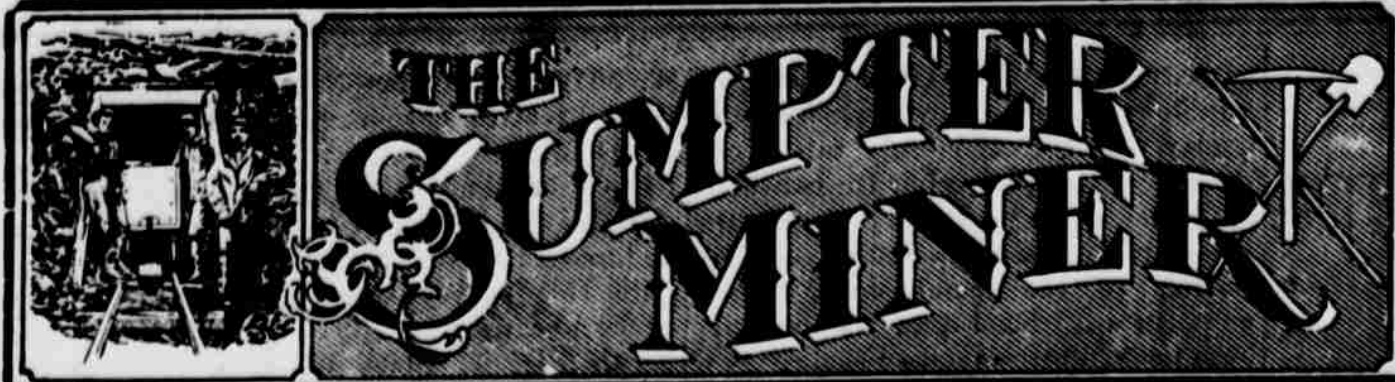


COVERS  
THOROUGHLY  
THE  
GOLD FIELDS  
of the  
INLAND EMPIRE



EASTERN  
INVESTORS  
IN  
OREGON MINES  
Pay for  
AND READ IT

## GRAND RONDE BELT LINE LOOKS LIKE A SURE GO

The Miner learns from good authority that T. W. Davidson is meeting with success in financing the Grand Ronde Electric Belt Line road, and that grading will probably be commenced in about ninety days, if the ground is in good condition for the work. As The Miner gets the story from a third party, the money for the purchase of the road running from La Grande to Union, is now on deposit in an eastern bank, only awaiting abstract of title to be paid to the present owners.

This road will be used for construction purposes merely, the locomotives and rolling stock being employed to transport supplies to the

"end of the track," until the electric power is harnessed and can be utilized.

T. W. Davidson and A. B. Brown are now in Boston, Bob Marr in Chicago, and Dr. Lon Cleaver on the ground at La Grande, perfecting title to the little steam road.

Those who are familiar with conditions in that section, say this road will open up one of the best farming countries in the west and taps what is perhaps the most extensive untouched pine land forest in existence to day, and will therefore necessarily be one of the most prolific dividend producing electric lines in this country.

## LOST MONEY AND PAID DIVIDENDS

The makeshifts and misfits that are often to be seen in old mines certainly do not make for efficiency, however much we may admire the ingenuity. Old schemes of work, which have far outlived their usefulness, are often adhered to and made to give results of a sort, when it would be far better to plan anew and commence operations on a scheme of work adapted to the present conditions.

An interesting case of this kind is the Long Tunnel mine, Walhalla, Victoria, Australia. The company operating this mine was originally registered in 1863 with a capital of \$60,000. After four years of steady but unsuccessful work the company struck rich ore, and paid its first dividend in 1869. For nineteen years it paid dividends without a break, when it was found that the decreasing value of the ore and the increasing working expenses were causing a loss. Dead work was imperative, which, having been done, dividends were resumed in 1892, and continued to 1899. From thence onward, however, dividends were discontinued. The last eighteen months, ending 1901, showed a heavy loss in operation.

How anything but a loss could have been made by the method of work in vogue is inconceivable, except in the case of having fabulously rich ore to treat. The ore first had to be raised 1,000 feet to a blind shaft; thence trammed 2,000 feet to the main shaft, where it was raised 900 feet to the surface, and from the collar of the shaft trammed 1,200 feet to the mill. It took a man about an hour to get from the face to the surface, and from three to four hours for a car of ore

to reach the mill from the face. Such a lack of method would seem incredible, yet we have in mind quite a few places, several in Colorado, which could be compared to the Australian case for stupidity.

The company then decided to entirely revise the working scheme, to reach the minable ground at one step by means of an incline shaft, to cost \$165,000 and to take two and one-half years to complete. Work was commenced December 15, 1902, and on September 28, 1904, the shaft was sunk 2,880 feet (possibly an Australian record and a very fine mining performance). By crosscutting, the vein was reached on November last, or about seven months ahead of schedule. The effect of the change, of course, was seen at once. In place of the three or four hours formerly necessary for a car of ore to reach the mill from the face, the trip can now be made in half an hour. From that we can gather the mine has again entered a period of prosperity, by the management having the courage to discard a bad, old system and to inaugurate a new and common sense plan.

