

M. E. BAIN DISCOURSES ON LOCAL KNOCKERS

M. E. Bain came in from a business trip to the outside yesterday. Last evening he was talking with a Miner man, and jumped onto some things hereabouts with bobnailed boots. Among other things, he said: "Yes, I am always glad to get back to Sumpter; but do you know, it takes off a great big slice of the pleasure to be confronted on your return with a copy of a letter, sent out from one of the local fraternal orders, condemning mining and prospecting, and this letter signed by an individual trying to do business with the men who make their living entirely through mining and the development of prospects?"

"The genus knocker is universal, found in all lands; they are inevitably failures in life, at cross-purposes with the world and misfits generally. They are unfortunates and should be provided for like lepers."

"And while discoursing on knockers, there is another feature about it that can hardly be explained. A prospective investor can converse with men in whom he has every confidence, receive communications of en-

dorsement from a dozen reliable and substantial business men, and one letter from a parasitic knocker will over balance all the other encomiums.

"When this most recent knocker was approached in regard to the matter he seemed proud of having placed his knock where it was effectual in keeping money from being invested in the district, and said: 'If you fellows don't want such letters sent out, why don't you come in and see me?'"

"Of course, that revealed the animus and motive."

"In looking over the camp, I find there are comparatively few promising prospects that are not being developed this winter and during the past year several have been brought into the producing list and many others would be producing today if the promoters had been able to bring in a few thousand dollars more for development purposes, but the knockers got in their work and the prospect is idle, throwing several miners out of employment."

"It is almost inconceivable that any individual could be so constructed as to gloat over such results, and persist in his nefarious methods."

SENATOR CLARK THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN

Senator William A. Clark, of Montana, is a billionaire, the richest man in the world, according to Major W. A. Mensch, of Kingman, Arizona, who was interviewed by a Chicago Chronicle reporter. Major Mensch is the United States weather prophet at Kingman, and on the side a mineral prospector and expert.

Said he: "Senator Clark in the Verde mines certainly has a billion in sight. The wealth there is fabulous. Other mines in Arizona, I believe, will turn out as rich. Arizona in 10 years will have outstripped Colorado as a gold and silver producer. The great mineral belt which extends from Mount Shasta in northern California, to Sonora, Mexico, runs through Arizona, and is the richest lode in the world."

"Nor are the precious metals the only thing. There are veins of valuable iron, copper, lead, and manganese. Although not so much coal is in sight, it is said that the new Salt Lake City-Los Angeles road will open up extensive coal fields. The railway will prove a great boon to the whole southwest. The distance from Salt Lake to San Pedro on the Pacific by the new line is not more than the distance from Salt Lake to San Francisco. Consequently the new road will not only figure as a local road, but as a through route."

Plenty of Moisture in Grant County.

Although but one-half, or less, the usual amount of snow now covers the mountains, there is far from lack of moisture in the high altitudes. Early fall rains loosened up the ground in due order, so that the later rains and melted snows have permeated every nook and cranny of the timbered sec-

tions. Peculiarly, too, the melting has been almost wholly from beneath, so the top layers of snow have been frozen into crust most of the time. Thus it is, that while the body of snow lying on the ground now is certain to melt slowly, because of the crust, the moisture flowing from the drifts will sink back into the earth. Should no early, warm rains spuil this program for the spring months, it is more than likely that there will be a very steady supply of water in all the mountain courses throughout the spring and summer.—Grant County News.

New Cars on the St. Paul Road.

The Milwaukee and St. Paul road has just received from the car shops of Barney & Smith at Dayton, Ohio, two fine observation cars of an entirely new design. They have been built with a view to increasing the comfort of women. Their novelty feature consists of the isolation of smokers in a compartment occupying one-half of the car. The cars have all the latest improvements in the way of toilet-rooms, electric lamps, electric fans, writing desks, etc. The observation platforms are much more extensive than in old time observation cars, and the cars themselves are of a much stronger type, being furnished with a series of steel arches from side to side, so that it will be next to impossible to crush in the sides. The new cars are for use on the road's Overland Limited trains between Chicago and Omaha. They will be put into commission immediately.—Chicago Evening Post.

Four Million for the Tacoma Smelter.

San Francisco, Feb. 23.—It is stated that the American Smelting & Refining company has at last gained control of the Tacoma smelter by purchase. Four million dollars is said to have been the price paid in this deal, which has been on for some months. D. O. Mills, who with

others, has been in charge of the Tacoma smelter for some time, said: "The sale has not yet been confirmed. The final negotiations are now going on and the deal will be over soon, I think. New York parties are negotiating for the smelter property, presumably for the American Smelting & Refining company. I do not desire to make any statement as to the price to be received for the Tacoma smelter, nor can I state authentically whether Mr. Rust will remain as general manager."

