EXPERT DECLARES BLUE LEDGE BELT MOST PROMISING

By W. W. WATSON.

The good opinion of those competent to form it on impartial consideration of all the evidence obtainable, both favorable and adverse, is something to covet and to value. This logic applies to anything worthy of contemplation.

Since careful consideration is being given to the great copper field so near to Medford, in conjunction with concerted effort to cause the mining world to know something of the information we have thus obtained, the good opinion of a disinterested person whose life has been devoted to mining and the profitable development of mineral wealth, both in its scientific and its practical phases, brings us a need of assurance of much value.

Rhodes Enthused.

David Robert Rhodes, who recently came from San Bernardino, Cal., to investigate the Blue Ledge mining district, representing two mining syndicates on this visit, was unfortunate in coming before the snow had sufficiently disappeared to permit more than a casual inspection of that territory; but he found enough evidence of the existence of an immense mineralized area, attractively rich in copper, to cause him to speak enthusiastically about it.

"I would not undertake to make a definite report on what you may or may not possess," said Mr. Rhodes, "but I am interested. You know, of course, what it is that interests a miner. I found an immense mineralized area in which some practical development has been made. Much of it, however, is in the prospecting stage. That which has been carried beyond this condition is very interesting, because it is very promising. Some exposures leave no doubt of the existence of rich copper ore in great ledges. The fact that old and successful prospectors have located scores of claims and, by dint of hard effort and much hardship, have held them for years, unwilling to look for anything better, should be taken into careful account.

"Those who know nothing about the practical phases of mining have no right to doubt their judgment. And I found many of these. The width of the four-mile strip, extending from northeast to southwest, through which these ledges parallel each other at intervals of a few hundred feet, passing entirely through the range, topped on one side by the Blue Ledge camp and on the other by the Happy Camp group, sixteen miles distant, is a somewhat unusual condition. That alone would make a large field of operation.

Promising Prospects.

"In that area, on the Applegate side of the range, I made a hurried sketch of the physical neighborship of Blue Ledge, Sullivan, Bloomfield, Cook & Green, St. Albans, First National, Blue Canyon, Donkey, Iglo, Morris, Sam's Ledge, Blue Extension, Copper King and New London. On some of these claims much has been accomplished inexpensively; that is to say that since it is generally a tunnel proposition, not much work has been required to make an attractive showing as a prospect. The general character of the formation throughout the entire district, on the Medford side, indicates a compact mineralization. I assume that that is the reason so many of the prospectors have held on to their 'find' in the confidence that they are partners in a mountain of ore.

"Sufficient depth has not yet been acquired to indicate how rich a field it may be per ton. Every indication, however, shows that the values of the ore, both in copper and gold, increase with depth. Many mining camps, with a much less attractive showing in initial work, have become marvelous producers.

Development Next.

"So, you see, I have talked a good while without giving you much information. You have passed the stage at which the prospectors are satisfied. The next stage is that of development. Prospectors, as a rule, do not do much of that. Mines are made. It takes money to make them. That is what that district needs now.

"That territory is especially blessed with timber and water. But transportation is an essential part of the mining business, particularly where you ship the ores some distance to a smelter. Therefore, you cannot talk mining development effectively without talking railroad along with it.

"The showing made in the Blue Ledge alone would justify the construction of a railroad from that district to the Southern Pacific or to the coast. The first money spent in development of the apparent mineral wealth of that district, therefore, will be devoted either to the erection of a smelter or the construction of the means of getting the ores out in heavy tonnage. Until one or the other of these things is accomplished, the values in that mountain pile of ore are wholly speculative."

Mr. Rhodes indorsed the purpose of the Blue Ledge District Copper league very heartily. When told that some of the most promising claims in that territory had been patiently held for ten or twelve years he wondered how the secret had been smothered.

CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY BILL IS NOW A LAW

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—Four constructive measures—the tenure in office bill for teachers, the certificate of necessity bill, the Willamette fish bill and the military code—have passed the house. All have passed the senate, and as soon as the senate concurs in an amendment to the certificate of necessity bill, all four will be ready for the action of the governor. The other three passed the house without amendments.

