

# Elk City Mining News.

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\$2.00 The Year

## TO THUNDER MOUNTAIN

Thos. Hye, of Dixie, Who is Familiar With the Elk City Dixie Route, Says it is the Only Practical One.—Is Passable at all Seasons of the Year.—No Snowslides.

Editor MINING NEWS,  
Elk City, Idaho,

Dear Sir:

It occurs to me, that in view of the fact that it has become necessary to abandon the mail route to Thunder mountain, this would be an opportune moment, to call the attention of "the powers that be" to the fact that there is a route that can be kept open without effort, at all seasons of the year.

To those familiar with the topography of Central Idaho, it will be unnecessary to present any argument in favor of the Elk City-Dixie route, but it seems to have escaped the attention of the postal authorities that the shortest, quickest, best and in fact the only feasible route to Thunder mountain, lays through Elk City and Dixie.

It was clearly demonstrated two years ago that this route could be traveled with ease during the period of the heaviest snow. During the months of January, February and March 1902, innumerable prospectors and mining men, and even women, went into Thunder mountain over this trail, some packing their outfits, some hauling them on toboggans and others with dog teams; pack horses and horses hauling raw hides were also in evidence. As the trail had not been kept open during the early part of the winter, and the snow had accumulated to considerable depth, it was demonstrated that the trail could not only be kept open during the entire winter, but that it was possible to open it up in the midst of winter when the snow was deepest.

A casual glance at the map will convince any person that the shortest and most direct route from any railroad point to Thunder mountain is the route via Elk City and Dixie from Stites.

There is a good wagon road to a point six miles south of Dixie. This is kept open at all seasons of the year by a daily stage line and many freight teams as far as Elk City, and a tri-weekly mail and freight teams as far as Dixie. From Dixie to the Salmon river the trail is kept open by miners, ranchers, and trappers, living along Salmon river, who travel back and forth between the river and Dixie for their mail and supplies.

From the Salmon River to Roosevelt the distance will not exceed 60 miles. This, then, is the distance that the trail would have to be kept open by the mail carriers. Inasmuch as the region of deepest snow has already been passed in reaching this point it would certainly not appear a formidable task to keep this 60 miles of trail open. Many place the distance at much less than 60 miles. It is certainly not more than that distance.

The highest point, and the region of deepest snow, is the mountain between Stites and Newsome. No difficulty has ever been experienced in getting the mail over this mountain. The difficulties between Dixie and Thunder mountain would be even less. There is absolutely no question but that this trail

can be kept open at all seasons of the year. It is the only way that Thunder mountain can be reached without crossing a high range that is at some time of the year impassable. The difference between this route and any route that must cross the Elk creek summit is illustrated by the following incident:

A registered letter mailed at Dixie, on October 29, 1903, reached the Roosevelt postoffice on December 11, as shown by the postmarks on the postmaster's return card. During the month of November Mr. Churchill made two trips from his ranch on the Salmon river to Roosevelt; each time taking a pack train and a load of vegetables. He experienced no difficulty whatsoever in making the trips. Yet the route over which they were endeavoring to get the Thunder mountain mail was in such condition that it was impossible to get the mail through.

Another important feature of this route is that all danger from snowslides are obviated. After reaching the top of the hill beyond Salmon river, the trail follows along the ridges and creeks through a well timbered country where snowslides are impossible.

If the camps along Smith creek and Big creek develops as now seems probable, they too will be entitled to mail facilities. While a number of different routes can be selected between the Salmon river and Roosevelt, one of the best routes follows Smith creek down to Big creek, thus reaching all of these growing camps with one route.

The people along the Salmon river too are entitled to mail facilities. At present they have to come to Dixie for their mail. The establishment of a postoffice at some point along the river would be of material benefit to those who live along the river.

If reason and good judgment be exercised and the best interest of all concerned be considered in the selection of a mail route, the very nature of the country will preclude the selection of any route except the Elk City-Dixie route. Heretofore local interests have predominated, and the government has been induced to establish a mail route where it was impossible to keep the trail open in winter; while this, the natural and ONLY practical route has been overlooked; perhaps because of a lack of united effort to present its merits to the proper authorities. Now that a new route must be selected we owe it to those brothers who are now isolated from the balance of the world; to put forth every effort to have a mail route selected that can be depended upon at all seasons of the year; a route over which they can feel assured that their mail will reach them every day in the year on schedule time; a route over which supplies, as well as mail matter, can be taken at any time during the summer or winter. Such a route is the Elk City-Dixie route.

Respectfully yours,

THOS. HYE,

Dixie, Idaho, Feb. 14, 1904.

### SPECIAL PRIVILEGE CONTRACT.

What the People on the Forest Reserve Refused to Sign.

Bitter Root Forest Reserve.  
CONTRACT.

