

FIRST MILL IN ROSSLAND

W. E. Hurd, general manager of the Chelan and Potosi groups of mines, in the Greenhorn Mountain district, left this afternoon on a business trip to Baker City, expecting to return Monday. It is a fact not generally known, but a fact, nevertheless, that Mr. Hurd was one time owner of the now famous Josie mine, in Rossland, B. C. He sold the property in 1895 to the present controlling company for a snug sum in cash. In fact, Mr. Hurd was prominent in Rossland during the boom times of that great camp. He relates rather an interesting incident connected with the O. K. mine, above the Le Roi.

"The owners of the O. K. opened up the only body of free gold in the Rossland district. There were thirteen owners, and all were poor men and fighting all the time among themselves. I met one of the owners in Spokane, in 1895, and he showed me a double handful of gold nuggets taken from the O. K., explaining that if the property could be equipped with a mill it would be worth \$150,000 five minutes after the stamps began to drop. I happened to own a mill on a property down in southern Oregon, and after entering into a deal whereby, by equipping the property, I was to be given an interest, I shipped the little five stamp mill to Spokane. The O. K. owners agreed to pay freight on the machinery, but upon its arrival I found that they couldn't raise the money, so I advanced it. All this was before the day of railroads north of Spokane, and we were compelled to haul the mill by wagon from Spokane to Rossland. When the machinery finally reached its destination, it had cost almost its weight in gold. The mill was set up and a few runs made. The free gold ore body pinched out, the owners formed a stock company, thimble-rigged things for a while and then forced the institution into the hands of a receiver. I guess it's there yet. The stamp mill on the O. K. was the first plant of its kind in the Rossland camp."

HOW FORECAST THE WEATHER?

If it clears off in the night, look for rain next day. If smoke from the chimney settles instead of rising, there is a storm at hand. When sound travels a long distance there is also a storm near. Never expect much of a storm in the old of the moon. The absence of dew and an unusually heavy dew are alike fore-runners of rain.

Not much frost need be expected in the light of the moon. An owl hooting in the hollow is a sign of a cold storm; on the hill it foretells a thaw.

If the hornets build low the winter will be hard. When leaves fall early the winter will be long. When snow falls on a hard road it will not last long. The late spring snow storm never comes until after the

"sugar snow," which may be recognized by coming in unusually large flakes and only lasting a few minutes. If the hog's melt is found big at the front the first part of the winter will be the most severe; if the reverse is true, we may look for hard weather in February and March. Bright "northern lights" bring severe cold. If the sun shines on the second day of February so as to permit the woodchuck to see its shadow, it will go back into its hole and remain six weeks. If March comes in like a lamb it will go out like a lion; if it comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. In other words, one extreme at the beginning promises the reverse at the end of the month. Sun-dogs indicate a bad storm.

Distant sounds heard distinctly forebode no good weather. If the sun "draws up water" it will rain. The pitcher sweating and the teakettle boiling dry also indicate rain. Cobwebs thickly spread upon the grass are an indication of fair weather.

Animal life seems, according to the popular notion, to have peculiar warnings regarding the weather changes. Some of these are explained by natural causes. It is a fact recognized by all intelligent stockmen that cattle have an intimation of an approaching storm some hours before it is visible to the human eye. There is a certain restlessness which the cowboy has learned to interpret at once. When you see a pig pasturing in the field to build for itself a nest, you may look for a storm. Chickens take extra pains in oiling their feathers just before a rain. Pea fowls send forth their shrill cries as a warning, and when the quail cries "more wet" from the meadow the farmer works briskly to get his hay under shelter. If the chickweed and scarlet pimpernel expand their tiny petals, rain need not be expected for few hours. Bees work with redoubled energy just before a rain. If the flies are unusually persistent either in the house or around stock there is rain in the air. The cricket sings at the approach of cold weather. Squirrels store a large supply of nuts, the husks of corn are unusually thick, and the buds of deciduous trees have a firmer protecting coat if a severe winter is at hand. If the poplar or quaking asp leaves turn up the under side rain will soon follow.

If the fog rises in the morning, it is a sign of rain; if it settles, a clear day may be expected. Watch the smallest cloud you can see. If it increases in size it is going to rain; if it melts away and vanishes completely, fair weather will follow.

If the camphor bottle becomes roily it is going to storm. When it clears, settled weather may be expected. This idea has seemingly been utilized in the manufacture of some of our cheap barometers. The main trouble is, they seldom foretell the change until about the time it arrives.

Last, but not least, the rheumatic can always tell it "in their bones" when a storm is approaching, and to this prognostication the octogenarian of today is as firm an advocate as were his forefathers. — Scientific American.

Timbers for Crane Flat Dredge.

A car load of fir timbers, thirty-six feet in length, consigned to Burch & Burbridge, arrived over the Sumpter Valley today from Portland. They are intended for the dredge which they are constructing at the Crane Flat placers.

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