

Elk City Mining News.

Vol. I, No. 6

Elk City, Idaho, February 6, 1904

\$2.00 The Year

HERCULES STRIKES ORE

The 350-foot Contract is Completed and Three Veins Were Cut By the Tunnel.—About 245 Feet in Depth is Obtained. Drifting will be Soon Commenced.

W. F. Johnson, R. Middleton and E. J. Comley, from the Hercules group, arrived in town the first of the week and report splendid showings made upon their property, now under bond to Wm. H. Adams. The boys have completed their contract of 350 feet of crosscut tunnel, encountering three well defined ledges. No. 1 ledge shows four feet of ore; No. 2 five foot of quartz and talc and No. 3, which is tapped at a depth of 200 feet, is ten feet between walls. The owners expect to resume operations in the next ten days and drift upon the above leads, and eventually run an up-raise of about 245 feet to the surface for ventilation. They have only been able to run one shift in the last 50 feet, on account of not having proper ventilating appliances. However, the bad air problem will soon be solved, as they now have air piping at the claim.

The Hercules group is one mile distant from Red river where an abundance of power can be electrically generated, sufficient to supply the entire needs of the Elk City mining district, at a cost of one-fourth the cost of any method in use at the present time.

Bureau of Forestry Report.

The Springfield Republican Says it Shows Many Evidence of a Growing Popular Interest in the Subject of Forestry in the West.—A Mistaken Idea.

"The report of the United States forester for the year ending June 30, 1903, now issued by the department of agriculture," says the Springfield Republican, "is a document of much interest, on account of the many evidences of a growing popular interest in the subject of forestry in the west."

That there is a growing popular interest in forest reserves here in Idaho is self evident, an interest which has indeed assumed abnormal proportions. but it is not along the lines suggested by Mr. Pinchot's report. The United States forester is no doubt honest and conscientious in his special field; certainly he is endowed with that enthusiasm which Providence sees fit to impart in the mind of all evangelists of whatever creed, political, religious or economic. That this special brand of enthusiasm is also generally illogical and impractical is so much of a truism it is needless to discuss it at this time, other than by way of comparison. For instance, Mr. Pinchot's faith in the efficiency of the average forest ranger as a protector of the forests of the watersheds from fire, is beautiful, only from a sentimental view point, however; that it lacks foundation in fact is the observation of all prospectors and miners in the Bitter Root range. While the fact is that some of those rangers are old men, verging on discrepancy, the younger and major portion are usually worthless for the work by reason of their lack of experience or energy, and not seldom from both causes. That there are exceptions we freely concede and point with pride to two or three upon the reserve at this time. Even though every man-Jack of them was the pink of manly vigor, endowed at the same time with all the fire resisting qualities of the salamander, they would still fall far short of the powers ascribed to them by the worthy forester as a fire department.

No, the only protection the forests in the west have from fire at this time, or ever had, or so far as we can see, ever will have, lies with the prospector, the miner or the hunter, in their thoughtful public spirit, in their care in properly extinguishing their camp fires when even only temporarily absent. Should this last precaution be omitted and a fire result therefrom, taken as a general proposition, there is not enough rangers on the Pacific slope to hold a forest fire of ten acres area, to say nothing of extinguishing it. Without this precaution there might be a ranger stationed upon every square mile of this reserve, yet would their numbers be inadequate to cope with the proposition. With the exercise of this precaution the rangers as a fire fighting force are superfluous.

It will therefore readily appear to a thoughtful mind, that the successful protection of the forests from fire, or indeed any other evil, rests solely upon the soundness of local public opinion, governed entirely by the needs of the communities directly concerned, as they being the direct beneficiaries in that which was good, would logically be the direct sufferers in that which would be evil.

Is Inspecting Mining Property Here.

N. B. Pettibone, formerly a merchant of Stites, and his brother, H. B., arrived in town Thursday. Mr. Pettibone is on a tour of inspection of his numerous mining interests in Elk basin. During a conversation with L. A. Painter, an old friend of Mr. Pettibone, the MINING NEWS man learned that Nate is something of a pioneer himself, arriving in Elk City in '91 or '92, since when he has been engaged in various occupations, prospector, miner, boniface promoter, superintendent, merchant, up to the present when, being progressive, he formed a trust and merged his various attainments, and now conducts his various enterprises as one. Among the successful deals promoted by Mr. Pettibone, was the transfer of the Iron Crown, of Newsome, to the late Dr. Lanterman, owner of the famous Vindicator of Cripple creek, the Vesuvius of Robbins mining district, which he sold to the Sweeney interests, the Smith placers of Newsome and several others which has escaped the scribe's memory. His matrimonial venture, however, is looked upon as his most successful. In '97 he married Miss Mary Shissler, daughter of the late Frank Shissler and sister of the well known Shissler Bros. of Newsome. The couple are blessed with three children, all boys. Mr. Pettibone will return to Stites in about a week.

