

BADGER VS. STOCKTON

A dispatch from Portland says that M. A. Folsom, of Spokane, and R. A. Leiter of that city, representing the Badger Gold Mining company, appeared before Judge Bellinger this morning to request a date for trial of the case of the Badger company against the Stockton Gold and Copper Mining company for a half interest in the Stockton claim. G. G. Ames and John Gearin represented the Stockton company.

Counsel stated that all evidence had been taken by Referee Brodie, and would be transcribed soon. Both sides thought they would be ready for a hearing March 15, and this date was fixed for the trial, as it is the general desire to expedite the hearing.

Both F. W. Bradley and E. P. Kennedy, of the Badger company, and W. C. Gibbs, residing at Susanville, gave their rebuttal testimony yesterday afternoon. This closes the case before the court will be without a jury, and should not consume a day.

No suit has been instituted by the Stockton company yet against the Badger for stopping ore on the 700 level. Mr. Ames stated that this action would not be brought until the present hearing is finished, as the Stockton company would naturally desire to establish title before entering the courts to recover the value of the ore. Should the Stockton win in the title litigation, it is probable that an order of the court will be asked to examine the 600 and 700 levels of the Badger, to determine if there has been any encroachment over the lines.

That Eagle Valley Railroad.

Yesterday the map work of the first twenty miles of the Eagle Valley railroad, on which surveys have been completed, were forwarded to the land office for filing and now additional survey work will be commenced. Mr. Vinson's engineers are in the field, taking advantage of the fine weather, and the work will be expeditiously pushed toward Eagle Valley. Direct information from Mr. Vinson to the Democrat is to the effect that Mr. Vinson believes that he will be able to build the road to Eagle Valley and expects to start construction in the summer or fall. In the meantime the people are deeply interested in Mr. Vinson's project and will give to it their moral if not a more substantial support. — Democrat.

Test of Standard Ore.

Prof. H. H. Nicholson, chief engineer and general western manager of the Kitten, Warner, Stewart company, returned this morning from Denver, where he has been making an elaborate analysis of ore from the Standard mine. He has not yet completed the tests, which will determine the exact character of reduction plant to be erected at the Standard this summer, and will return to Denver in a few days to finish the work.

Eugene Bartholf left today for the Mormon Basin, expecting to remain there for a week.

SMELTER COMBINE

Here is an opportunity for the curbstone speculators to guess at the fate of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company. Is it included in the incubating combine? The Portland Journal of recent date says:

A young smelter combine is being engineered by New York interests which is intended to embrace the principal plants of the Pacific northwest. B. M. Baruch, of New York, who is said to have American Smelting & Refining interests, is negotiating for different plants. The proposed combination of the Tacoma and Everett plants was the first public intimation of the deal. Since then it has been learned that propositions have been made to other managements.

Fred W. Bradley, the mining engineer and a large stockholder in the Tacoma concern, said at the Portland this morning that negotiations were pending for the latter plant.

"I do not know that a proposition has been made to the Everett management," said he further, "but I understand that an effort has been made to secure other northwestern smelters. I do not know whether the plan would include the Selby plant at San Francisco, but think northwest is the proposed field."

Mr. Bradley did not care to discuss the general situation further, in fact did not care to speak in regard to any negotiations save those he admitted were in progress for the Tacoma smelter, in which he is interested. He did say, however, that the men in the negotiations did not represent the American Smelting and Refining company, the smelting trust organized by the Guggenheims.

B. M. Baruch has been engaged in the negotiations on Puget Sound. A well informed mining man of this city said this morning that he understood Baruch was promoting the proposed Pacific northwest combine. The Everett plant belongs to the American Smelting & Refining company, having fallen to it in connection with the deals growing out of the Federal Mining & Milling company combine. There is no direct information as to the number of plants under consideration. But two have been named openly, both on Puget sound. The Trail and Boundary smelters of British Columbia, the one being built on the Sullivan mine in British Columbia, the Sumpter plant and the Keswick smelter in northern California all handle custom ores, and would probably be embraced within the scope of any great Pacific northwest amalgamation.

Prominent Portlander Here.

J. T. Flanders, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Portland, came up from Baker City with Manager Fuller and inspected the smelter, returning on the afternoon train. He says his visit here is of no special significance; that he was in Baker City to see Fred Mellis on business pertaining to the Lewis and Clark fair and merely came to Sumpter to look over the town. Notwithstanding all of which, there is something about the incident that indicates that there is a hen on.

