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JUDGE J. BRUCE MESSICK A DARK HORSE IN RACE FOR NEW JUDGSHIP

Judge J. Bruce Messick, of Baker City, who is referee in bankruptcy in the Bank of Sumpter case, and who is in Sumpter today to confer with Trustee and Receiver Reed, has recently developed into a dark horse in the race for the judgeship of the to-be created tenth judicial district of Baker County. Judge Messick's friends believe that he will be appointed by Governor Chamberlain to wear the judicial ermine in the new district. It is pointed out that while Hon. Sam White, ex-district attorney, and ex-chairman of the democratic state central committee, stands ace high with the governor, he is not popular with the attorneys in Baker county, and that the legal lights in the district have united in a campaign opposed to the consummation of the Georgia gentleman's aspirations to adorn the new circuit bench. All things being equal and the state being clear, it is believed that Captain White would be the governor's choice. But his excellency has been made aware of the condition of the popular feeling in

Baker county with especial reference to Captain White and the new judgeship, and it appears to be the opinion that the gentleman from Georgia has been diplomatically eliminated from the governor's waiting list, and that the only names thereon are those of three prominent democrats, to-wit, viz, as follows: J. Bruce Messick, Morton D. Clifford and Ex State Senator Bill Smith. The list is here given in the order of precedence supposed to exist in the governor's mind.

Judge Messick acquired his title while justice of the peace of Baker City. He aspired last year to the democratic nomination as district attorney of the eighth district, but was defeated in primaries and convention by Captain White, who in turn met defeat at the polls at the hands of the supporters of Leroy Lomax, the republican incumbent. Judge Messick is rated as rather an able lawyer, a fair judge and a popular citizen. He was born in Kentucky and reared in Missouri. Governor Chamberlain is his personal friend.

NEW ROAD FROM BUTTE TO FRISCO

The San Francisco, Idaho & Montana company has been organized to build a road between San Francisco and Butte, via Boise, Idaho. The road when completed will traverse California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, with branch lines from Mason to Paradise Valley and Winnemucca, Nevada.

The company is capitalized at \$50,000,000, and its officers are: President, William Peyton Mason of Minneapolis; vice president, C. H. Flemming, of Minneapolis; secretary, G. T. Propper, of Boise; treasurer, W. E. Foran, of Boise. The incorporators are prominent financial men of Minneapolis, officials of the Western Surety & Adjustment company, and Judge John S. McGinty, who has been employed in the preliminary work.

The road, which will be about 1,000 miles long, will reduce the distance between San Francisco and Butte more than 300 miles and will open up a rich section of the country. Whether any established road is interested in this project has not developed, as the promoters decline for the present to say anything about their plans.

There is a suspicion that J. J. Hill may be behind the enterprise, and that its purpose is to worry the Harriman interests.—New York Commercial.

DISEASES OF GEM STONES, DIAMONDS MOST HEALTHY

The following interesting notes on diseases of jewels is from the Kolar Gold Field News, of Bowringpet, India:

Precious stones are subject to sickness and some of them die. They become pale, lose their lustre, split, grow dark, and have other diseases.

Rubies fade when long exposed to the light, so does the garnet. The topaz, on the other hand, becomes darker and loses its brilliancy.

The most sensitive jewels are opals and pearls. Opals frequently split. They are very sensitive to excessive heat, and in all changes of temperature.

Pearls become almost worthless very easily. Fire transforms them into lime, and acids attack them as they do marble. Acid perspiration may even attack them. They, as well as opals, are said to respond to a certain extent to the physical condition of the wearer of them. Pearls are made up of layers, like the skin of an onion, and it is sometimes possible to repair them by removing the outer layer. This is such delicate work that it is seldom attempted.

Diamonds seem to be the least sensitive, but it is not prudent to take them too near the fire. Emeralds and sapphires retain their color well and do not deteriorate easily.

Murderous Row in Baker City.

