

TO ARRANGE PERMANENT ORE EXHIBIT IN SUMPTER

A permanent ore exhibit in Sumpter is planned by the Sumpter district branch of the State Miners' association. Secretary Anthony Mohr is working on the scheme, with every chance of success.

"It is very remarkable," said Mr. Mohr to a representative of The Miner last evening, "that Sumpter did not long ago install a mineral exhibit here. This town is the center of the richest gold mining region in the northwest. It is the only strictly mining town in Oregon. The backbone of the city's prosperity consists of its contiguous mines. It is therefore a matter of wonderment that no move has hitherto been made to exhibit in an attractive ore display, the wealth of this region."

Secretary Mohr is preparing to petition the common council of Sumpter for financial aid in placing the proposed ore exhibit. In conversation with members of the council Mr. Mohr has discovered that a majority favor the plan of the city donating a building for the purpose named. The old Vinson office, opposite The Miner, has been suggested as a suitable location. With a few slight alterations and interior improvements this structure could be made to house an attractive exhibit. Rental is merely nominal. The direct benefit accruing to the city from such an exhibit of the mineral resources of this camp would make the proposition of municipal aid a profitable investment.

Secretary Mohr's plan in detail is to immediately commence the collection of an elaborate exhibit, to be classified by sub-districts, such as Rock Creek, Baisley-Elkhorn, Cracker Creek, Cable Cove, Lake Creek, Granite, Red Boy, Greenhorn, Bonanza, Susanville, Quartzburg, El Dorado, Prairie City, John Day, Canyon, Malheur, Mormon Basin, Rye Valley, Burnt River, etc.

"I do not favor a specimen display," says Mr. Mohr. "What we want is ore—big stacks of it—ore as it comes from the slopes—and not infinitesimal chunks of exceptionally rich rock, selected from pockets and isolated kidneys. For instance, what would be more convincing than

a 500-pound pyramid of E. & E. and Columbia, and North Pole ore—the same stuff that goes under the stamps and comes out ultimately in gold bullion bars?

"It's all well enough to exhibit a cabinet full of gold nuggets and phonolitic quartz and chunks of wire gold and tellurium and native copper. But the stuff which represents the unrivalled mineral richness of this region—milling ore, concentrating ore, smelting ore—that's what we want.

"I believe that every mine operator in the camp, from Cornucopia to Canyon City, will heartily co-operate with us in collecting such an exhibit. Arrangements could undoubtedly be made with the various shipping mines hereabouts for us to select two or three hundred pounds of their ore from the bins at the Sumpter smelter.

"Of course, some person should be in constant charge of the exhibit—someone with a thorough knowledge of the whole camp and a man with no axe to grind in the way of favoritism to any one sub-district. However, this matter can remain in abeyance until after the opening of the Lewis and Clark fair, when we hope to arrange plans for bringing a few score fair visitors to this camp on tours of inspection. Our mineral exhibit could then be made head quarters for these visitors and suitable accommodations can later be arranged for their entertainment."

Mr. Mohr points out that while nearly every mining man who makes Sumpter his home and headquarters possesses a private mineral collection, yet there is no general exhibit in town, the private collections being drawn from particular districts.

It is not impossible that these private specimen cabinets can be consolidated and placed in the general exhibit, with proper labels attached.

At the next regular meeting of the council Mr. Mohr will officially submit the proposition to the municipal officers.

There is every reason to believe that the council will display a liberal spirit.

CRANE FLAT PLACERS ARE SOLD FOR \$65,000

Burch & Burbidge's Crane Flat placers have passed into the hands of a joint stock company, called the Western Mining and Development company. The transfer of these holdings, which cover ground in sections 10 and 11, in township south, range 35 1/2 east, was effected last week through the filing with the Grant county recorder of deeds to the property described by Frederick Burbidge et al to the company. The aggregate consideration was \$65,000.

The property is being equipped with a mammoth gold dredge, capable of handling 2,000 cubic yards of earth per day. The ground is known

to be exceptionally rich, the pay being well distributed and the auriferous gravel extending to a considerable depth.

Excavation of a lake in which to float the big dredge was completed last fall and the ponderous machinery was delivered early on the ground. The coming of winter forced a suspension of operations, which will be resumed in the early spring.

The Western Mining and Development company is a close corporation, composed of Spokane men, at the head of whom is A. Burch, who spent the late summer in Sumpter, superintending the trans-shipment of the dredge machinery.

