

PORTLAND WILL DEMAND THAT U. S. ASSAY OFFICE

Monday, November 1, at Portland, Oregon, in the rooms of the Board of Trade, at 10 o'clock a. m., is the day, place and hour fixed for the holding of the annual meeting of the Oregon Miners' Association. Executive officers from the various district associations will be delegates. Officers will be elected for the ensuing year and some plan will be proposed for the repeal of the Eddy law. The establishment of a government assay office in the state will also be discussed. The services of the Oregon congressional delegation will be enlisted in behalf of this project. The main object sought, of course, in the establishment of a government assay office in Oregon is to arrange matters so that this state will receive from the government statistics due and proper credit for its gold output. Ever since the dim dawn of mining in this corner of the continent, Oregon's gold yield has gone to Boise and San Francisco, to swell the accredited yield of Idaho and California.

One of the principal schemes, it is suspected, connected with the formation of the Oregon Miners association by Portland men, and the inauguration of a propaganda for the formation of subsidiary associations throughout the state, was to cause the selection of Portland as the site for the proposed United States assay office. This looked feasible, by reason of three out of the four members of the Oregon congressional delegation being either residents of, or closely affiliated with Portland. It was because Congressman Williamson, from the Second district, realized this fact, that he mounted the band wagon, and, in an open letter to his eastern Oregon constituents, printed in The Miner last spring, announced that an attempt to locate the federal assay office in Baker City or Sumpter would result in such a storm of protest from the Webfoot slope as to defeat the whole project.

Now comes the Evening Telegram, hitherto one of the busiest boosters for Portland as the proper site, and quietly puts in a plug against the scheme, in the following language:

"Senator Mitchell's good office will be sought in this (the assay office) matter, and every effort will be brought to bear upon the powers that be for the establishment of an office where reliable assays may be secured, notwithstanding the fact that there are several thoroughly competent and perfectly reliable assayers now located within the state."

The above paragraph, which appeared in the mining department of Tuesday's Telegram, evidently got past the lynx eyes of a copy reader, who should have known that "an office where reliable assays may be secured" has nothing to do with a government institution of the character in question. Such an office is for the purchase by government of gold bullion, a perfect record being kept of the transaction in all its details. The annual report of the director of the mint, wherein various states are credited with their yields, is compiled from these records. Therefore, with a government assay

office in Oregon, this state's annual output of gold, silver and other precious metals, instead of being given by government statistics at present as less than \$2,000,000, would be somewhere nearer the correct figure—\$5,000,000.

Anthony Mohr, of Sumpter, secretary of the Sumpter District Miners' association, a branch of the state organization, said to a Miner man this morning.

"I shall not attend the Portland meeting. I have washed my hands of the Portland gang. I reached this decision when I attended the recent Portland convention of the American mining congress. At that time I discovered that no benefit can possibly accrue to the Sumpter mining district by representation at any sort of a meeting held in the Webfoot metropolis. Sumpter must organize an entirely independent association of miners and mining men, and cut loose quick and completely from the Portland hogs."

J. Frank Shelton is chairman of the Sumpter District association, and David L. Killen is vice-president. Both gentlemen are absent from the state, and will not attend the Portland meeting.

It appears to be the practically unanimous sentiment among Sumpter mining men that the district association in this camp should be permitted to die a painless and unwept death. The enthusiasm which ushered it into the world has flickered out, and few of the active members desire to further retain sub-membership in a body which spells too much Portland.

Not long ago, J. H. Fisk, an executive officer of the state association, and the gentleman who will have charge of the ore exhibit at the 1905 fair, wrote a long article on eastern Oregon mines for a Portland paper, which article purported to be his personal observations made while on a tour of inspection of this region. The article occupied a space of two columns, including Mr. Fisk's signature in capitals, and a close reading of the entire effort fails to reveal even so much as a passing mention of the city of Sumpter. Every other town, including Baker, Borune, Granite, Tipton and Gold Center, came in for a mention, but Sumpter appeared not once.

This is resented for the sole purpose of pointing out just how Sumpter stands with the state association.

