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LUCK IN THE MINES

Who shall presume to say that the mines of Baker county do not pay? Frank Baillie, of the Columbia, comes down from the Cracker creek hills about once a month, laden with gold bricks worth variously from \$50,000 to \$80,000. Emil Melzer, the magician of the North Pole, transmutes mucky-looking ore into bullion bars which, at the end of each thirty days, stack up to the tune of about sixty or one hundred thousand plunks. A. L. McEwen, who manages the destinies of the Imperial, ships from the Cove seven or eight tons per diam of ore that easily grades in the hundred-dollar-per-ton class. Edwin Field, the gentleman who revived the Baisley-Elkhorn, who hooked mill engine, hoist, tram and machine drills to the Rock creek power plant, sends to the Sumpter smelter a monthly tonnage of ore and concentrates sufficient to permit Fred P. Hayes, of Pittsburg, owner of the Elkhorn, to clip coupons with a merry smile. Fred T. Kelly, of the I. X. L., stands by his stamp battery and beholds free gold mingle with the quick on his amalgam plates, and chuckles in high glee. Fred D. Smith, the lucky individual who directs the Snow Creek, periodically hustles down from the Greenhorn range, lugging a suspiciously heavy grip. Prof. H. H. Nicholson, the metallurgical genius who has accomplished a magnificent reconstructionary stunt at the multi-metalled Standard, stands close to the pinnacle of national fame by being connected with the only cobalt mine in America. John Wyatt, the hustling youngster, who, as right-hand man for millionaire Jonathan Bourne, of Portland, caused a dividend-paying renaissance at the celebrated E. & E., retorts bullion and ships concentrates in plentiful enough quantities to please. Scores of other figures in the local mining world stand as human exhibits to prove that Baker county mines are hot stuff. Aye, even boarding house girls make rich strikes! There is apparently luck in the business, from collar to sump, from portal to breast, from frying pan in the "feed shack," clear down to the ultimate bit of a 1000-foot underground machine drill.

Everybody hereabouts recalls the luck of Danny Cahill, a miner at the Victor, who recently fell heir to a fortune left by a relative in the east. Part of the pertinent history of this camp is the incident of a lady in The Dalles, who bought a Swill Hollow mine one day, and next day received

notification that a relative in New York had shuffled off this mortal coil and willed her a brick block on Wall street. It is a matter of definite knowledge that had she not bought the Swill Hollow mine she would not have been an heiress.

And now comes another evidence—the case of Miss Florence Smith, an employee in the boarding house at the Western Union mine on Rock creek, who last week received word from Ohio that by the will of a just-deceased uncle, she is heir to one-third of a \$150,000 estate.

So, therefore, if the gentle reader who is privileged to peruse these lines, possesses a desire to emerge from a hard streak of luck let him butt into the mines of this camp. If he owns a rich relative, whose heir he is, let him work underground for a spell and then watch the mail for the arrival of a big long official looking envelope. If she (in the other sex) knows of an aged uncle with an estate worth \$150,000, let her shoot a few biscuits in a Baker county mine boarding house, and then await the announcement of her heirship.

Verily, there is luck in these mines.

OREGON ORES REQUIRE DIFFERENT TREATMENT

The New York Commercial published on the 7th instant an annual mining review, in which appeared the following from General Manager Fuller, of the Sumpter smelter:

The mining outlook in Oregon is excellent. The completion and operation of the new Sumpter smelter has given the producing properties of the district an opportunity to ship their ores to us in the shape of concentrates and crude ore. The smelter, which has been operating on one shift a day, will soon start to run on its full capacity of 100 tons per day. When in full blast this means that the various mines that are contributing ore to the smelter will receive about \$3,500 per day.

A peculiar feature of the mine development in this state is shown by the fact that the point has been reached where the character of the ore has changed, so that a new process must be substituted to properly treat the ores. Heretofore, most of the ores have been free-milling, and the mining men of the state are slow in realizing the necessity of changing their mills so as to treat their ores to the best advantage.