It may be of interest to point out that this mine has a remarkable record for the high value of its ores. It produced 549,186 tons of quartz, which yielded 694,269 ounces of gold (one and one quarter ounces per ton), or \$13,885,380 in value. Of this amount it paid \$1,229,400 in dividends. At \$4.85 exchange this amounts to \$5,962,590. The mine has paid the extraordinary percentage of 42.9 of its gross output in the form of dividends to stockholders.—Mining Reporter.

### Baker County Money for Fair.

The county court and commissioners, before adjourning for the term Saturday, appropriated \$1500 for a county exhibit at the Lewis and Clark centennial and appointed Fred Mellis, P. Basehe and George W. Chandler a committee under the direction of the Citizen's League to

superintend the gathering and placing of the exhibit. It is understood that if the county appropriation is not sufficient for the purpose of making a creditable exhibit, the league will make up any deficit necessary. From this it will be seen that Baker county will be at the great fair in proper shape with a general exhibit that will be a credit to the commonwealth. Chairman Mellis, of the committee, when seen yesterday, acknowledged the appointment of the committee, and stated that the exhibit would include agricultural products, fruit and minerals, and it is probable that the stockmen will also send specimens of their finest animals and the timber men an exhibit of the white pine.—Democrat.

## LISTEN LAKE HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING

The last regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Listen Lake Gold Mining company, held in Sumpter, the following new staff of officers were elected to serve the ensuing year: President, William H. Gleason of Sumpter; vice president George W. Pogue, of Fargo, N. D.; Secretary, J. Win. Wilson of Sumpter; manager, W. A. Johnson. The above officers compose the board of directors, with the addition of Sam Johnson and J. W. La Bau. The secretary's reports for 1904 was as follows:

Office expenses	\$	40 55
Legal fees		26 00
Buildings and improvements		367 74
Transportation account		226 80
Interest and discount paid		5 90
Sundry expenses		63 50
Traveling expenses		160 60
Mining supplies		239 82
Labor account		3,538 41
Placer ground expenses		51 40
Boarding house, cost		945 66
Co.'s Treasurer cash received		4,595 02
Bills payable paid off		1,000 00
Fiscal agency, dr		3,751 15
Open accounts, paid		66 68
		\$15,179.23
Interest and discount received		8 62
Boarding house return		805 30
Co.'s treasurer cash paid out		4,597 96
Treasury stock, issued		3,750 00
Bills payable, contracted		500 00
Fiscal agency cr		4,935 00
Open accounts, contracted		482 35
		\$15,179.23

### North Pole Ships to Home Smelter.

The smelter received its first shipment from the North Pole yesterday, consisting of thirty tons, all of which has not yet been delivered. The smelter and the North Pole have entered into a contract regarding the treatment of ores and concentrates. Heretofore the mine has been shipping to smelters on the coast. This is considered a "feather in the cap" of the management of the local plant.

## IDAHO'S LAW TAXING OUTPUT OF MINES

W. Clatyon Miller, general manager of the Federal Mining & Smelting company, of the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, says the operators of that great district like the new tax law of the state, which assesses on a production basis, says the Oregon Daily Journal. Mr. Miller made the statement immediately after his firm had paid \$43,797.82 taxes to the authorities of Shoshone county. He discredited the rumor that a movement was afoot to have the new tax law modified, and said everybody was satisfied with the system. While he admitted that the big companies paid more money than under the old system, he said the tax was systematic and intelligent, and the operators did not object to it. The fact that the county is getting much more money than under the old system satisfied officials and the other taxpayers, so that they would not be likely to protest or ask a change. Idaho's new tax law has been watched quite closely by Oregon mine operators. Montana has a bullion tax, which is regarded as equitable in every respect. The fact that Idaho has inaugurated the same, and that it gives such satisfaction among the men who have to pay it, encourages Oregon mining men to believe that the time will come when they will be taxed on a similar equitable basis.

### Homestakes's Semi-Annual Report.

The accounts of the operations of the Homestake Mining company, at Lead, South Dakota, from June to November, 1904, show that 687,762 tons of ore were milled. The gross product of the ore amounted to \$2,637,852 and the net earnings to \$839,731. Dividends amounting to \$327,600 were paid during the period and surplus earnings amounted to \$493,638. The company's net earnings per month averaged \$136,873. It is understood that the company's monthly dividend will be increased from 25 cents to 50 cents a share per month within the next three months.

### The Baker City Spirit.

D. H. Weyant, who has been commissioned by the state board of the Lewis and Clark fair to collect a mineral exhibit, was in Baker City yesterday, engaged in the apparently hopeless task of rousing enthusiasm among mining men of the valley town. Mr. Weyant arrived in Sumpter this morning to confer with officers of the Sumpter District Miners' association. Mr. Weyant met with the newly organized development league in Baker City and asked for co-operation in the preparation of a creditable exhibit from that town. He was given the glassy eye, frappe shoulder and advised to brush by. That's the Baker City spirit.

Fine printing at the Miner office.