

SALE OF THE IMPERIAL MINE IS NOW PENDING

**A. L. McEwen Arrived Today From the East
With Experts to Examine
the Property.**

A. L. McEwen returned today from a trip east, as far as New York. He was accompanied to Sumpter by A. H. Sibley, of Detroit, Michigan, president of the company that manufactures the celebrated Frue vanner; A. N. Humphrey, of Pittsburg, and G. Noble, of Denver, the latter two being mining experts. Johnny Arthur met them at Baker City, and went out to Cable Cove district with them this afternoon. This forenoon they were shown through the smelter. Regarding the purpose of their trip, A. L. McEwen said to a Miner representative:

"They have come out here to look at the Imperial mine, which myself and partners are now working under bond and lease. The money to pay for the mine has been subscribed by a syndicate of Detroit capitalists. Messrs. Humphrey and Noble are

mining men of ability. They will make a thorough examination of the property for the gentlemen who are negotiating for its purchase, and of course, the sale depends on their report. The mine will stand the test, so I have little doubt regarding the consummation of the deal."

Several months since McEwen, Arthur & McEwen put a small mill, which they had been using in their sampling works here, on the Imperial and it has proven to be a most gratifying success, saving a large per cent of values, by concentration. The mine has been shipping both concentrates and ore to the smelter here regularly for some weeks past; at a very satisfactory profit, it is reported.

Captain Paul, one of the owners of the Imperial, accompanied the party out to the mine this afternoon.

MAD FARMERS AND SMELTER FUMES

It is reported that negotiations during the past few days in the controversy between four of the largest smelting companies which operate in the vicinity of Bingham, Utah, and the farmers in that state, over the alleged injury caused to the soil and vegetation by the fumes from the furnaces, have reached a critical stage. Up to within the past week it was believed that the adjustment of the matter would follow in due course, several conferences having been held between the farmers and the managers of the smelters. At a mass meeting of the farmers, however, held at Murray, it has been voted to reject all the propositions made by the smelting companies and it was decided to institute injunction proceedings.

According to the plans now outlined by the farmers a committee has been formed to take the question to the courts, each farmer being assessed ten cents per acre to meet the legal expenses. The farmers want to compel the smelters to shut down until the improvements are made. It is not believed that such drastic remedies could be secured in Utah as great stress has been laid upon the development made recently in the smelting business in the state. What concerns the farmers is the sulphur thrown out through the flues, more than the metallic particles. Dr. John Widstoe, of the experiment station in the state agricultural college, who has been at work on the problem for over a year, is authority for the statement that enough sul-

phur passes out through the smoke stacks at Murray each twenty-four hours to furnish every man, woman and child in Utah a pound per day.

The smelters handle 1,000,000 pounds of ore in a day's run, and one-third of this or about 300,000 pounds passes off into the air as sulphur gas, which, coming in contact with water, forms sulphurous acid. This acid destroys vegetation by eating the cell walls within the plant and kills cattle by poisoning the pools of surface water in which the gas is readily dissolved. The area of damage was increased to include the whole western valley by the action of the Highland Boy smelter, in adding an additional fifty feet onto its smoke stack at the beginning of the present year.

Attempts made to control the smelter fumes at Anaconda, Montana, and at Tacoma, Washington, have already met with success.

FOUR TONS DYNAMITE TEARS OPEN MOUNTAIN

By the explosion of 8,000 pounds of dynamite in the Galice district, near Grants Pass Monday, the entire diggings of the Royal group hydraulic mines, lying between Rocky and Rich gulches, were blown up and a mountain was rent asunder. Hundreds of tons of earth and rock were blown skyward, and the entire Galice district trembled as by an earthquake. The report was considerably muffled by the mountain into which the 8,000 pounds of explosives was set, but the report was heard for many miles.

The purpose of the explosion was to loosen up the cemented gravels and strata of the Royal Group

diggings, making it available for washing down by the giants without further blasting. Ordinarily blasting is done a little at a time throughout the mining season. Pieces of bank are frequently encountered that are too stiff for the giants to gnaw through, and a stick of dynamite is necessary. To do this the giant streams are turned aside, and just that much time is lost. Manager Harvey believes he has saved much valuable time. It is a new departure in southern Oregon placer mining, and the result will be watched with interest.

