

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SUMPTER SMELTER CO.

At the annual meeting of the Oregon Smelting & Refining company, of Sumpter, Oregon, held at the offices of the president, Walter E. Lindsay, at No. 253 Broadway, an extensive report was submitted by General Manager F. D. Fuller, regarding the result of operations accomplished since the company's furnace was blown in four months ago. The plant has been built for over a year, but owing to unexpected details which had to be rounded out before an adequate ore supply could be secured from the mines adjacent to the smelter, actual operations were not commenced till September.

The plant has a capacity of 100 tons a day, but up to the present time the furnace has been run for only one shift in every 24 hours. As soon as Manager Fuller returns to the property it is expected that the plant will be run full time, as a large ore supply has been accumulated and the mines have responded to the requests of the smelter for ore.

The following directors were elected at the meeting for the ensuing year: W. E. Lindsay, New York; Walter A. Wood, Jr., Hoosick Falls, N. Y.; Scott German, Newark, N. J.; John S. Gray, Detroit; Robert Weil, Baltimore; William Coverly, New York; E. J. Lindsay, Milwaukee; William S. Nichols, New York; G. F. Holmes, Plymouth, Mass; W. C. Ingalls, New York, and D. L. Killen, Chicago.

The officers chosen were: W. E. Lindsay, president; Walter A. Wood, first vice president; William Coverly, second vice president; E.

J. Lindsay, treasurer, and William S. Noble, secretary.

President Lindsay in reviewing the company's operations for the year, said that the present satisfactory condition of the company was due largely to the difficulties overcome by Manager Fuller. "It has taken us some time to get adjusted," said he, "but everything is now running smoothly. Many of the miners of the district have for some time been treating the base ores that have recently been developed in their properties by the free milling machinery formerly installed. It has taken considerable missionary work to make these operators realize that they were not getting anywhere near the values in their ores by the treatment employed and that our smelter could assist them considerably.

"The introduction of the smelter, the first one installed in the Sumpter district, means a great deal for the future development of the Blue Mountain section in Oregon. Up to the present time ores and concentrates were shipped to Tacoma to be smelted, and the cost of transportation was an important item in figuring out the profits under such circumstances.

"I expect to have a detailed report ready in a few days, but I can state that all the earnings will be placed in the company's surplus fund."

The Oregon Smelting & Refining Co. was organized in 1902, with a capital stock of \$600,000, of which less than \$500,000 has been issued. — New York Commercial.

ARBITRATION IN MINING LITIGATION

Occasionally when seeking relaxation from editorial work, we wander into the United States courts to listen to the remarkably interesting performances therein when mining cases are before the court. The Gilbertian situations, the arguments of counsel and the air of gravity worn by the juror, give the necessary element of comedy. The artistic contrast, or pathos necessary to give interest to a performance, is furnished by the distresses of our friends, the mining engineers, who are on the stand and under cross examination by the opposing counsel. To see a mining geologist of high order of attainments under the cross examination of a lawyer who knows nothing of the matter he is cross examining on, and who is simply endeavoring to discredit an honorable and learned man, must surely, to the judicious, be a matter of pathos.

The bewilderment to the jurors in trying to follow that prolix and involved arguments of counsel would make the fortune of the comedian who could produce it on the stage. Seriously speaking, however, it would seem to us that a far better method could be found for the trial of mining cases.

Special commissions would render mining litigation far more certain

than the very erratic method of jury trial. Take, for example, the Findley Gold Mining company, in which there is trouble in the company arising out of the consolidation with the Valley City Mining company. In this case Judge Cunningham, of the district court, appointed three arbitrators, men who have no interests whatever in the matter, all of whom are well known and thoroughly experienced and able mining engineers. These men, having nothing to gain or lose, being thoroughly competent to judge the facts in the case, will unquestionably make an award which will more certainly be just than the verdict of the average jury picked up in the street and apparently selected because of their lack of knowledge of mining operations. — Mining Reporter.

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