your ripe huckleberry, and I'm loaded down with money.

"This is an ultimatum—Bourne or Baker, for \$250 up to \$500, and I'll give you two judges to my one."

So saying the sporty Mr. Wood boarded the train for the fossil deposits, which is John Day valley and not Baker City.

It is learned that Madden is employed in the E and E shaft. Tom Gray says he is a "ringer" from British Columbia, and that his true name is Billy Madden, whose fame is international. "At the same time," commented Commodore Gray to a Miner man recently, "McLeod can beat him to a pulp."

Thus the matter stands—dead-locked.

LAST CHANGE AND GRIFFIN PROPERTY

L. G. Lilley, manager of the Baby McKee company, operating the Last Chance and Baby McKee in the Cable Cove district came to town last night to look after work at the Griffin property in Bear Gulch,

which he recently took over.

Mr. Lilley has had a force of men at work on the new property for a week or such a matter. In fact within a few days after the deal was closed, Mr. Lilley started a force of men developing. The claims are located in the famous Bear Gulch belt which has lately been brought into such prominence on account of the rich discoveries made.

Mr. Lilley says that the Last Chance will send ore to the Alpine mill for treatment as soon as the plant is completed. This will be about October 1, or perhaps sooner.

WORKING AT THE OLD BUFFALO

N. Berkeley, of Pendleton, who has the Buffalo in the Granite district, came in this afternoon with his family, which has been at the mine for some time, but is now returning to Pendleton.

Mr. Berkeley has a good force at work crosscutting for the main ledge. He returned this afternoon to the property.

SPECULATORS WILL GET NO LIEU LAND SCRIP

A press dispatch of recent date from Salem, says: According to the lists of lands restored to entry from the Blue Mountain temporary forest reserve, the sole losers in the deal will be the parties who purchased the school sections from the state for speculative purposes, taking chances upon the land being retained in the permanent reserve when created by the Department of the Interior.

According to the records in the state land department, with few exceptions, all the land embraced in the Blue Mountain temporary withdrawal had been surveyed and sold to private parties in place at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. The greater portion of this land was purchased in the hope that it would be included in the permanent forest reserve, in which case the purchasers would be entitled to select other valuable lieu land outside the reserve.

As it now stands, they hold possession of what is in most cases practically worthless land, while the state is the gainer to the extent of the purchase price. Had it not been for the prospect of this land being included in the permanent forest reserve, it is probable the state would have had a hard time disposing of it at any price. There is very little unsurveyed land in the Blue Mountain reserve, therefore the state will profit very little in the matter of securing new base for the selection of lieu land, if the whole were created to a permanent reserve.

PUSHING DEVELOPMENT WORK AT THE CLIMAX

Captain A. Case, consulting engineer for the Climax, came in from the property this afternoon and went to Baker City. He will return Monday.

Captain Case says twelve men are at work at the Climax and that work is concentrated on the crosscut for the main lead. Development under the new management is to be pushed.

DELEGATES TO THE MINING CONGRESS

Tony Mohr, secretary of the Sumpter branch of the Oregon Mining Association, left this afternoon to attend the American Mining congress, which convenes at Portland, Monday. The rest of the delegates who are sure to go, are H. H. Nicholson, consulting engineer for the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, L. R. Bellman, manager of the California, P. A. Brady, superintendent of the Humboldt, Charles Kirchen superintendent of the smelter, and Fred D. Smith, manager Snow Creek. These will leave tomorrow.

Others who may go, but have not yet decided are D. L. Killen, president of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, Hon. George J. Barrett, superintendent of the Buckhorn, S. S. Start, city recorder of Sumpter, and J. A. Howard, manager of the Goleonda.

The railroad rate is one and a third fare for the round trip. Secretary Mohr desires it announced that delegates will pay one full fare at Baker City, and on a proper certificate signed by the secretary of the mining congress, they will be entitled to one-third fare returning.

Prairie Diggings Flooded.

While the men employed at the Prairie Diggings mine were at work last Friday on the 150-foot level, a heavy shot put in the face of the drift opened up a large vein of water which quickly flooded the mine, notwithstanding the fact that the large pump in use was kept constantly at work. Seeing that he was making no headway in unwatering the mine, Superintendent Joseph Waddell shut down the pump and left at once for Baker City where he purchased a new pump of much greater capacity than the old one and which will be installed at once. It is reported that there is about thirty feet of water at present in the mine. The Prairie Diggings is located five miles east of Canyon City, and has the making of a big mine. Under the management of Mr. Waddell the property is being rapidly developed into a dividend-paying proposition.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

READY FOR WORK IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS

J. M. Doyle, superintendent of the Gold Coin in the Cracker Creek district, is in town today on business.

All the machinery for the compressor plant has been delivered at the property and will be installed at once. Mr. Doyle thinks the machinery will be set up and ready for operations within the next three or four days. It is a three drill plant.

Beautiful Columbia River Folder.

The passenger department of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company has just issued a beautiful and costly panoramic folder entitled "The Columbia River, Through the Cascade Mountains, to the Pacific Ocean." From Arlington to Portland, and from Portland to the Pacific ocean, every curve of the river and every

point of interest are shown, while Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount St. Helens, perpetually covered with snow, stand in all their beauty. On the back of the map is an interesting story in detail of the trip from Huntington to Portland and, from Portland to the ocean, not overlooking the beaches and the San Francisco trip by ocean. Acopy of this folder may be secured by sending four cents in stamps to pay postage to A. L. Craig, General Passenger agent for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, Portland, Oregon. By sending the address of some friend in the east, and four cents in postage, the folder will be promptly mailed.

EDMUND JUESSEN HAS A CLOSE CALL ON DEATH

The following from the Spokesman-Review refers to a former resident of Sumpter.

Only a narrow ledge of rock projecting from the side of a shaft saved Edmund Juessen from being mangled at the bottom of a 250 foot hole in the Snowshoe mine at Libby, Montana. Mr. Juessen, who is of the firm of Juessen & Clarke, mining engineers of Spokane, was making an examination if the Snowshoe last Thursday. In the gloom of the workings he stepped into the shaft and crashed down sixteen feet, when he struck, unconscious, upon a narrow projecting ledge. On slowly regaining consciousness he found his head laughing over the ledge above a yawning shaft that only reached bottom 250 feet deeper. It is a miracle that he escaped death.

Although badly hurt Mr. Juessen managed to call some miners near by and they got him out with difficulty. One shoulder was dislocated, one leg bruised and a hand was shattered. The miners had much difficulty in getting him out to Libby, where he was put on the train and taken to Spokane. He is recovering.

SPECIAL EXCURSIONS TO ST. LOUIS

August 8, 9 and 10, September 5, 6 and 7 and October 3, 4 and 5 are the remaining dates upon which tickets will be sold at the reduced rates to the St. Louis fair. These rates apply over the Denver & Rio Grande and Missouri Pacific. For the patrons of these roads special excursion cars will be run through from Portland to St. Louis without change. See the many points of interest about the Mormon capital and take a ride through nature's picture gallery. During the closing months travel to the fair will be very heavy. If you contemplate going write W. C. McBride, general agent at Portland, of the Denver and Rio Grande, for particulars of these excursions.

Don't Go to St. Louis

"Till you call at or write to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, Office 134 Third Street, Portland, Oregon. Low rates to all points East, in connection with all transcontinentals.

W. S. ROWE, General Agent, Portland, Oregon.

WANTED—A few undeveloped or partly developed gold mining claims. Parties having such to dispose of will write T. A. Y. Hodgson, Palmer-town, Pennsylvania.

The Miner does job printing.