

## ARTHUR BUCKBEE

Arthur Buckbee, of Salt Lake, the genius who rehabilitated, reincorporated and revamped the famous old Virtue mine, the process of evolution being from the lethargy of a five-year period of abandonment into a dividend-payer, arrived in Sumpter this morning from Boise, where he has located his headquarters while developing mining properties near Silver City, owned by himself and by the Canadian company which he represents. It was in 1901 that Mr. Buckbee closed down his company's Cumberland mine at Silver City and devoted his energies to re-opening the old Virtue. A magnificent success attended his efforts. It is a matter of history that in 1901 from a pocket on the Chicago and Little Pittsburg claims of the Virtue group, Mr. Buckbee extracted ore of such fabulous richness in wire gold that one chunk, weighing 92 pounds, yielded \$14,000 in a crucible furnace, built especially to treat the wondrously rich quartz taken from the Chicago blow-out. Four sacks of ore were stored to await treatment, each sack weighing about 200 pounds, and worth in the aggregate \$40,000. The tale of how the Chicago pocket was discovered by Fred Braze, a verbal lease holder, and of the trouble which followed before Mr. Buckbee discovered the extraordinary nature of the strike, has already been related in these columns. From the output of the Virtue during Mr. Buckbee's management, adjoining claims, including the Con-Virginia, owned by Hamburger & Keith, mining millionaires of Salt Lake, and 300 acres of placer ground on Virtue flat were purchased. So successful was Mr. Buckbee's operation of the property that his Canadian principals gave him free hand and carte blanche to proceed upon whatever lines of development he chooses. Mr. Buckbee immediately began the sinking of a 1500-foot three compartment shaft, moving a \$100,000 deep-sinking plant from the Cumberland mine for that purpose. His plan was to get outside of the subterranean water course which caused so much trouble in the old 860-foot Virtue shaft sink below the stoped-out level of the famous 1200x800-foot Virtue payshoot, and crosscut to the eight known veins in the Virtue group. The undertaking was rather monumental, both from a geological and financial standpoint. Hardly had he begun the carrying out of these plans, when for some reason or other, his Canadian principals contracted a case of cold feet. On account of an empty treasury, Mr. Buckbee was forced to suspend all operations, and the mine lay idle until a reorganization of the company was effected by Baker City men. J. K. Romig, of the Sanger mine, was installed as general manager, but very little is being done. The Virtue is credited by United States mint reports with an aggregate production from 1862, the date of discovery, to 1898, of \$2,189,000. Mr. Buckbee's visit to Sumpter at this time is on business in connection with the smelter. He is an enthusiastic believer in the future of Baker county as a great gold mining camp.

## BACKDOOR TONAPAHS

Arthur Buckbee says: "There are Tonopahs and Goldfields in eastern Oregon. Yet there are no stampedes. Why?"

"I would like to wager that had the old Virtue mine been in Nevada or Colorado when I was operating it a couple of years ago, it would have caused the biggest mining excitement ever known since '49. I took out ore worth one dollar an ounce. From one chimney I extracted \$165,000 in less than a month. The ore was lousy with wire gold. Had that sort of thing happened in Nevada, Colorado, Montana or California or even Utah telegraph wires would have hummed with the news and a stampede would have followed that would have put the Tonopah rush to shame.

"Now, why didn't the sensational incident at the Virtue cause a stampede? For one thing, I guess it was because Pullman cars run within seven miles of the mine. No perilous journey was needed to reach the scene. No danger to health or personal safety presented itself. Distance and inaccessibility were not in evidence to create enchantment. It was too much like a back door strike.

"I am willing to wager that in a year or two there will be plenty of Tonopahs in Baker county—minus the stamped features. By this I mean that operators hereabouts will in a short time be producing more gold than the Nevada camps produce. There is plenty of rich ore in Tonopah and Goldfield. We all acknowledge this fact. But a casual glance over the history of eastern Oregon will reveal instances of strikes of far more sensational nature than have been reported from Nevada.

"As a general proposition stampedes are bad things for a camp. They create a sudden prosperity, it is true, but the after-effect is bad. Depression in all business lines inevitably follows. I hope there will be no stampedes to Baker county, but I want to see—and am sure I will—a steady development of the mineral resources of this camp along legitimate and scientific lines, knowing that such a policy will result sooner or later in the building up of a mining industry here, bigger, broader, and more profitable than can ever occur in the stampede-camps of Nevada."

