The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
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Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year $2.00
Six Months 1.25

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Nik Tesla's criticism that the New York subway is merely an elevated road put in a hole in the ground, is a reminder of the engineering triumph achieved in Nevada during the days of Mark Twain, when eastern investors found that they had contracted for a tunnel so extensive that it would be necessary to construct several hundred feet of it upon a trestle.

In New York a national bank has sued a trust company which, by a deceptive prospectus, had induced it to become one of the underwriters for the United States Cotton Duck company, a concern with a capitalization of $30,000,000, but nothing like that amount of tangible property. It is charged that the prospectus was issued with intent to defraud. If this case is made to "stick," there are mining companies that would be acting prudently by calling in its literature.

The Cornish mines in their most prosperous times gave employment to 71,000 men, and yearly turned out 4,200 tons of tin and 12,000 tons of copper. The Cornwall mines have seen their best days and their product today is insignificant in both tin and copper, as compared with later-day localities. The Cornwall mining district is in the southwest part of Cornwall county, and in excavations made in search for ore in some places the tunnels extend for considerable distances under the bed of the Atlantic ocean.

The Gazette, of Baltimore, tells of a new locomotive that is of interest to railroad men. It is expected to be able to run from New York to California without a stop, that is, for fuel. Oil will be used for fuel and it will be possible to make the run from coast to coast without the necessity of having to renew the supply. It is being manufactured for the Southern Pacific railway, in part by three different companies, the American Locomovtive works at Schenectady, the Corliss Engine company at Providence, and the General Electric company. It will furnish another example of the rush and hurry of the times.

Word has come from London, England, that the price of diamonds has ascended another five per cent, which, added to the various ascents in the past five years, makes an appreciation of forty-five per cent that the beautiful gems have undergone. As each advance in price has been but a moderate five per cent, we presume that the ultimate goal of the gentlemen controlling these articles of absolute necessity is to make it an even fifty per cent and then quit work. We are very much of the impression that there is no shortage in the output of the South African diamond mines, and that as many, if not more, of the precious stones are being found now-a-days than ever before. That diamonds have greatly augmented in price is wholly because those observing gentlemen in control have noted the great prosperity of these United States during the past several years and they simply desired to participate. Again, they know full well that human nature, alike the world over, the great majority, are always hoping, praying that some day a diamond, or diamonds, will be theirs. An observing person in his travels notes the remarkable fondness of man or woman for display. This ostentatious whim is gratified only in women and to a less extent in man, through ownership of diamonds. He will note that three persons out of five in the ordinary run of his travels wear some article of luxury in which the diamond gleams out in its beauty. This is characteristic of the rich and poor alike. The ostentatious very rich buy diamonds by the pint. The Well-to-do are satisfied with a few hundred carats. Those in moderate circumstances, those in medium, and those in poor, all want the gems, and will have them, at whatever cost and sacrifice, whether diamonds be $10 or $50 a carat. Thus the great secret of their enchanced value. Lucky is he who holds shares in the great glittering monopoly that digs the sparklers to supply the conceit of mankind.—Mining World.

FRICTION IN GOLCONDA COMPANY DEVELOPING

Under a Pendleton date line, the Spokesman-Review of Saturday published this: "At a meeting held yesterday of the Golconda stockholders it was decided to meet again Monday, November 14, and reorganize the company, as proposed. At the meeting the same board of directors and officers were re-elected to serve another term."

The paragraph was shown to J. A. Howard, who was asked what it meant. "I can't tell you anything about it," said Mr. Howard, emphatically. "There will probably not be any meeting there today." And further than that he would say nothing.

L. R. Bellman, one of the stockholders in the company, says he received a notice from the secretary, stating that the meeting would be held today; that it was called for the purpose of reconsidering the action taken at the meeting held last week, when it was decided to sell the mine at public auction January 4. He gave his proxies to H. T. Hendryx, who left yesterday to attend the meeting. That's all he knew about it—for publication.

There is evidently some friction, a contest is on for the control of the property, between Messrs. Howard and Raley on the one side and Messrs. Prussing and Hendryx on the other. It is a matter that can't be settled by talking to newspaper representatives, and Mr. Howard, at least, is refraining from taking them into his confidence, perhaps wisely.

Something will probably be doing within a week.

Ex United States Marshal Zoeth Houser, whose home is in Pendleton, but who spends most of his time in Quartzburg district, where he is interested in the Standard mine and the Dixie group, arrived this morning from the west, on his way to the interior.

WATER POWER PLANT FOR THE COLUMBIA

The two carloasd of water pipe for the Columbia mine, mention of the arrival of which was made in yesterday's Miner, is to be used in connection with the water-electric power plant that company is now installing, regarding which important enterprise little has been known and nothing heretofore said in print.