THE HOGAN PROPERTY

Lewiston Tribune Has the Following to Say of it.

"W. Hogan, manager of the well known Hogan mine of the Elk district, was in the city yesterday and left on the afternoon train for his property. Mr. Hogan states that with the opening of spring, the mill at the mine will resume operations and much work is planned for the year.

"The Hogan property has become well known throughout the west on account of the extent of the remarkable ore body and the economy with which the ore can be handled. The property also attracted much attention a few months ago when a deal was pending for the purchase of the mine, the reported consideration being \$1,000,000. While the deal was pending the mill was shut down, and later the approach of the winter season prevented a resumption of the milling operations. The 20-stamp mill at the mine is supplied with water through a ditch and in the winter season the supply of water is necessarily restricted. The plans for the coming year provide for the construction of a flume and with this improvement the mill can be run steadily through the winter. The ditch is only about one mile in length and the cost of the important improvement is insignificant in comparison to its benefits.

"As to the enlargement of the mill," said Mr. Hogan to a Tribune reporter, "I can make no definite statement at this time. It is logical to presume, however, that the milling facilities will be increased. It has been shown that the ore can be handled for 60 cents a ton and there has been runs made at 44 cents. Mining men unacquainted with the property can with difficulty understand the economy of operation possible. The ore is mined by tunnel, with an upraise from the top of the reef, and the ore is handled down through the funnel and then tracked to the mill. With a larger mill it can be readily seen that handling the ore in greater quantities, the cost of milling will even be less per ton."

The Hogan property embraces a large group of claims, with extensive water rights. While no survey has been made, it is estimated that water can be secured sufficient to operate 600 to 800 stamps. Many mining men who are acquainted with the property and its favorable location, predict that it is "destined to develop into one of the big properties of the west, rating with the world-famous producers."

THE VIRGINIA GROUP.

Is a Fine Property and has Considerable Development Work Done.

Chas. W. Hanlon, B. V. Dawkins and Mose Thorn, owners of the Virginia group, have drove 101 feet of crosscut tunnel and expect to cut the ledge in 15 or 20 feet. This group shows four parallel ledges, in a width of 300 feet. Upon ledge No. 1 a prospect shaft has been sunk and at a depth of 36 feet good ore was encountered. From one pound of specimens nine dollars was extracted by hand mortar.

South of the Virginia group is situated the Drum Lummon claim, owned by Chas. Hanlon. This property shows a strong and well defined fissure vein three to five feet in width. The vein is uncovered by surfacing some 700 feet. Probably it is not amiss to say, free gold is present in ore extracted from the above vein. This property is situated between Seigel creek and French gulch, and one mile east of the Dredge. Mr. Hanlon offers no bouquets or prize packages with the stock of this company.

Elk City G. M. & M. Co.

Elk City MINING NEWS,
Dear Sirs:

As there have been a good many inquiries as the Elk City G. M. & M. Co., of this camp, I would like to say that it is the same property as what is locally known as the Lily May group, and all information in regard to same will be given by

JOSEPH A. COVERLY,
Elk City, Idaho

MAIL ROUTE TO HUMP

J. L. C. McCaffrey Returns From the Hump Country and Says People There are Enthusiastic Over the Withdrawal of That Section from the Forest Reserve.

