

L. b. Gibber

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\$2.00 The Year

AT AMERICAN EAGLE

The Mill Again Running at Its Full Capacity.—Force of Thirty Men at Work in Mine and Mill.—Large Ore Reserves Opened up and Much Development in Progress.

We are glad to be able to announce in this week's issue of the MINING NEWS that the famous American Eagle mine, near this town, has quickly overcome an obstacle that unexpectedly loomed up in the dead of winter, as a most serious impediment to the progress being made to soon develop into a great mine. We refer to the recent breaking of the cam shaft to one of the mill's set of batteries, thus incapacitating five of its stamps.

Nevertheless, on the sixth of this week the full force of stamps was again dropping, with the mill now running at its full capacity. And when we take into account that a new cam shaft had first to be ordered by mail from Spokane and then hauled over the mountains sixty-five miles to the mine at this season of the year, certainly no more merited compliment could be paid to the business ability of the present superintendent of the American Eagle, Mr. Evans, than for us to announce simply that the operation of this battery was delayed twelve days only.

If from any cause whatsoever, there should be a ceasing or a permanent slowing up, even of this finest of mining properties, this would certainly be regarded by our whole community as a calamity, especially now when the winter season is but just fairly begun.

A full force of thirty men is now working on the property, one-half of these doing development work exclusively. At tunnel No. 3 a connection has been made through a 50 foot winze at the bottom of shaft No. 3, which was already 100 feet deep. This new opening furnishes good air and the necessary ventilation preparatory to the extensive development work, that can now be rapidly pushed and at a minimum cost on this tunnel for nearly two thousand feet to connect with the old workings on tunnel No. 2. At the air shaft above mentioned, the depth of the ore bodies from the surface is fully 150 feet, with the hill still rising to the north in the direction the tunnel is being run. A depth of 300 feet will soon be attained. Consequently it is evident that in the American Eagle far more new ground and at greater depth is gradually and systematically being opened up, than that from which the large output from this mine has already been taken. Still in these old workings in tunnels Nos. 1 and 2 the large body of ore that has kept the mill constantly running at its full capacity for the past year, shows no sign of weakening. Indeed, it is capable of keeping the mill in full operation indefinitely, and the mine is paying handsomely.

The above, we know, will be considered by everyone in this section as the very best of local news for whole community.

HEYBURN'S LIEU LAND BILL

To Prevent Corporations From "Swapping" Improperly with Uncle Sam

The full text of the bill introduced in congress by Senator Heyburn to prevent the selection of lieu lands as has been the custom in the past, has been received. Charges have been made from time to time that corporations have influenced the officials to select lands as a forest reserve that had been taken up either as homesteads or railroad grants, and that they were not satisfactory or were comparatively worthless, then according to the old law the person could surrender the lands within the reserve and in lieu thereof take other unlocated land, which was usually the most valuable in the section.

Senator Heyburn's bill as published in full reads as follows:

"A bill limiting the right of selection of public lands of the United States in lieu of surrendered railroad land grant lands: Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that no right of selection of public lands heretofore given to any person or corporation in lieu of lands surrendered by such person or corporation because of such lands being within any forest reserve heretofore created or hereafter to be created shall be exercised by the selection of any even numbered section of the public lands of the United States, except in cases where the land so surrendered was upon such even numbered section.

"Sec. 2. That when a forest reserve is created in one state all lands taken in exchange for lands which may be surrendered by any person or corporation within such forest reserve shall be exchanged only for lands of a like character within the same state in which said forest reserve is situated, and the provision of this act shall apply to all exchanges made, or to be made, by reason of the surrender of lands within any forest reserve, whether said exchange is made through the medium of land scrip or otherwise.

"Sec. 3. That nothing in this act

shall be construed as recognizing the validity of any selection or entry of even numbered sections of land, either within or without the limits of any railroad land grant heretofore made by such railroad company or its assigns, in exchange for lands included within any forest reserve."

SPECIMEN ORE FOR ST. LOUIS.

Secretary Wood, of the Mining Bureau, Asks for Large Samples.

The MINING NEWS is in receipt of the letter from Secretary Wood, of the Central Idaho Mining Bureau. His request should be promptly complied with as this is an exceptional opportunity to advertise the country which will not occur soon again:

Lewiston, Idaho, Jan. 5, 1904.

