

REVOLUTIONIZER OF PROSPECTING

A Baker City paper prints an item to the effect that Oscar J. Lee, of Chicago, whose rather high sounding title is Chief Electric and Terrestrial Engineer of the Electric Metal Locating company, has just completed a successful demonstration at the Cyclone mine, east of Baker. Terrestrial Lee is quoted as saying that his machine discovered some heavy ledges near the present workings of the Cyclone. He announces that the terrestrial invention will revolutionize prospecting.

Ed Hauser read the item in the Baker paper, buttonholed a reporter for The Miner, hauled him into the New Olympia saloon and said, "Watch me."

"This Lee person," he explained, "may be the goods, but his terrestrial contrivance is a whole lot too complicated to ospinariously segushiate through my curtailed understanding. On the other hand, this little hard-wood cone, with two holes in it, which I now hand you for examination (you will notice I have neither cuffs nor whiskers to deceive the eye) is about the realest real thing as a ledge finder that ever occurred. I bought this little cone from the late Professor Wallace, upon the advice of my quondam friend, A. D. Whittier. It stood me fifty plunks. I am willing to let it go for one fifty."

"This Wallace person's title was Grand High Hot Air Pumper of the Sure Thing Ledge Finding and Easy Mark Distinguishing company, of Hoboken. I have reason to believe that Whit was a member of the board of directors. However, I harbor no ill feelings toward Whit, as I understand he is having a hard streak of luck in Frisco. Perhaps I shall send him this little ledge finder, in order that he may use it to locate a free lunch counter or a maverick meal ticket."

"You will notice that this harmless-looking little cone has two holes drilled in the bottom. Into these holes I now insert two raw hide switches, making the apparatus appear like a spider with long legs. I now firmly grasp the two legs in each of my hands and permit the cone to project in front of my breast. That is the position assumed in locating ledges. The cone will do the rest."

"We will now demonstrate, and the cock-eyed gentleman by the bar will please remove his hat."

Mr. Hauser unlocked his mineral cabinet—which, by the way, contains a very valuable collection—and selected at random a handful of free gold specimens. Laying them on the floor in a heap, he grasped the raw-hide legs of the ledge-finder, hunched his shoulders, cautioned the audience to be perfectly silent and observe the phenomena, and walked slowly across the floor, the cone trembling violently in his hands. The oscillation of the apparatus perceptibly increased as he approached the ore specimens, until, when the cone was directly above the heap, it was literally torn from his hands by a mysterious force. The experiment was repeated with the same result.

"There," panted Mr. Hauser, the perspiration pouring from his face, "that, sire, is the machine to revolutionize prospecting!"

The reporter was induced to try the experiment, and grasped the raw-hide legs like grim death. Despite his Herculean strength, however, when the cone was brought into juxtaposition with the heap of ore specimens, the cone dipped violently downward, exerted a mysterious twisting energy, and finally was wrenched so suddenly from the reporter's hands that it tore a gaping hole in the linoleum floor covering.

John D. Goss tried the experiment, but for some unknown psychic reason, the phenomena was not repeated.

"He lacks the psychometric temperament," explained Mr. Hauser.

Jimmy Sheridan tried it, and the gyrations of the cone were so extraordinary that Mr. Sheridan lost his balance and fell heavily on his stomach, rebounding to an upright position like a toy balloon.

"He has heaps of psychometricism," said Hauser.

"As I said before," he continued, "this thing cost me \$50. When I bought it I thought it was a flim-flam, and I took the precaution to pay in Confederate money. But I now realize that it is a pippin, that I hold in my possession the solution of the problem of the ages. I shall at once organize a stock company, with a five million dollar, fully paid, non-assessable capital, to be known as the Amalgamated Hotpotato and Surething Holdup Syndicate, Limited, and arrange at once to locate all the blind ledges, scrap iron heaps, piccards and dam sites in Baker county."

IS THIS SOME KING OF NEW GOLD DREDGE

"The Invasion of the Gold Ships" is the title of an article in the October number of the Booklovers' Magazine, which, but for some corroborative facts of local knowledge and the evidence of illustrative photographs, might have been classed with the H. G. Wells romances of science and invention in the coming ages. The article is descriptive of a new method of gold mining and its astonishing results. The success with which knowledge of the facts has been kept from the public, notwithstanding the large amount of capital already invested and the extent of the operations, is shown by the difficulties experienced by the writer of the article in obtaining information concerning the process of securing photographs of the "gold ships" at work, and explained by the fact that the financial operation of the enterprises is in few hands, absolutely no stock of any of the companies being for sale. The fortunate owners have too good a thing to share with others, and had no occasion to go beyond their own resources for the

large amount of capital required at the start.

