

SUMPTER GOLD FIELDS BEATS NEVADA CAMPS

William Flint, the mining expert, who represents a big eastern development syndicate, and who quietly dropped into Sumpter a few weeks ago on a trip of inspection of this camp, departed yesterday afternoon for Utah.

Owing to the limited time at his disposal he was able to visit only the mother lode mines on Cracker Creek. The particular mission which brought him to Sumpter was to examine the Little Cracker gold mine, above Bourne, of which Don L. Willard is general manager.

In conversation with a Miner reporter he said:

"This is one of the best camps I have ever visited. Forming a conclusion from what I have seen of the Cracker Creek district mines, I can, without hesitancy and without equivocation, pronounce it a great camp. The structural conditions are magnificent. Every available element for successful mining, in the way of timber, water, climatic condition, accessibility, etc., are favorable. For this reason I cannot understand for the life of me why men should leave this camp and join the wild stampede to Nevada.

"I have been over every foot of the territory comprised in the boom

camp of Tonopah, Goldfield, Bulfrog, Cawich, Lida and Death Valley. I have divided my last drop of water with sick-hearted prospectors down in that God-forsaken country. I have whacked up my last bit of grub and on more than one occasion have whacked up my money for grubstake. This has been in pursuit of a desire to learn the exact conditions prevailing in Nevada, and I found out. I would rather invest \$100,000 in the Sumpter gold fields than forty cents in Nevada. This may sound odd to those whose knowledge of the desert state is confined to boom newspaper articles, but it is a definite conclusion deduced from personal observations and grounded on the firmest premises.

"Cracker Creek, geologically speaking, is wonderful. The mother lode up there will produce for hundreds of years. So far, the surface is merely scattered. Scores of new mines will inevitably be opened along the main lode, and the parallel veins will in due time be dotted with big producers.

"I don't usually become enthusiastic when discussing the merits of a mining camp. I make an exception in the case of the Sumpter district. As I said before, it is great."

STATE VACANT LANDS 23,000,000 ACRES

Homeseeker travel into Oregon has caused many to ask where these people are to find homes in the state, many being of the opinion that all the good land in Oregon has been taken up, says the Portland Telegram. That this opinion is without foundation in fact, is demonstrated by the figures published herewith, which set forth that the state of Oregon has more than 23,000,000 acres of land, of all classes, still open for entry. Title to fully one-third the area of the state yet remains with the government. Of course, it is not maintained that all of this land is suitable for farms, but much of it is of a quality that will bear conversion into homes, which is rendered possible under the homestead act.

Throughout the 33 counties of Oregon these lands are distributed, and Union county alone has 133,820 acres yet subject to entry.

In addition to the above, it is estimated that there are fully 250,000 acres of state land yet unsold. There are included in the 16th and 36th section of every township, or lands in lieu thereof, and are offered at \$2.50 per acre, without settlement, in quantities not to exceed 320 acres to each purchaser. Payments may be made in five annual payments of 50 cents per acre, with interest at the rate of 6, 7 and 8 per cent per annum upon the deferred payments.

"Bring in your ore," says the local manager of the ore exhibit. The building is now in shape for occupancy. The various members of the board of managers have been so notified.

ENDORSES "STOP OFF AT BAKER" SCHEME

Today The Miner received a letter from Cyrus Skinner, of Princeton, Iowa, in which he says:

"Dear Sirs:—I am with you on 'Stop off at Baker and come to Sumpter,' as per your article on March 8. Although I never have been in your town, I have quite a bunch of money in Sumpter mines and have been speaking a good word for Sumpter for two years. If you fellows publish a booklet on Sumpter and any other matter for distribution, send me a bunch and I will scatter it among the people I know who are going to Portland this summer. I will be there in May or June."

His suggestion is, of course, a good one. Sumpter has never, meaning its citizens collectively, issued a piece of printed matter descriptive of the camp or the district. Individual promoters and the newspapers have done it all.

Cleaver Brothers' Chicago Office.