### Permanent Ore Exhibit.

Assistant General Manager J. E. Reed, of the Sumpter ore exhibit, is rushing the work of remodeling the old racket store for a permanent home for the display. Contractor J. W. McVickers, with a crew of men, is installing platforms, shelves and wall cabinets. The Case Furniture company will repaper the interior and lay linoleum on the floor in a few days. The various sub-district members of the board of managers report success in securing ore for the exhibit, but have been instructed by the assistant general manager to hold back their respective shipments until the permanent home is in shape for reception. The exhibit will be open at all hours of the day, and will be in charge of a competent man. The formal opening will probably be celebrated.

## THAT S. V. EXTENSION

The Baker City Democrat announces that a map of the Sumpter Valley railroad company's 20-mile extension from Tipton to the John Day country has been filed in the United States land office at La Grande. The Democrat says that this means the commencement of grading as soon as snow disappears. Speaking no doubt by the card, it announces that grading gangs and equipment will arrive in a few days.

The extension will be onward to the summit of Dixie mountain in Grant county. The company's articles of incorporation provide for a southern terminus at Burns.

## MINING MEN ARE COSMOPOLITANS

There is small chance for provincialism among the mining districts of the west. One will encounter a few sections of a strictly mining character where the citizens boast of their "oldest inhabitants," but where such places are found today it is usually where other industries and commercial pursuits have been built around them.

"Gold is where you find it," and the same may be said of the typical mining man. You find him where you find the gold. This fact impresses itself upon one who goes into a new mining camp, where old highways of acquaintanceship meet again, after having diverged for a season. One of the first comers at Creede may, perchance, get into Cripple Creek on an early stage, and the first man met is an old acquaintance from the Comstock lode. One goes to the Klondike in 1897 and the other to Thunder Mountain in 1901. In 1904 they both meet again at Goldfield.

The mining industry of the west comprises one grand domain. There is little to be said, after all, about state boundaries and county lines. The mining man's local pride is expressed in terms of ounces fine—in the colors that his pan reveals. It is usually the citizen of a state who really have nothing to do with mining, except in the matter of owning stock tokens of the business, that love to tell about their state's resources as against those of a rival state. There are no state jealousies in the active mining man's makeup, when once he starts on the road. All mining states are good states to live in, and the mining industry is the realm to which he owes allegiance.

Sectionalism is not measured by geographical lines, but by common interest. A few years ago, when the "silver" question was alive in politics, the west was accused of sectionalism—with some justice, perhaps.

The tendency now is for the sectionalism of the mining industry to widen its bounds and take in a good part of the United State. This is because of the special interest that the east is taking in the resources of the west. The mining industry is

bringing the east and the west together, instead of separating them, as it did in 1896. In fact, the whole tendency toward an investment basis of commercial and industrial dealings tends to unify the nation according to a rule in which politics has little concern. Indeed, politics is itself building upon industrial and commercial questions, and nationalization, for this very reason, is the order of the day.

In the investment world the mining man has spread out his own domain until it comprehends the country from west to east. It is one of the signs of the times that eastern capital is more than ever reaching out to command the opportunities that present themselves in the undeveloped mineral resources of the Rocky Mountain region. There are no state and sectional lines when it comes to industry and finance.—Daily Mining Record.

## BIG CHUNKS OF NATIVE COPPER FOR THE FAIR

Ores are being gathered in considerable quantity by many mining companies for the exposition. The Fidelity Copper company, operating in the Seven Devils district of Idaho, and Josephine county, Oregon, has several hundred pounds of high grade bornite, glance and some remarkable chunks of native copper, which will be put on exhibition. Other companies are awakening to the urgency of making a fine exhibit, and applications for space grow more numerous. The time for completing arrangements is limited, and many mining men are awakening to the value of the exposition when it is almost too late.

The Fidelity company took its ore from the Seven Devils group, largely from the surface cuts and pits near the Kleinschmidt grade road. All of the metal shows a state of thorough oxidation. One of the native metal nuggets weighs more than 30 pounds, and there are many weighing a few pounds each. William Trevor, vice-president of the company, says that the native metal as a rule is found on the footwall of the vein crossing the Nugget claim, diorite being on that contact. Other veins have been opened.

March 15 is the date fixed by the management for resuming development. At that time a considerable force is promised for driving a deep crosscut, which already has copper indications in the face.

## HURD WILL DO BIG WORK THIS YEAR

W. E. Hurd, of Portland, who operates the Potosi and Chelan group of mines in the Greenhorn, passed through Sumpter this morning, en route to the hills from Chicago and Boston.

Mr. Hurd states that he has been most successful in promoting and has surrounded himself with sufficient capital to do extensive work this year and will commence operations on a large scale at once.

Mr. Hurd says money is plentiful in the east and the tendency is to invest in mining. Eastern Oregon mines are much talked of and have a good standing there. He says thousands of people will visit Oregon this year and much capital will come ready for investment in our mines.