It has been known that the substratum just above the rock in many of the valleys of western America and Asia is rich in alluvial gold, and many efforts have been made to obtain it, but without success. The seepage through the soil and the presence of subterranean lakes and rivers drowned out every mining device adopted.

Not long since a new scheme was conceived and put into operation with complete success. A steel "ship" was constructed that makes its own sea, sails on it through the valleys which it tears up to the bed rock with its powerful dredge in front, passes the scooped-up soil through contrivances in the body of the "ship," which extract every particle of gold, though so fine as to be invisible except under the lens, and ejects refuse at the stern, where it fills up the basin behind as the "ship" plows its way along. Each "ship" requires only two men to operate it and its excavators do the work of 5,000 men and teams at a cost not to exceed three or four cents a ton. Soil that assays twelve, twenty or thirty cents to the cubic yard can be worked at great profit by the "ships."—Exchange.

LIGHT AND POWER FOR GRAND RONDE VALLEY

A new child has been born in the electric world and it is known as the Grande Ronde Electric company, consolidation or absorption of the La Grande Light and Power company by a new company.

The new company will run three No. 6 copper wires from its power house two and three-fourths miles east of Cove, direct to La Grande, branching at Hot Lake three miles from the lake, where a substation will be established and three wires run from that point to Union.

The work of building a ditch one and one-half miles long, is practically completed. There will be 3,700 feet of pipe, probably one foot in size, connecting with the ditch, and finally the entire body of water will be crowded through a one and one-half inch nozzle. This will be the source of power. There will be 890 feet fall to the water, which will give tremendous energy, estimated at 800 horse power.

The new company, in short, proposes to furnish light and power, as its name implies, for the Grande Ronde valley.—Union Republican.

Plenty of Snow Later On.

The old residents of this section of Oregon predict that snow in plenty will fall within the next few weeks. They base their prediction upon the fact that the present fall weather is almost identical with that of the year in which the "double winter" occurred, now nearly twenty years ago. That year the fall was a long dry one, with heavy fogs during the early part of December. On about the 20th of that month snow began to fall, and it remained until late in February, to be followed later by another snow storm. That was the year in which the great losses in stock occurred, but a repetition of those disasters is not feared, as they resulted from the lack of hay, the range being good and little preparation being made in those days for feeding stock.—Ashwood Prospector.

EASTERN OREGON MEN, TIMBER LAND FRAUDS

Washington, Dec. 7.—An official statement was given out by the interior department today announcing the government's purpose to prosecute every guilty man in the public land frauds to the full extent of the law and regardless of position in life. The statement follows:

"The conviction in Portland yesterday of five persons for land fraud, which will be followed next week by the trial of several others indicted for the same offense, is but another step toward the consummation of the policy entered upon by the secretary of the interior when it became known nearly three years ago that frauds were being perpetrated in connection with the public lands, to run down and prosecute the guilty ones to the full extent of the law, without regard to their position in life. The department encountered many obstacles while engaged in this work, but moved steadily onward and had the hearty assistance and cooperation of the department of justice in bringing the land criminals to justice.

"These frauds have been more far reaching than the country suspected and the task of unearthing them and securing the necessary proofs has been a difficult one, but there has been no abatement of the intention to overcome all difficulties and secure a conviction of the land thieves. No one will be shielded, whether high or low and the work of prosecution will be vigorously carried on."

It is understood that prominent men in eastern Oregon, who have been operating in timber lands in the vicinity of Heppner, will be prosecuted at an early day.

Bore for Water at the Emma.

Manager Vinson, of the Emma mine, six miles east of Baker City, has closed a contract with C. A. Fredricks, of Spokane, to bore for water on his property. Mr. Fredricks has the most extensive boring apparatus ever brought to eastern Oregon, it having a capacity for boring 5,000 feet. The contract with Mr. Vinson calls for 2,000 feet or less, boring to cease whenever a sufficient flow of water is encountered. He does not expect water under 500 feet. The work will be commenced at once. Mr. Fredricks also has a contract to bore for artesian hot water for the Hot Springs Natatorium company of Baker City. The hot springs of the company are within the city limits.

Ore Reduction at '05 Fair.

Managers of the Lewis and Clark fair are in receipt of an offer from the Colorado Iron company to put mining machinery in operation in the mining building of the exposition, showing the smelting and working of ores. This offer is made conditionally that the mining interests of Oregon will furnish ores for smelting and refining. Ore will be taken in the raw state, crushed, smelted and put through all the stages of working, and it is the intention to dig a tunnel under the building, from which ore can be dug and taken to the smelting machinery.

Superintendent Kiroben, of the smelter, returned from a trip down the line this morning.