Elk City MINING NEWS, Gentlemen:

We ask you to kindly urge upon all who can and at once ship their ore here, from 50 to 100 pounds each, to go to the St. Louis exposition. Will shortly make shipment so, no time to no time to lose. We are sending our own man to be in charge and also Central Idaho. This is the greatest chance ever had for those having properties needing assistance to help develop them and advertise them to the public. We will never have as good a chance again. Yours truly,

FRED H. WOOD, Sec'y.

NONE BETTER.

M. L. Murray is a visitor from the county seat. He is here looking after his own and company's interests. When seen by a MINING NEWS reporter, Mr. Murray said in part: "This is the best cam on top of the earth today. Of course fields farthest away always look greenest, but let me tell you, that South Africa, South America, Australia or Alaska do not offer one-half the opportunities to the investor, the prospector or the miner that can be found in Central Idaho.

UNION GROUP LOOKS GOOD.

A Sawmill will be Immediately Shipped in.—Property is on Big Creek.

One of the most promising groups of claims in the Big Creek section is the Union, owned by the Big Idaho Mining and Development company. George S. Bailey, of Lewiston, is general manager and has just returned from a visit to the property. A sawmill will be immediately shipped in and set up for the purpose of cutting out lumber for mine and mill buildings and a bed rock flume.

In doing recent development work in a tunnel on one of the claims, which was being run in on a parallel ledge, fifteen feet of quartz was crosscut that gives every indication of carrying good values. The depth of this new find is something over one hundred feet, and as the surface outcroppings are strong and assays well, this makes a valuable addition to the ore in sight on the property.

It is the intention of the company to install a stamp mill next season, and, as far as we can learn from disinterested parties, they are fully justified in so doing.

Besides the quartz claims the company owns eight miles of placer ground along Big creek. This ground has been thoroughly tested with pits to bedrock and the results have been of a very satisfactory nature. Preparations are now being made to put in a large bedrock flume in the spring and the ground worked on a large scale. A great deal of ditches and laterals have already been dug and a number of men are kept continuously at work.

HIGH ASSAYS.

The Winifred Group, in French Gulch, Produces Fine Ore.

Last week we made mention of a group of claims in French gulch called the Maryland. In this we were mistaken. They are known as the Winifred group, running from Blue Ribbon gulch to French gulch and consists of seven claims, and are situated three-fourths of a mile west of the American Eagle mine, a half mile east of the Blue Ribbon and six miles from Elk City.

Returns were received this week from two samples sent outside for an assay and they gave returns of \$412 and \$1800 in gold per ton. The character of the ore is a quartz carrying chlorides and telluride. Also red, brown, hematite and white iron, black sulphates and a little copper, with a sprinkling of galena. This latter is a good indication of permanency.

The owners of the property is F. H. Harper and associates. Mr. Harper is a prospector of many years experience and is the original locator of the now famous Hercules mine in the Cœur d'Alene country. He also spent considerable time in Lardo, B. C., district.

THE DEADWOOD DYKE.

This is One of the New Ones and Consists of Eleven Claims.

In 1886 M. L. Murray found ore on these claims that ran away up in the hundreds of dollars, but the property was located so had to wait until the party owning it got tired of holding it. On the first day of January of this year Mr. Murray was on the ground and located eleven claims on this dyke, which is from 200 to 800 feet in width and the values run from \$6 and upwards in gold per ton. This dyke is a quartz-porphry and is undoubtedly the source of a great deal of the gold that has been taken out of the Deadwood, Big and Little Campbell gulches, besides being a feeder to the famous Crooked river placers. This promises to be one of the big propositions of the camp. Mr. Murray has now a force at work doing the location work and also development to prove the value of the property.

The mining claims, which were raffled off last week at Grangeville for the benefit of Frank Rice were won by number 233. The claims are known as the Gold Buck and are good property and are located on Big creek. Over \$200 was realized in the drawing which was greatly appreciated by the unfortunate man.

PETITIONS ARE SENT OUT

To the Different Mining Camps and Every Person Should Sign Them as They will be of Great Assistance in Our Fight Against Forest Reserve Injustice.