What promises to be another murder story for Baker county occurred last night in Chinatown. About eight o'clock a row broke out in the house adjoining the Joss house. Four

Japs were engaged in the mixup. One, who is working on the railroad section, was cut in the head with a razor and his wounds were dressed by Dr. Currey. Another one had his head smashed with a hammer and was taken to the hospital. The Jap boy known as Edgy, and who jumped in to stop the fight, was cut in the wrist, severing the arteries, which were sewn up by Dr. Atwood. A fourth Jap, who was caught running away from the fight and is now in jail, is supposed to be the one who used the hammer on the man now in the hospital. The latter was employed at the Geiser Grand. For about fifteen minutes Officer Tom Merrill had his hands full and was chasing four ways for breakfast until Officer Lee came to his assistance. It seems that when things get to going in Baker they keep on going.—Democrat.

NOTES OF THE MINES.

Work of installing the mammoth air compressor and water power plant, recently received at the Columbia mine is progressing as rapidly as weather conditions will permit.

Vein No. 2 at the Cracker Oregon, is being crosscut at a point 840 feet from the portal. Twenty-eight feet of ore has so far been opened, eight feet of this body being fine quartz.

The Blue Bird mill is running on good ore from Vein No. 3, just opened by the main working tunnel. High grade rock is also being sent under the stamps from Vein No. 2, where the stopes are eight sets high.

The Badger and Snow Creek last week sent to the Sumpter smelter two cars of ore each, and the Dixie Meadows and Equity one each. Regular shipments were received from the Imperial, E. & E., and North Pole.

The Dixie Meadows mill at Quartzburg has resumed operations after a short shutdown, due to a sudden freeze. All the shifts were doubled and 17 men are now on the pay roll. A new vein was opened last week in an upraise from the lower tunnel. Six feet of \$100 ore shows.

Five hundred pounds of high grade copper ore from the 50-foot level of the Listen Lake mine are at the Sumpter Valley depot in this city, half of it awaiting shipment to the Lewis and Clark fair and the remainder awaiting space in the permanent ore exhibit in Sumpter.

The controlling stockholders in the Crown Point mine are sounding the local market for a possible purchaser. Letters have been received in Sumpter from the head offices of the company in the east, stating that the board of directors are willing to let go. The Crown Point is located across the gulch from the California, under the shadow of Baldy Mountain.

Roasting Ore a Domestic Process.

The supreme court of the United States recently decided the case of the United States vs the United Verde Copper Mining company, of Arizona, which was a proceeding to recover \$38,000 on account of timber cut from the public lands and used in

roasting ore. A regulation of the interior department directs that timber should not be used for smelting purposes, whereas the law authorizes miners to cut house timber for domestic purposes. The opinion was by Justice McKenna, who held that the words "domestic purposes" included the roasting of ore and that the mining company was entitled to cut timber on the public land for that purpose.

Executor's Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Judge of Baker County, Oregon, executor of the last will and testament of Michael Lynch, deceased.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me, properly verified, as by law required, within six months from the date hereof, at the office of Charles H. Chance, attorney-at-law, First National Bank building, Sumpter, Oregon.

Dated at Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon, this 25th day of January, 1905.

J. B. FRYER,
Executor of the Estate of Michael Lynch, Deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Rrady returned from Baker City this morning and are at the Hotel Sumpter, en route to the Greenhorns.

Pitfalls of Mining Finance

This is the only comprehensive work ever undertaken for the guidance and protection of the great army of mining stock buyers. It is elaborate, thorough and simply overflowing with interesting detail. It is written by ONE WHO KNOWS—Harry J. Newton, formerly managing editor of the Denver Mining Record, who is regarded as an authority on the subject of mining investments. Having no mining promotions nor stock-selling schemes of his own, he at once gains the confidence of his readers. He treats his subject absolutely from an unbiased and independent standpoint. The book is meeting with a great sale and is strongly endorsed by investors and by the press in general. It makes friends wherever it goes.

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