Within thirty days the Columbia mill and mine will abandon steam as a motive power and substitute electricity. The supply of fuel is already becoming scarce in the Cracker Creek district, and therefore expensive. Water for power will be taken from Fruit creek, the rights to which the Columbia company had the forethought to secure some years ago.

The dam has been constructed a mile above the power house, and the water will be brought down the entire distance through cast iron pipe, these two carloads being the first shipment to arrive. The laying of this pipe now constitutes the major portion of the work yet to be done, in order to place the plant in commission. Two hundred horse power will be developed, sufficient for all present needs at the mine.

An interesting piece of information in this connection is that the freight charges alone on the first two carloads of pipe, from the factory in Pennsylvania, where it was cast, to Sumpter, amounted to $600. There is said to be no dealer on this coast who ships the pipe by water around the horn, and thus save this large expense, which, in itself, would seem to be a fair profit.

COAL FIELDS IN ARCTIC CIRCLE

Near Cape Lisburne, which is on the Arctic coast of Alaska, 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle, are two coal bearing formations of economic importance. They were studied during the past summer by Arthur J. Collier, of the United States Geological Survey, who, assisted by Mr. Chester Washburn, made his way in an open dory along that distant shore as far east as Cape Beaufort. The wind in that quarter of the earth blows everything with cyclonic force straight out to sea every day in the year except those days when, for a change, it tear down from the North Pole, blowing everything far inland. Putting to sea in an open boat might seem like tempting fate in that latitude, but the survey men found it the most practicable way of studying the formations exposed along the coast. Coming south they were taken up by the cutter Thetis, the captain of which did everything in his power to facilitate their work.

Of the two coal bearing formations, one, which lies east of Cape Lisburne, is of Jurassic or Lower Cretaceouss age, and the other, which lies south of Cape Lisburne, is either Lower Carboniferous or Devonian. The Mesozoic coal-bearing formation, which has been known for the last three quarters of a century, commences at a point twenty-five miles east of Cape Lisburne and is continuously exposed along the coast to Cape Beaufort, a distance of forty miles. It contains the well known Corwin and Thetis mines, the location of which has been shown on many recent maps of Alaska.

Geologic study show that the coal measures of these fields have a total thickness of at least 15,000 feet and contain not less than forty beds of coal, each over a foot thick. The aggregate thickness of all the beds seen by Mr. Collier is over 150 feet. Eleven of them are more than four feet thick and contain coal of good quality. Analysis of samples from some of the beds show the product to be low-grade bituminouss coal. A limited amount of coal has been mined there since 1879 for whalers and revenue cutters. Several cargoes were mined in '01 and sold at Nome market for $18 and $20 a ton, in competition with Comax and Washington coal at $25 a ton

None of the coal beds have been permanently developed. The coal produced was mined from the croppings along the sea cliff and boated off to the ships through the surf. There is no harbor for vessels nor protection from any but south winds. In 1903 a small amount of coal, probably not exceeding twenty or thirty tons, was produced at the Corwin mine. In 1904 about twenty tons were taken by the steamship Corwin, and about ten more tons were mined for consumption at the Point Hope whaling station.

The Paleozoic coals out crop at three points along the coast, four, eight, and twelve miles, respectively, south of Cape Lisburne. The coal-bearing formation extends southward for a distance of about forty miles, and reaches the coast again at Cape Thompson. Beds over four feet in thickness occur at each of the localities noted. No analysis of these coals has yet been made. They are bituminouss and of considerably better grade than the Mesozoic coals of the region. They are totally undeveloped, but in 1903 a few tons were mined from croppings in the sea cliffs and used at the Point Hope whaling station.

Copper and Silver Everywhere.

The Amalgamated company is digging up the ground in the vicinity of the old smelter works at Anaconda. The old plant has has been removed, which for nearly twenty years was in active operation. With the great clouds of smoke that came from the smokestack there was carried many thousands of tons of metallic particles of copper and silver. It has been discovered that the surface of the ground for miles within the vicinity of the old smelter is rich in these metals. In fact an average sample assay of the surface shows that it contains more copper to the ton than the ore now being shipped from the mines in Butte. Four and one-half per cent copper is found in this ground, beside considerable silver. There are millions of tons of slag on the ground, and this, too, is being assorted and sent to the new smelter for reduction. Under the old methods a large percentage of the copper was lost, and all of this matter will be re-worked.—Mining World.

Jack Scofield, a miner from the Overauld, passed through town today on his way to the hospital in Baker City. He is suffering with appendicitis and may have to submit to an operation.