The method of setting the dynamite was by driving a long drift into the auriferous mountain and placing the powder in this, connecting the fuses so that all exploded at once. The gravel banks here are very high, towering to 125 and even 230 feet, with gold all the way through. The ground is an old channel, and after such a shaking up as it had yesterday, will yield easily and can be washed in great quantities through the sluices this winter.

OREGON DOESN'T RECEIVE ITS DUE

J. H. Fisk, vice-president of the Oregon Miners' association, complains that Oregon does not receive just recognition from the government or state as a mining section. He says:

"Oregon produces one-third as much gold annually as California, yet the latter state has twenty times more capital invested in the industry than Oregon. The California legislature also appropriates \$50,000 annually to promote her mining industries. Oregon produces nearly half as much gold as Montana, fully as much as Idaho and ten times as much as Washington, and yet these states all have United States assay offices, besides making large appropriations to promote the mining industry. Oregon leads them all in the variety of her mineral products, having large bodies of sodorite, molybdenite, marble, slate, aluminum, erolite, vivanite, kaolin and clays of all kinds, besides various precious stones.

"I receive inquiries weekly from prospective eastern investors," said he, "and there should be a well regulated mining bureau that would catalogue districts and mining properties, and publish the same for the information of probable investors. California has such a bureau, and it is proving valuable in the matter of bringing capital into the state."

New Mill for the Maxwell.

Earl Stevenson and Charles Kent this week finished a contract for hauling lumber to the Maxwell mine in the Rock Creek district near Haines, which is being used in the construction of a new mill, to take the place of the one destroyed by the snow slide last winter. Work is being rushed on the building, the entire force at the mine, under the direction of J. E. Bacon, being engaged in the work of construction. The mill will be up-to-date in every detail, and equipped with the latest machinery.

It is reported that a mill will also be erected at the Chloride mine, and that extensive operations will be carried on at the mine this winter.—Haines Record.

ANOTHER FINE GOLD PROCESS

Still another man has perfected a sure thing machine for saving gold. At regular periods the mining world is called upon to sit up and take notice that some obscure inventor has revolutionized placer mining. The mining world yawns and the incident passes into history. The latest man with claims of big reputation is G. W. Wilkerson, of Portland, who has built a machine consisting of two copper plates, placed about an inch apart, the plates being silvered with coin silver and then touched up with quicksilver, specially prepared.

Mr. Wilkerson says he has tried his appliance on the beach sands between Astoria and Seaside and that it works perfectly where fresh water can be obtained and when the gold-bearing sand is found in a dry state.

"Sea water contains oil," he says, "and this oil prevents the saving of the golden articles, so that no invention yet produced can catch the beach gold with sea water. The oil I find is crude petroleum, which is distributed in the seas all over the world, denoting that oil wells exist in the bottom of the ocean.

"But it is along the banks of our Oregon rivers and among the tailings of the Northwest that my plates will save the gold. Even were the gold so fine that it takes 10,000 particles to make one cent's worth, my appliance will take it all up to the last iota. Sands that contain five cents in gold to the cubic yard can be worked at a profit, as one machine will put 4,000 yards of sand through in ten hours, with the aid of a gasoline engine and four men."

All sorts of saving devices for fine gold have been invented on the coast within the past fifty years, but none of them has been perfectly successful.

Wheel of Fortune Revolves.

The wheel of fortune still rolls on, as the following will show: During the Baker period on Cherry Creek, John Cuppy worked in the Cherry Hill mine as a miner, and, like many others, in due course got "fired," packed his blankets back over the divide, and shortly after struck out for Tonopah. After being there for some time and making a succession of fortunate deals, he has now cleaned up the respectable pile of \$300,000. Another instance of a miner who also worked in that famous mine during the same lively time, was George Loud, who soon after found himself in Tonopah, and lately in Goldfield, with an interest in several claims in that now famous camp. He has an interest in the Sandstorm mine, of which he is also superintendent, and has already cleaned up the comfortable sum of \$30,000 with ten times that in sight.—Mining and Engineering Review.

South Gem Mine Bonded.

Phil Metcaban, of this city, has given E. Simpson, of Susanville, an option on the South Gem mine, the option to expire October 1, 1905, previous to which time Mr. Simpson may become owner of the property by the payment of \$5,000. The South Gem is located on Elk creek, near the Badger mine, at Susanville, and is an extension on the same lode as the Gem of the Mountain.—Portland Telegram.