J. L. C. McCaffrey returned from Buffalo Hump Monday, coming through in one day. In speaking of his trip he said:

"It was my first trip to the Hump in a year and while there are no startling changes, the district has made decided progress. The urgent character of the business which made my trip necessary made it impossible for me to visit any of the properties, much to my regret, but I gathered enough pointers to convince me of the fact that if Elk City does not "get busy" she will not be even a respectable second very long. I found the miners a unit with ourselves in the desire to have the mineral country withdrawn from the reserve. I am indebted to General Manager Brown, of the B. B. & I. Co., and Ed. Taylor, manager of the Buffalo Hump syndicate for many courtesies, as well as material assistance in securing affidavits and circulating a petition, which is supplementary to the petitions. I heard many words of appreciation for the MINING NEWS and expressions of good will toward Elk City. They expressed much gratification at the news of the establishment of a stage line between the two camps in the spring, or perhaps sooner. I talked to Frank McGrane over the 'phone, while there, looking to the extension of the line to this point. I done this at the request of the business men and Mr. McGrane assured me he would bring the matter to the attention of the proper parties and communicate with us as soon as possible.

"The suggestion looking to the establishment of a tri-weekly mail route between the two camps met with hearty approval upon the assurance that the people of Elk City had no desire to meddle with mail routes already established. They realize with ourselves the foolishness of two such important communities permitting themselves to be separated by one hundred and twenty-five postal miles when the actual distance is less than twenty-five geographical miles."

THE SUNFLOWER GROUP

One of the promising properties on Red Horse creek is the Sunflower group of five claims, nine miles from Elk City and adjoining the well known Columbia group. These claims were located during 1902 and 1903 by F. T. Jones and H. N. and H. S. Shuck, of Wardner and Mace, Idaho, who have interested with them several other people of those places.

These claims are staked along a ledge that has been traced for four or five thousand feet. The Missburi, one of the claims of the group, is developed by a twenty foot shaft, which shows six feet of quartz in the bottom. On the same claim 600 feet distant from the shaft an eight foot hole has been sunk which shows the vein.

On the Golden Kelzel a shaft has been sunk to a depth of twenty-five feet and 600 feet from the Missouri shaft on the same vein. A crosscut was made from the bottom of the shaft and the ledge is ten feet in width and pans free gold all the way across. The next claim is the Nevada and a ten foot hole exposes the ledge.

The past summer a tunnel was run in on the Golden Kelzel a hundred feet in length and tapped the ledge, which is six feet wide between walls.

There is an abundance of timber on the ground for all purposes. As soon as spring opens operations will be resumed and a 600 foot tunnel will be run which will tap the ledge at a depth of 250 feet.

Mining News is Appreciated.

C. H. Natwick has returned to camp from a trip to the county seat and other outside points, where he went in the interests of the MINING NEWS. He had flattering success in obtaining subscriptions for the paper. He was especially gratified with the warm reception and hearty appreciation accorded the MINING NEWS, both as a newspaper and as a representative of Elk City and the mining districts generally. He lacked words to express properly his high regard and appreciation of the group of hustlers that constitute growing Grangeville business life. He reports the resumption of the Dewey mine on the south fork of the Clearwater. This property is principally owned by Grangeville people and has a great future in store as a producer.

Otto Abeling Superintendent.

"Otto Abeling, the well known mining man, is to be general manager of the company's properties," says the Grangeville Standard, speaking of the well known Dewey group. "Mr. Abeling is adverse to newspaper notoriety preferring to have his work speak for itself after it is done, but those who know him best are most sanguine of the Dewey's success under his guidance." The MINING NEWS takes pleasure in endorsing the Standard's estimate of Mr. Abeling.

We are glad to know that the miners at the Dewey, on the south fork of the Clearwater, are to be in clover. Mark Howe is to have the boarding house and Arthur Hillier will be foreman at the mine.

Good Quartz On The Union Group

A good strike was made this week on the Union group. This property is situated about two miles east of the American Eagle mine and is owned by the Mammoth and Great Eastern mining company, with head offices at Chatham, Ontario. Andrew Prader is resident manager.

Work was commenced on the property last summer and a number of open cuts made, exposing the ledge for a distance of 300 feet and carrying a good grade of ore. A crosscut tunnel was run 85 feet to cut a porphyry dike which proved to be twenty-five feet wide and on the further side a six foot vein of quartz was cut. A drift was then started

in the porphyry and run 67 feet when the quartz lead was again crosscut, it still being six feet wide and with the same grade of ore. The drift was continued on a hundred feet and a third crosscut made. Here the vein narrowed to three and a half feet, but the ore is of a better grade and a great deal of gold being visible to the naked eye. Mr. Prader is much pleased with the showing made and will construct a wagon road to the property in the spring. He will also put in a hoist and sink a deep shaft. There are a number of other ledges on the property but are not yet developed.