SURVEY ACROSS CASCADE RANGE

In 1901 three geological parties from the United States Geological Survey were assigned to the reconnaissance of the northwestern boundary. The duties of these parties included not only the geological and economic investigation of a strip of country in the vicinity of the forty-ninth parallel, but especially the examination of the area with reference to the con-

CORNUCOPIA MINE WILL GO UNDER THE HAMMER

It now develops that the recent order of Judge Bellinger, of the Federal court of Oregon, authorizing the sale of the personal property of the Cornucopia Mines on November 22, and of the real property on November 28, was a distinct victory for the Baker City lawyers who, for the past two years have been fighting the Searles estate. When the announcement was first made of Judge Bellinger's order, it was popularly presumed that his action was brought about through presentation of an offer of a foreign syndicate to purchase the property. Not long ago Judge Bellinger issued a temporary injunction, restraining the sheriff of Baker county from selling the mine under the hammer, in satisfaction of about \$50,000 worth of judgments and labor liens. The Federal court's intervention was secured by Receiver Beattys, of Brooklyn, who pleaded that a private purchaser was negotiating for the mine, and that a forced sale by the sheriff would do harm to the interests of the bankrupt owner. During the life of this injunction two experts exhaustively examined the mine, and, it is understood, reported favorably to their principals.

Receiver Beattys gave notice to all parties concerned that offers had been made and set a date for a hearing thereof. A meeting was duly held, but the result has never been officially announced. Now comes Judge Bellinger and dissolves his temporary injunction, explaining that the receiver has had time enough to perfect private sale of the mine, and that further time cannot consistently be granted. He therefore authorizes the sheriff to proceed with a public sale of the property under execution.

It is rumored in Baker City that a syndicate of local men, who have been defraying the expenses of the legal fight against Searles, stand prepared to bid in the property. Another rumor is to the effect that the foreign syndicate will have a representative on the ground prepared to run the bidding to a high figure. Still another rumor says that Robert N. Jones, general manager under the original Searles regime, will make an effort to secure the mine in the interests of a Colorado company.

Whomsoever the mine is knocked down to will secure a valuable property, superbly equipped, and with a big record as a producer, even under disadvantageous circumstances.

dition of the monuments on the international boundary. The party assigned to the western section, extending from Osoyoos Lake, in northern Washington, across the Cascade Mountains to the coast, was in charge of Mr. George Otis Smith, with Mr. Frank C. Calkins, assistant geologist. While the major portion of the work was topographic and was connected with the examination of the boundary, considerable general information was obtained regarding the geology of the region traversed. Only a portion of such data is contained in the joint report made at the time to the superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and the director of the United States Geological Survey, and it has therefore seemed advisable to place the results of the reconnaissance in a form in which they will be available for reference. They may be found now in a recent bulletin of the Geological Survey (No. 235) entitled "Geological Reconnaissance across the Cascade Range near the Forty-ninth Parallel," by Messrs. George Otis Smith and Frank C. Calkins.

The party outfitted at Ellensburg, Washington. The route by which the forty-ninth parallel was reached was practically the same as that used at the time of the earlier survey of the boundary, crossing Table Mountain to the mouth of the Wenatchee and thence extending northward along the west banks of Columbia and Okanogan rivers. Work was commenced in the vicinity of Lake Osoyoos, and extended westward. Until the valley of the Pasayten was reached it was found possible to keep within a few miles of the forty-ninth parallel. From this valley a detour southward was made to the mining camp Barron, whence the party proceeded down the Slate and Ruby creeks to Skagit river. A side trip was made

on foot up this river, over the abandoned Fort Hope trail. Direct access to the mountainous country west of Skagit valley being out of the question, the trail down the Skagit from Ruby to Marblemount was followed, and thence country roads were traveled, by way of Sedro-Woolley, and Deming, to Maple Fall, on the North Fork of the Nooksak. This river was followed as far as east as Hannegan Pass, and the boundary line was visited on Sillicia and Tummesah creeks. The approach of bad weather prevented a trip to the head of Chilliwack Lake, so that the region between Sillicia creek and Skagit river was not visited. The route followed from Ellensburg to Osoyoos Lake afforded opportunities to roughly extend the observations made in central Washington during previous years, and thus in some degree to connect with the boundary section the areas that have been mapped in detail for folio publication. In lower Skagit valley connection was also made with the route followed by the senior author in the course of a reconnaissance made in 1895.

The bulletin contains valuable data on the topography, geology, petrography, physiography, and resources of the region traversed. The chapter entitled "Resources" gives information of economic value in regard to the agricultural lands, the forests, the gold and silver, and the coal deposits of the district.

Prairie Diggings Concentrates.

Manager Joe Waddell, of the Prairie Diggings mine, near Prairie City, has a crew hauling concentrates to Tipton, for shipment thence to the Sumpter smelter. Two weeks will be required to complete the contract. Hauling costs \$11.50 per ton. The mine is closed.