TRUST NOT OWNER OF TACOMA SMELTER

A late dispatch from San Francisco gives these further details of the acquirement of coast smelters by a new company.

According to W. R. Rust, general manager of the Tacoma Smelter company, the Tacoma and the Everett smelters will shortly come under one control and will have no affiliation whatsoever with the large smelter trust, although the Everett smelter is now under the control of the American Smelting & Refining company.

"Referring to the report that the Tacoma smelter has been sold or is to be sold to the American Smelting & Refining company, I would say that the same is without foundation," said Mr. Rust.

"On the contrary, there is no negotiation between the American Smelting company and the Tacoma Smelting company."

"B. M. Baruch, of New York, who has certain interests with the American Smelting & Refining company, is now at the St. Francis hotel, negotiating for the purchase of both the Tacoma and the Everett smelters, the latter plant now being owned by the American Smelting & Refining company, having practically fallen into that company's hands through John D. Rockefeller's Federal Smelting company's transactions."

"I shall continue to retain my interests in the business and expect to continue as general manager of the new company, which will be distinctly a Pacific coast industry. The amalgamation of the two smelters is not only a non trust transaction, but will result in the extension of the business on very broad lines."

Gold Brick Victim Persistent Sucker.

Portland, Feb. 21.—The man who was swindled out of \$10,000 by the "gold brick" trick last week is Wm. Vance, a man of wealth, whose residence is Albany, Oregon. The deal was consummated at Salem. Vance is now in this city, very ill at the home of one of his daughters. It developed today that the daughter of Vance used every effort to persuade her father to have nothing to do with the confidence operator, even going so far on the day they left Albany for Salem to telegraph a Salem attorney to add his influence to hers. Vance stubbornly refused to listen to the lawyer and persisted in going to the Ladd and Bush bank, where the money changed hands.

E. A. Starr is Alive.

Some time ago a report was received in Baker City that E. A. Starr, the Greenhorn mine owner and prospector, who so mysteriously disappeared about two years ago this winter and who was thought to have wandered away and met his death, has

been seen in the Klondyke. Since that time members of his family in this city instituted inquiries and yesterday a telegram was received by Mrs. R. R. Meyers, of this city, a daughter of the missing man, to the effect that the chief of the mounted police of Dawson says that her father is in the Yukon territory.—Democrat.

SMELTER TRUST AFTER THE TACOMA PLANT

A press dispatch from San Francisco, dated the 21st instant, says that according to a well-founded rumor, negotiations tending toward the absorption of the Tacoma smelter by the American Smelting & Refining company are ripening. The presence in the city of W. R. Rust, general manager; D. O. Mills, owner of a controlling interest in the Tacoma property, and others, is interpreted as meaning that a deal is on the verge of going through.

President F. W. Bradley, of the Tacoma concern, denies, however, that the representatives of the two concerns have been in conference. He says that the almost simultaneous arrival there of Mr. Rust and Mr. Mills was only a coincidence. The Bulletin says that despite the denials which have been made, it has been learned that negotiations looking to a transfer of the smelter are in progress and are in a fair way of being successfully concluded. No definite statements have been given out, all of those concerned refusing to discuss the matter in detail.

The F. W. Bradley mentioned above, reported to hold the controlling interest in the Tacoma smelter, is the owner of the Badger mine, in the Susanville district. At the time that he bought it, something over two years ago, it was reported that it was for the purpose of securing its ore for his smelter, as it was needed there in the smelting operation.

The smelter trust has already secured control of the plant at Everett, and if it gets the one at Tacoma, it will then be in control of every smelter of any consequence on the coast, except the Selby, near San Francisco.

Bell's Ontario Enterprise.

Ontario will soon be under the glare of arc lights. At a special meeting of the city council Monday night an electric light franchise was granted to Seymour H. Bell, of Sumpter, for a period of ten years. The city also contracted with Mr. Bell for seven arc lights to be used for street lighting purposes. Mr. Bell deposited \$500 with City Treasurer Martin, as a bond to be forfeited in case he fails to commence work in three months or fails to have his plant completed within eight months from the date of the passage of the ordinance granting the franchise. Mr. Bell has purchased sufficient ground to establish a plant from the Emmison Lumber company, on Idaho avenue, near the railway right-of-way, and will commence work on the buildings and pole lines as soon as the material can be put on the ground. The gentleman also stated that he would probably ask the city council for a franchise in the near future for the privilege of putting in a \$60,000 water system to supply the city.—Ontario Democrat.

Slab wood \$2.00 per cord.—Sumpter Lumber Co.