STATE SHOULD MAKE A FINE ORE EXHIBIT

The state commission for the Lewis and Clark fair has scheduled a meeting at Portland on January 14. The matter of arranging for an elaborate ore exhibit at the exposition will be discussed. The president of the commission has invited Prof. H. H. Nicholson, of Sumpter, to be present at the meeting. Prof. Nicholson recently appeared before the commission and urged upon that body the necessity of a creditable ore exhibit from Oregon mining camps. He was told that the state's appropriation for the fair has been exhausted, but that the commission would favor any plan to raise additional funds for the purpose named. The suggestion was made that the various mining counties—Baker, Grant, Malheur and Union in eastern Oregon, and Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, Columbia, Douglas and Lane, in the southern part of the state, be asked for appropriations. Prof. Nicholson assured the commission of the willingness of the mining men of the Sumpter district to co-operate, and will make an especial effort to be present at the commission meeting on the 14th to further press the project on behalf of this section.

"Many details must be attended to," says Prof. Nicholson, "in the way of securing special freight rates on heavy shipments of ore specimens. Also it will be necessary for the state to share the expense of hauling the exhibits from isolated parts of the camp to the nearest railway. All this work would require the undivided services of at least one man, and of course no one in this camp can afford to devote himself to the work for nothing. I think the Sumpter branch of the State Miners' association should take some action in the matter of urging favorable action by the commission."

DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills is popularly attributed to H. N. Ross, one of Custer's scouts. The Ross find was on French creek in the southern Black Hills and was made in 1874. In 1876 one of the most spectacular "rushes" of modern times took place across plains infested by Sioux braves the miner and prospector hurried to the new Eldorado. While there can be no doubt that the immediate cause of the rush was the Ross discovery, yet the existence of gold in the Black Hills was known with accuracy before 1874. In Ross Browne's work on the mineral resources of the United States, 1868, we find the following significant statements and extraordinary prophecy: "They are closely related to the Missouri and Yellowstone mines of Montana, and have been ascertained by the explorations of Lieut. G. K. Warner in 1847 and of Capt. F. W. Reynolds in 1857 and 1860, under direction of the United States topographical office, to be rich in gold and silver, as well as coal, iron, copper and pine forests.

"The area occupied by the Black Hills, as delineated on a map which accompanied Lieutenant Warren's report, is 60,000 square miles, or about the surface of Connecticut. The whole geological range of rocks, from the granite and metamorphosed

azolo to the cretaceous formations of the surrounding plains, are developed by the upheavals of the mountain mass. Thus at the junction of silurian rocks, gold becomes accessible, while the carboniferous strata bring coal measures within reach.

"With the pacification of the Sioux Indians and the establishment of emigrant roads, this district of Dakota would doubtless be the scene of a great mining excitement, as the gold fields of the Black Hills is accessible at a distance of 120 miles from the Missouri river."—Mining Reporter.

PAY SHOOT ENTERED AT LITTLE CRACKER

General Manager Don Willard, of the Little Cracker Gold Mining and Milling company, went up to the property yesterday afternoon, and returned in the evening. The trip was made in response to a telephone message from Superintendent Ed Butze, Jr., who announced that Tunnel No. 2, had entered the vein and that the ore was good enough to ship. In conversation with a reporter for The Miner this morning, Manager Willard corroborated the report of the superintendent. "Tunnel No. 2 is a crosscut started a few weeks ago for prospecting purposes to test the continuity of the pay shoot, which shows on the upper level. The vein is 42 feet wide on the surface and the pay in No. 1 tunnel occurs in a twelve foot streak, not all of which is shipping ore, but the full twelve feet can be concentrated on the ground and sent to the Sumpter smelter at a fair profit. The rich ore lies along the hanging wall in an 18-inch streak.

"Work on the main crosscut tunnel lower down, which is now in a trifle over 200 feet, and which is calculated to catch the vein on another hundred feet, is being rushed by contract. The present contract will expire this week judging from the rate of progress now being made and I will promptly renew it."

FRANK BAILLIE OPENS THAT CELEBRATED BULLION GRIP

Frank Baillie, general manager of the Columbia, passed through town today on one of his frequent trips to Baker City. He had with him that familiar, well worn grip with the rope handle, in which he has carried to the First National bank of Baker surely one, probably two, possibly three million dollars in gold bullion. While talking to a friend on the depot platform, he kept one foot on that grip always, and both eyes most of the time. He was in a genial mood and when a Miner man demanded to know the amount of the last cleanup, he said: "Feel it and guess."

It didn't weigh an ounce over six pounds.

Then to show what a good fellow he is, Manager Baillie began to unlock and open that grip, around which so much mystery and curiosity clings. The crowd closed in, anxious to see a gold brick from the Columbia, something never before put on exhibition, something guarded as sacredly from public gaze as the favorite inmate of a Turkish harem.

The intricate fastenings finally parted, the grip opened and there lay—two demijohns—empty, containing not even a drop of booze with which to wash down that joke.