The product of the mines during the year was smaller than the 1903 output, but 1905 will show a substantial increase over 1903. The Sumpter district suffered through the year through the revelations that

have occurred in connection with the affairs of the Red Boy and Golconda companies, but with the reorganizations which are under way, the properties should again enter the producing list. I would estimate that about sixty companies are operating properties in this vicinity.

News of Bonta Road.

Dr. Paul, of Baker City, spent several days looking over the upper valley this week, and expressed himself as greatly impressed with the opportunities and possibilities that exist in this country. He was here looking over several enterprises that have attracted Baker City capital and expects to return to this place in about two weeks, when he may close some matters of considerable importance. He states that he has been in communication with Major Bonta and believes that the railroad that the major has in contemplation will be built. He has been sick for some time but has recovered sufficiently to again be at work on the road he has tried so hard to build. He has been handicapped by the many obstacles thrown in his way by the O. R. & N. company, but declares that he will build the road and liquidate all the obligations that have been incurred.—Prairie City Miner.

Shake-Up in Ladd Company.

A shakeup in the Ladd Metals company, of Portland, resulted in the resignation of General Manager G. W. McDowell. His probable successor will be Dr. S. Peacock, of Chicago, a metallurgist of large experience and rather more than local fame. The affairs of the Ladd Metals company have not gone smoothly under the McDowell management. The smelters at Mineral and Landore have never been operated successfully, for some reason. Under the new management, both these plants are expected to resume smelting operations, and the proposed plant at Homestead will probably be built.

Ore Going \$10 a Pound in Gold.

In his forthcoming annual report, State Mine Inspector Bell will tell a remarkable story illustrating the possibilities that yet exist in the mountains of Idaho for the prospector. This story is, in brief, that a prospector appeared in Hailey during the past season, accompanied by his son. They had some horses and on these was packed 470 pounds of ore. One of the Hailey banks gave the prospector a check for \$1,500 in settlement for that shipment. The fortunate man refused to state where he found the rich ore, but it was somewhere in the Sawtooth mountains about the headwaters of the Boise river.—Boise Statesman.

RACE WITH SNOWSLIDE

Albert Loy staggered into Sumpter last night from the sky-line hills above Bourne, weak from physical exhaustion, his nerves and muscles worn to a frazzle by a thrilling race down a mountain with an avalanche of snow. Loy won; on skis he bent the snowslide to the bottom of the hill; but he wants to run no more such races.

Loy, whose first name is Al, which makes him close kin to the stuff used to harden silver and gold coins, has been doing special development work on a group of claims on Silver creek flat, near the Golconda wood camp, owned by James A. Howard, president of the First National bank of Sumpter. After completing this work, Loy and his son moved over to the Powder river hills above Bourne, where he owns mining claims of considerable promise. Deep snow prevented the commencement of development work on these claims, so he and Loy, Jr. struck for town, on skis.

Coming down a steep slope, the travelers started an avalanche, which gathered mass and momentum behind them, until it resolved itself into a question of which should reach the bottom of the hill first, the snowshoers or the snowslide. The snow was soft and sticky, making traveling slow, but the travelers, with grim death roaring at their heels, struck a gait that broke all records for speed. They reached the bottom of the gulch and began to climb the opposite slope. From a position less than 40 feet from the bottom, they turned to see the avalanche crash into the gulch with a reverberating roar. Loy et fils came on to Sumpter, reaching town about dusk, dog-tired and with nerves still tingling.

"I would not undergo the experience again for half the globe," said Loy pere.

Imperial Ore Contract.

General Manager A. L. McEwen, of the Imperial mine, came down from the snowy Cable Cove hills last evening to remain over Sunday. He says that shipments from the Imperial will be heavy during January. The value of the ore and concentrates sent to the Sumpter smelter continues of exceptionally high grade. The shipping ore is being taken from the main Imperial vein. Manager McEwen will today award a contract for hauling ore to the local plant and freight to the mine.