NORTON'S NOTION

"The bottom has not fallen out of the Sumpter district, as has been currently reported," said R. E. Norton, one of the purchasers of the Golconda mine, who has just returned from a visit to the property.

"Instead of the town declining, there seems to be one of the best eras yet ahead of it. The immense mining properties in that district are practically untouched yet, from a scientific mining standpoint. There has been much superficial work, surface mining and mill promotion of these properties, but when the true development comes and the true era of systematic mining arrives, Sumpter will make a showing that will yet startle mining circles of the Pacific Coast.

"Hidden in those mountains are vast deposits of minerals which it will require hundreds of thousands of dollars to reach, but which will surely be uncovered. The boom days seem to have passed in the Sumpter district and the day of actual development work is now at hand.

"The district will furnish employment for thousands of men, afford markets for millions of pounds of produce and will yield enormous returns.

"Not only will Sumpter be a prominent and flourishing camp, but numerous small points in the Sumpter district will also develop into good mining towns, furnishing work for hundreds of men. They will be tributary to Sumpter as the chief distributing point in the district." — East Oregonian.

Mill for Standard Mine.

Contracts for delivery of 500,000 feet of sawlogs at the Standard have been let, and will be carried out at once. The sawmill recently ordered by the management will be installed by the time the logs arrived, and the manufacture of lumber is to commence immediately thereafter. With this work in progress, no doubt remains that the Standard management intends to erect a plant early in the season. Manager H. H. Nicholson will be home soon, bringing with him the result of his exhaustive metallurgical and milling experiments at Denver. With this knowledge the management will be able to erect a suitable concentrator, and possibly further refine the cobalt product before it is shipped to the markets of the world.

Dixie Meadows is Rich.

Development on the Independence, an extension of the Dixie Meadows, has recently opened up the best ore yet mined on this group. The drift in which work was prosecuted is toward the Dixie Meadows end line, and is reaching a zone where there is particularly strong cropping, with evidences of a good shoot of ore. The values that have come in the drift of late, which follows the foot-wall of the lode, indicate that the shoot has been reached, and further work is expected to open a good body of milling ore. This lode, which is defined for seven or eight claims in length by thorough work, has a width of from 20 to 80 feet near the surface.

HANCOCK SMELTER

The Hancock Copper Mines Company of Idaho, Limited, is the name of a new company which is making preparations to operate extensively in the Seven Devils district during the coming season. The company was very recently organized and articles of incorporation will be filed with the secretary of state today, by Col. C. F. Drake, who went to Boise yesterday for that purpose. The capital stock of the company is \$1,000,000, and the directors are Clement F. Drake, Everett P. Rhea, George A. Rahm, of Weiser; John Sennett and John J. Curtis, of Washington, D. C.

The properties of this company consists of ten claims, situated on Camp creek, about ten miles above the town of Landore, in the heart of the famous Seven Devils district. The ores are a gold-copper proposition and of excellent smelting qualities. Col. Drake, the chief promoter of this new corporation, states it is the company's intention to vigorously prosecute operations this season and to get the property in shape for the early erection of a smelter.

The smelter will be operated under the Dewey process, which is that of extracting the precious metals by chemicals which is now being very successfully operated in Virginia on three per cent ores. It is the company's intention to expend in the neighborhood of \$25,000 in development work alone this year — Weiser Signal.

Frozen Boose Not Popular.

A booze monger, more politely termed a commercial traveler for a liquor house, hit our unpretentious berg with all the ostentation of a Russian nobleman. His face beaming with importance, his manner effulgent with the great "I AM" and his derby resting on his over-developed bump of egotism, he dropped into a popular cafe with the dash of a Japanese cavalry officer. The best booze on earth he had for sale. All quailed before him, but after partaking of a cup of courage, and stimulating his temerity, the prospective customer ventured the request that he produce his samples. With self assurance, he unfolded his wares, when, lo and behold, his bottles of booze were congealed into solid cakes of ice. The would-be customer informed him that it has been his custom to handle whiskey only in its liquid form, and if he took his goods he would have to sell it by the chunk. Customers here sold whiskey fifteen cents per drink, and it would be difficult to train old customers to put up a bit for a bite, two bits for two bites. The good old way still goes in P. C. — Prairie City Miner.

Ore from California.

The local smelter is receiving ore from northern California, two more carloads having been delivered from the Sheridan, 130 miles south of the state boundary. The Sheridan is in Selby and Keswick territory, but the management here desired the product of this property, and made a bid that brought it to the eastern Oregon camp.