Editor MINING NEWS,

Dear Sir:

I wish to say to the readers of your able paper, as well as to this whole community at large, that it is of the greatest importance, that every citizen, within the territory under discussion, should sign the petition our committee has thought best to circulate in every one of the contiguous mining districts, in view of sending it to the United States senate and house of representatives at Washington. On the other hand, this step on our part, will make it evident also, that our able and popular representatives at Washington, Senators Dubois and Heyburn, are being unanimously supported and urged on in this whole matter by our united community. And this certainly will make a deep and salutary impression on our legislators at Washington in our favor.

I wish to suggest also that everyone of our citizens should pay particular attention to the text of Senator Heyburn's new land bill, which your paper will publish this week. This bill is very fully drafted in view of giving full protection to "Uncle Sam" and the people in general against "graft" on the part of the corrupt powers that be. Indeed, this wholesale stealing, under forest reserve pretenses, of vast tracts of valuable lands which of right belong to the people is, in my opinion, the most detrimental and hypocritical kind of high-way robbery of the people at large. And seems that we unceremoniously hang horse-thieves in this country, what then should be the punishment to be meted out to these wholesale land thieves aided by political grafters?

Voicing the sentiment of the community, I have from the start unequivocally stated, that the people of this section are by no means opposed to the principle on which forest reserve laws are based. Indeed, we all recognize that the utility and necessity, in certain sections of our country, of these laws are such, that the forest reserve principle itself ought no longer be held up to public ridicule and contempt.

Furthermore our people, taken as a whole, have, as far as we know, far to much patriotism and love for "Uncle Sam" to wish to see any class of his representatives, or agents, systematically placed, like these worthy rangers in our midst, in such an awkward and unpopular position, vis-a-vis our whole local community, that the only direct result therefrom, if indefinitely prolonged, will certainly be to criminally weaken in the minds of many, the sacred bonds of confidence, respect and unity, that must ever bind all our states and each one of our local communities inseparably to the great head and center of our Republic at Washington.

Consequently, as one can see, the points of issue are not only local but national and far-reaching in their bearings. I remain, Yours very sincerely,

D. B. STRONG, M. D.

In the Stickner District.

The Stickner Group.

Frank Stickner, Mose Thorn and B. V. Dawkins, owners of the Stickner group of quartz claims, two miles east of the American Eagle, have six feet of splendid ore in sight, and their tunnel dove on the ledge 108 feet. The above mentioned ledge is traced some 3000 feet. North of their present tunnel in various crosscuts show ten feet of free milling ore, which pan tests prove the presence of A1 values, to satisfy the most skeptic.

The Topeka Group.

The next joining property is the Topeka group, owned by G. G. E. Baskett, Mrs. M. A. Parr and Len Kohen. This group has considerable surface work, in shafts and crosscuts at various distances along the entire course of the ledge for 3000 feet. A test shaft was sunk 45 feet and the ledge showed ten feet of mineralized quartz, carrying pay values. This property shows splendid pan tests and the making of a substantial mining proposition.

The Hercules.

To the north lay the Hercules group, owned by W. F. Johnson, Ralph Middleton and E. J. Comley. This property is under bond and 320 feet of working tunnel completed up to date. The owners expect to tap the ledge at 200 feet depth. The surface shows good values in the many crosscuts and shafts.

The Gladiator.

To the north of the Hercules lays the Gladiator quartz claim, owned by B. W. Houston. This claim is well named, as its showing proves. The Harsh Bros. own the north extension of the Gladiator, which consists of four claims of good merit. Test holes show eleven feet as fine free milling quartz as one wishes to see. This property has the earmarks of future prosperity, and the owners will resume operations in the near future. E. J. C.

Strike on Porphyry Quenn.

Reports reached here today to the effect that a fine body of ore was cut in a tunnel that is being run on this property to crosscut a large porphyry dyke.

The Porphyry Queen group is situated on Crooked River, two miles below the mouth of Relief creek, and is owned by M. M. Clark, Geo. M. McLaughlin and

Claude Powers, who have been continuously at work since early last fall.

Considerable rich float was found scattered over the surface of the dike, but it was never found in place, as parts of the dike is covered with considerable wash. This new strike is probably the source of the float.