The senate committee on municipal affairs introduced the certificate of necessity bill. Under its terms a public utility must obtain a certificate of necessity from the public service commission before entering business in a field already served by a utility, and it is believed that it will sound the death knell of ruinous competition that has prevailed more or less in the state between utilities. The amendment that must be concurred in by the senate was suggested by Public Service Commissioner Buchtel, and it gives the commission power to require public utilities serving a field to extend their services when it is for the public welfare.

The military code was the product of the deliberations of the joint committee of the two houses on military affairs and it is designed to eliminate politics from the national guard and to put that organization on an efficiency basis. The code does not change the present qualifications of the adjutant general, and under its provisions it would be impossible to call the guard out on strike duty save in extreme cases.

Senator Gill is the father of the Willamette fish bill and its passage was contested by Representative Brownell. It prohibits commercial fishing above Stony Rock, near Oswego. Its object is to permit salmon to pass up the river to the spawning grounds, and it is believed that it will contribute vastly to game fishing in this stream.

NEW INSURANCE CODE NOW LAW

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—The new insurance code, amended by the house after it came from the senate, was yesterday approved by the upper body, the amendments were concurred in and it is now ready for the governor's action. Insurance Commissioner Wells is well pleased with the code. He said in commenting on the measure:

"The legislature, in my opinion, has enacted in this insurance code a law for the protection of the people that will mean more to them than any other measure they have enacted."

KILL INCREASED POSTAL RATES ON NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Proposed increased postage rates on newspapers and magazines and provision for 1 cent postage on drop letters finally were eliminated from the postal bill today on a point of order by Senator Lodge that they had no place on such a measure under the senate rules. This action is expected to end the fight at this session for the provisions.

SHELDON WINS HARD BATTLE FOR NORMAL SCHOOL

Representative Sheldon's normal school measure passed the senate late this afternoon after a hard fight. When the resolution went over from the house, a canvass of the senate showed only about six votes for it. By holding it in committee until he could carefully canvass the individual members of the senate, Mr. Sheldon won over senator after senator until he had the necessary majority on his side. The measure came out onto the floor with an adverse committee report, but the organization worked up in its behalf went to bat, turned down the committee's recommendations and passed the measure with a few votes to spare.

The resolution puts on the ballot for the vote of the people at the next general election a single measure providing for two schools, one to be located at Ashland and another at some city in eastern Oregon to be selected by the board of normal school regents. A continuing millage maintenance provision is made of 1-25th of a mill for each school. This produces an annual maintenance fund of about $37,000.

TWO HIGHWAY BILLS PASS THE HOUSE

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—Two measures having for their object the building of good roads in all parts of the state were rushed through the senate late yesterday. They are house bill 21, by Bean and Barrett, providing for an emergency bond issue of $1,800,000, the funds to be used in matching the federal appropriation under the Shackleford act, when no other funds are available, and house bill 509, by the house highway committee, providing for the doubling of the automobile license fee, after August 1 next. The two bills, it is claimed, will work nicely with the bill, providing for the larger bond issue of $7,900,000, proposed in Senator Olson's bills and which will go to the house soon. For the first time in the history of Oregon, the legislature has set its seal of approval on the plan to bond the state.

FOOTS CREEK ITEMS

Tracy Spencer left last week for McCoy.

Charles Champlain was a caller in Rogue River last week.

Last Friday the Rogue River basketball team played Central Point at the latter place.

Rogue River schools will give a patriotic play the latter part of the month.

V. W. Birdseye, John Cameron and James Cotton hauled several loads of hay to Rogue River last week.

The Riverside Recreation club met last week with Mrs. Alden, an interesting program being given. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. Porter.

Jack Benson left last week for San Francisco.

Glen Woodridge returned home last week from Grants Pass, where he has been under the care of a physician.

George Woodcox and family, with Will Coverdale, spent Saturday on Foots Creek.

Floyd Lanse and Miss Emma Gannyaw were callers in Gold Hill Friday.

HALIFAX DECISION BRINGS RELIEF TO AMERICAN SHIPPING

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The British admiralty's decision to permit neutral vessels sailing from American ports for Europe to undergo examination for Europe to undergo examinwall or Falmouth, brought immediate relief today to the congested cargo situation at New York. Steamships of the Dutch and Scandinavian lines which have been held in this port on account of the submarine blockade made preparations to sail by the new route and it is expected that several will get away before the end of the week.

