

COVERS  
THOROUGHLY  
THE  
GOLD FIELDS  
of the  
INLAND EMPIRE



EASTERN  
INVESTORS  
IN  
OREGON MINES  
Pay for  
AND READ IT

## McLEOD-MADDERN CONTEST IS ALL OFF

The strong arm of the Oregon statute swooped down and took every bit of the ginger out of the McLeod-Maddern drilling contest. Under the Oregon law all wagers are illegal. The statute provides that in case either party to a wager of money desires to revoke a gambling contract and pull down his stake-money he may do so; and should the stakeholder refuse to disgorge, civil action may be instituted to recover from him even after he has paid the money over to the other party.

All these legal points have been forcibly presented in a communication addressed to Tom Dunphy, stakeholder in the McLeod-Maddern match, and signed by N. C. Richards, attorney for Joe Schaffer and Frank McCarvel, two men who bet \$200 on McLeod.

Dunphy was consequently in a mental condition of acute indecision bordering on the verge between the devil and the deep blue sea, until this afternoon, when the match was formally and finally declared off.

Ben Wood, of Baker, Maddern's backer, and Maddern himself, were in town today. They had blood in their joint and separate eyes. They inclined to belief that they are being buncoed. They wanted the \$1,000

stake-money to remain in Dunphy's hands, to be drilled for, or forfeited, as per the terms of the signed agreement. They did not concern themselves with the legality of the agreement. They considered that the elements of sportsmanship should enter.

A penultimate phase was an offer made by Wood this afternoon, after a long conference with Maddern, McLeod and Dunphy.

"Let all who desire to do so, pull down their money, and we will go on and drill for the money."

McLeod was willing to accept the proposition, provided Maddern would agree to drill the kind of hole he desired and allow McLeod the same privilege. Maddern insisted on a straight down hole, and wouldn't budge therefrom. Bluff talk flew thick and fast. Finally Ben Wood declared all negotiations off and Stakeholder Dunphy gave him his \$500. Wood left for Baker and Maddern for Bourne.

McLeod stands willing to drill any man in Oregon for \$500 or less, any kind of holes, at any time.

"And I hereby challenge any man in Oregon to drill three holes at different angles for \$500 a hole," said Maddern. Three hundred plunks, put up by McLeod supporters, still remain in Dunphy's hands

## BEAT OUT BRAINS OF THE CROOKS

One would have thought that the brood of "mining" investment vultures who have originated such schemes as the guaranteed principal and dividend and the stock trust fund might stop short at some point in their efforts to cheapen mining enterprises in the eyes of outsiders and get back to common sense methods of business. But somehow they continue to take delight in casting reproach upon one of the most honorable and profitable lines of endeavor yet discovered by men of energy and probity. Unless it were actually encountered in practice, it would be almost unthinkable that an investor could be persuaded to place his savings in mining enterprises by means of a chromo, and yet, judging by the fact that such methods are indulged in by stock agencies, it must be that there are fools enough left to make this "catch-penny" system profitable.

A Chicago and a Detroit firm have recently started a guessing contest, in which the prizes consist of money and valuable articles of merchandise. Those who participate are permitted to "take a try" at predicting the total popular vote

at the presidential election in November. The projectors have drawn into their scheme various business houses, whose customers are invited, upon the consideration of certain purchases, to send in guesses. And, behold, a certain fiscal agency for the stock of a supposed gold mining company has added the guessing contest to the numerous other merits of its wares. Perhaps other stocks are being sold with a like privilege attached, but we have heard of only one. For every share of stock purchased at one dollar, the "investor" is entitled to four guesses on the election.

In cases of this kind, it is not unlikely that the "investors" guessing contest will continue indefinitely, perhaps for months after the next president is inaugurated. He will doubtless enjoy a great deal of pleasure guessing what has become of his money, guessing what the value of his stock certificate is, and guessing whether or not he is a bigger fool than his neighbor, who staked his money on a shell game.

In any event, this "investor" is apt to have an incidental opinion of the mining industry, and it can hardly be a good one. To start with, of course, if he yields to the persuasion of the guessing contest, his opinion could not reflect much credit upon Western enterprise; hence, so far as he is individually concerned, there is not much lost in the way of prestige for the mining

business. But he may poison the minds of his friends, and, what is infinitely worse, he encourages a system which, by its very publicity, brings mining investments into ridicule.