Cleaver Brothers have opened an office in suit 660 Old Colony Building, 293 Dearborn street, Chicago, which is in charge of Elmer E. Cleaver. They are financing the Indiana Mining company, owning a copper property in Union county, of which frequent favorable mention has been made in these columns. They are also owners of the Prairie City townsite, are dealing in mines and timber lands. In a business letter to The Miner, Mr. Cleaver says that he is doing a big business and extends an invitation to all of his Oregon friends and acquaintances to call on him when in Chicago.

DREDGE BUILDERS ARE ALL BUSY

Captain Robert Winters, manager of the New England Dredge company, operating in Boise Basin, has returned from Boston, where he went to confer with the officials of the company. He reports that the complications growing out of the death of Mr. Souther, who organized the company, have all been cleared up and the company is now about prepared to proceed with the equipment of its property with additional dredges.

It has been determined to put on two machines of the greatest capacity. They will be of the New Zealand type and each will have a capacity of 100,000 yards a month.

When it came to looking up builders for the proposed dredges, it was found the principal manufacturers had orders ahead that would keep them busy for many months. The two leading makers of that kind of machinery were found to have six large dredges, each under contract, in addition to other work, and would be kept busy for six months before new work could be taken up.

Notwithstanding the probable delay in getting the machinery, the company expects to have the two dredges erected by December, so they will be ready to go into operation next spring.

There is one serious problem confronting the company; this is the difficulty in securing electric power. It has been hoped and planned to use such power on the plant, but conditions are such that it may be necessary to depend upon steam. For the operation of the machines 500 horse power will be needed, but when it came to contracting for such a supply it was found no one was in a position to make a contract to deliver it. The field has been beaten over again and again without a solution of the problem having been reached. The company cannot defer the improvement another year, and it may therefore be obliged to arrange for the use of steam.—Boise States man.

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B. H. TRUMBULL, Commercial agent, 142 Third street, Portland, Oregon.

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PAID A NICKLE FOR \$7000 GOLD

A recent press dispatch from Ashland, this state, tells the following interesting story: Compromise of a suit at law, which has attracted unusual interest in this part of the state, has just been accomplished and the case dismissed and stricken from the docket of the circuit court at Jacksonville, where it was left by a disagreement of the jury at the last term of court.

The suit was known as the "tin can case," and involved the ownership of a sum of money found in a tin can buried under an old chicken house on the farm of Roberts & O'Neill, in the central part of the Rogue river valley, some dozen or more years ago. The Danielson boys, then small kids, were engaged, according to their story, in cleaning out the chicken house, when they found the can of money, which they afterward estimated to amount of \$7000 in value, being \$20, \$10 and \$5 gold pieces. They took it to Mrs. Roberts at the farmhouse, who gave them a nickel and told them the Lord would reward them for their honesty.

Years rolled by and the boys decided to bring a suit to recover the money and interest, as found property, and suit was commenced. The case has been in the courts for some time, being thrown out on a technicality first, carried to the supreme court, new proceedings instituted and disagreement of trial jury following, until now, just before the matter was to come up again, it has been announced that the case has been settled outside of court by the payment of the sum of \$6000 by Roberts & O'Neill to the Danielson brothers, each side paying their own law expenses, which have been quite heavy.

Roberts & O'Neill is a wealthy firm of farmers of this valley, and of excellent general reputation, never having been accused on any more serious charge than that, perhaps, of squeezing the eagle on the dollar a little too tightly to make themselves popular. Their contention in defending the suit was that the can of money found, which they did not deny, held from \$500 to \$1000, they did not know exactly, instead of the \$7000 claimed by the boys, and that it was their property, the can having been buried under the chicken house for safe keeping by Mrs. Roberts.

It is said that the compromise was accepted by the defendants only out of deference to Mrs. Roberts, who is quite aged and whose health was threatened by the strain which the trial of the case and the consequent publicity occasioned her.

Strong Railroad Argument.

L. Hirschland, the wholesale liquor man from Baker City, passed through Sumpter this afternoon on his way home from Bourne. "The strongest argument," said he, "in favor of a railway from Sumpter to Bourne, is furnished by the condition of the road up the gulch. It's awful. On account of the big cold snap in December, the ground froze to a depth of at least three feet. It is now gradually thawing out, with the result that there's practically no bottom."