The Ryndam of the Holland-American line which returned here Wednesday after sailing to the very edge of the submarine zone, probably will leave today for Rotterdam. On this trip, however, she will carry no passengers. The Stockholm of the Swedish-American line is due to leave today for Gothenburg with passengers.

By stopping for examination at Halifax, vessels bound for Holland and the Scandinavian countries will be able to skirt the north boundary of the blockade waters included in the German proclamation. Several freight carriers that fly the stars and stripes are making preparations to leave soon for European ports.

Agents of the big British steamship lines declared today that there was no need of any congestion of ocean cargoes at American ports. One of them pointed out that Great Britain has about forty steamships now at New York ready to leave when loaded and representing a cargo capacity of 150,000 tons.

The same authority asserted that there were in port here today about 260 steamships of British, French, Scandinavian, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and American registry and estimated their carrying capacity at 750,000 tons.

DELINQUENT TAX BILL SENT BACK

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—Representative D. C. Lewis of Multnomah county, literally threw the proverbial monkey wrench into the machinery Thursday when the house had under consideration substitute senate bill 63, providing for the advertisement of delinquent tax lists.

Mr. Lewis declined to approve the substitute bill as it came from the judiciary committee and offered amendments of his own which provide that the sheriff shall in an envelope bearing the official letterhead notify each and every delinquent taxpayer as the names appear on the tax rolls. If any of these notices are returned then the sheriff shall advertise those names in newspapers of more than 10,000 circulation.

FIRST AMERICAN LINER SAILED FROM ENGLAND WEDNESDAY

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 15.—The Philadelphia, the first American liner to leave Europe since Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare, sailed from here late Wednesday afternoon. She carried 95 passengers of all classes, of whom 38 were Americans.

The Philadelphia was unarmed. In addition to her passengers, she carried a general cargo of what is known as express freight and two tons of dispatches from the American embassy in London for the state department in Washington.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Officials of the American line assumed today that the Philadelphia has passed outside the danger zone, as no word has been received from her since her departure late on Wednesday.

Among the Americans who sailed on the Philadelphia were Miss Gertrude Cohen, San Francisco; Charles Boyle, Dawson, Yukon Territory; Geo. Eccles, Fresno, Cal., and Stanley J. Wheeler and wife, Tokio.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The Philadelphia should by this time be well beyond the submarine zone, American line officials said today. The ship had on board, according to their advices, 237 passengers, divided as follows:

First class, 61; second, 66, and steerage 110.

LAST LEGAL DAY FOR LEGISLATURE

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—The approach of the end of the 1917 session of the Oregon legislature finds both the senate and the house of representatives rushing to get through. There are bills yet to be passed in both houses, appropriations considered and appointments approved.

Tonight should end the session, but is considered very probable that the two houses will sit through until tomorrow night, and possibly Sunday morning, the members serving after tonight without pay. If necessary, the clock will be turned back as it approaches midnight Saturday night.

INITIATIVE SIGNERS MUST BE REGISTERED

SALEM, Or., Feb. 16.—Representative Gordon's bill, previously passed by the house, regulating the circulation of initiative petitions, was passed by the senate late yesterday by a unanimous vote. It will restrict signatures on petitions and do away with wholesale signing by floaters. Legal voters, who have not registered, are allowed to sign petitions, but they must make oath that they are qualified voters, and this must be done before a notary public. The bill provides that all proposed measures must be sent to the attorney general before they can be circulated and that officer must prepare the titles.

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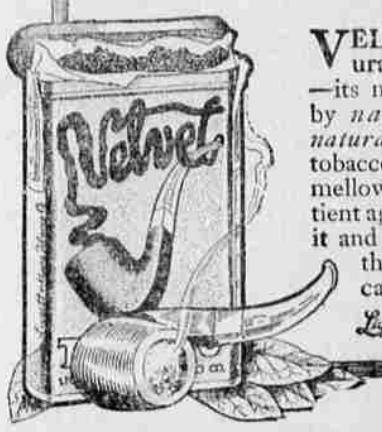

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