The worst "knocker" that the mining industry has to contend against is the deliberate fakir. But, next to him, comes the parasite agency that spreads and encourages a want of confidence in legitimate enterprise, arguing by inference that mining interests are sure to prove profitless unless they are accompanied by the privilege of guessing for a chromo or of everlastingly exchanging one certificate for another, equally worthless.

Some one ought to take a club and beat the brains out of the blackguards.—Daily Mining Record.

## NEWS NOTES FROM THE GRANITE DISTRICT

Mr. Vinson's new road to the Thornburg placers will be completed some time next week. The road which follows Crane creek to the North Fork, will be a great improvement over the old one.

Mr. Geo. J. Barrett is erecting a number of buildings on Crane Flat for Burbridge & Burch. The buildings are for the accommodation of the men to be employed on the placers, and will be used this winter when the new elevator machinery is installed. The machinery will be delivered some time in January.

C. J. Allen now has twelve men employed at the Monumental. They are engaged in getting out timbers, and wood, relaying the track in the tunnels and drifts and getting everything in shape for continuous winter work. He will raise 350 feet and also sink 200 feet. This assures work during the winter for a considerable crew of men.

Al Jones and family have returned to Sumpter, after spending several weeks at the Magnolia. Mr. Jones has completed the assessment work at the mine. In doing this he opened up much new ground that shows some high grade ore. The concentrates at the mine will soon be all delivered to the Sumpter smelter, there being but a load or two left at the mine.—Gem.

### Ore for the Smelter.

The smelter received the first shipment of ore from the Baisley-Elkhorn, 1 carload, which will be the daily consignment in future. A carload of ore was also received today from Idaho. Yesterday a large amount of ore, comparatively speaking, was hauled in from contiguous districts in wagons. The business is just getting fairly started and already its beneficial effects are being felt on the business life of Sumpter.

Albert Sprague, bookkeeper at the E. and E. mine, passed through Sumpter today on his way up the gulch from Baker City.

## PLATINUM PLENTY ON JOSEPHINE CREEK

Ed Smith, of Grant's Pass, now in Potlaid, says that there are paying quantities of platinum on Josephine creek. Mr. Smith is one of the old residents of Jackson and Josephine counties, and knows every foot of that country in a mineral way. Josephine creek empties into the Illinois river about six miles below Kerbyville, and placer mining has been carried on in that stream for many years. Mr. Smith says that there is plenty of platinum in the tailings along the bed of the creek, pieces weighing a dollar or two having been picked up among the gravel. There are also fine particles of platinum, slightly resembling black sand, except that it is heavier, and could be saved through the ordinary methods employed in mining gold-producing gravel. Platinum is worth about \$20 per ounce, while gold averages from \$16 to \$17 per ounce in value.

Platinum comes from the serpentine rock formation on Josephine creek, and it is a scarcity in mineral sections of this country. The principal agency supply comes from the Ural mountains, in Asia, where it is washed out like gold. It has never been discovered in veins as a part of a rock formation. Platinum is of a whitish cast, and is sometimes found almost as bright as silver, while the smaller particles are of brown cast, resembling in appearance black sand.

Platinum is used for crucibles, for chemical purposes, and in the manufacture of certain kinds of wire. It is always found precipitated from a serpentine rock formation.—Telegram.

## RAIL ROAD GRADERS TEAR UP COUNTY ROADS

At the recent meeting of the county court a protest against the action of the Sumpter Valley Railroad company in grading out the wagon road, was filed by a citizen of this county. The place where this is occurring is along the proposed extension from Tipton to Austin. In many places the wagon road has been torn up and forced over steep and sidling hills. This renders the already heavy hauling still more difficult and expensive, greatly hindering the work of freighters and adding to the burdens of travel.

The court took up the matter with Supervisor Wright, of that road district, and ordered that he make an investigation. If he finds that the company is encroaching upon the public highway, he is to notify the officers that they are expected to put the new road in as good condition as the road they destroy.

It is expected by the court that the company will be willing to do this, in which event no further action will be necessary. But as this is plain law and justice, the company will find itself in difficulty if it tries to evade the reasonable requirements.—Grant County News.