This contract is hereby entered into by and between John Doe, party of the first part and the Secretary of the Interior for the United States of America party of the second part, for the privilege of occupying about — acres of land in the Bitter Root Forest Reserve, and located as follows: On certain unsurveyed land located and claimed by J. C. Young as a homestead settlement. (Then follows a description of buildings and business.)

The occupancy of said land and buildings to be subject to any valid settlement claim thereto.

In consideration of this permit so granted me, I, John Doe, promise and agree to observe and obey the following conditions and requirements:

1. To commit no trespass on timber or otherwise.

2. Never to assist or encourage trespass of any kind by keeping or assisting trespassers or by purchasing timber or other material obtained in trespass.

3. To assist forest officers in the execution of their duties by furnishing information and actual help in cases of emergency.

4. To do all in my power to prevent forest fires and to assist in fighting the same without waiting to be called upon to do so by the proper officer.

5. Never to kill game out of season or otherwise violate the game laws.

6. Not to purchase game, pelts or skins when there is good reason to believe that the game laws have been violated in the capture of these articles.

7. To obey cheerfully and at all times the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department for the government of forest reserves.

8. To conduct my business in a proper, honest manner, satisfactory to the public which is to be served thereby.

9. To refrain from excessive

charges.

10. To keep a clean and orderly place.

11. To keep a satisfactory stock of goods, so that there may exist no reason for additional establishments of this kind at this place.

12. Never to harbor evil-minded persons or persons of bad repute.

13. That I will pay the United States for any and all damage sustained by reason of my use and occupation of said forest reserve regardless of the cause or circumstances under which such damage may occur.

I further agree to execute a bond, running to the United States, with approved sureties, in the sum of One Thousand Dollars, conditioned for the payment of any and all damage, as aforesaid, and for the faithful performance of this agreement and strict compliance with the laws and regulations aforesaid, and on the event of failure on my part to do and perform any of the requirements hereinbefore set forth, then in such event, said bond is to be declared forfeited and the permission hereinbefore granted and all privileges thereunder shall cease and terminate. It is further agreed and understood that the permission herein granted is subjected to revocation by the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, at any time, notwithstanding the period for which this agreement is approved may have then expired.

### THE SCHEDULE COMPANY.

A Meeting of the Stockholders Held in Grangeville Last Saturday.

Below we publish the report of the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Schedule Gold Mining and Milling company which was furnished us by the secretary, I. C. Hattabaugh:

On February 13, 1904, the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Schedule Gold Mining and Milling company, limited, was held in Grangeville, Idaho, at the office of the secretary. A majority of the stockholders were present in person and the work of the past six months was gone over, the reports of the secretary and treasurer were taken up and viewed at length, the report of Manager Mark Howe was discussed and all reports were approved, which showed considerable development work during the past six months with very satisfactory showing. In fact the stockholders were very enthusiastic with the showing made.

The stockholders elected the following board of directors: Dr. S. E. Bibby, Mark Howe, Frank McMillen, John Mullinix and J. E. Beede. The stockholder's meeting then adjourned and the board of directors met and organized by electing Dr. S. E. Bibby, president; J. E. Beede, of Harpster, vice president; I. C. Hattabaugh, secretary and treasurer; Mark Howe, manager.

The board decided to proceed to drive another tunnel on what is known as the big ledge, and also to continue the tunnel on the small ledge; which has been opened up for a distance of 38 feet, showing good values.

There are four well defined ledges on the Schedule group, all of which have been thoroughly tested and the results satisfactory. While the showing is not large, like the "Imperial Corona" it is enough to warrant further development and the board is positive that there is a sufficient amount of ore to justify the erection of a mill and that it will pay.

### The TOPEKA GROUP.

In conversation with the News man regarding the Steckner section, Len Koen said in answer to a question regarding his own property:

"Yes, myself and G. L. L. Baskett own a group of claims over there and is known as the Topeka Nos. 1 and 2 and Wild Rose Nos. 1 and 2. The claims lie two deep and are traversed their entire length by two distinct ledges. The development work consists of numerous crosscuts, one 40 foot tunnel, which has not reached the ledge as yet, a 45 foot shaft from the bottom of which a drift is run twenty-five feet, which intersects the ledge, which shows a width of ten feet and carries good values. We join the Hercules group, which is under bond to Spokane capitalists. This bond expires the first of March unless taken up, which no doubt will be done. The Topeka group can be worked to a depth of 300 feet by a tunnel of 600 feet in length."

## A TRIP TO THE LE ROY.

A MINING NEWS Representative Makes it and Tells What He Saw.—Has an Immense Body of Ore.—Mill Will be Completed by the First of June.

While on a trip up in the Crooked river country during the week for the purpose of spying out the land, the MINING NEWS man drifted into the Le Roy camp where, true to the instincts of the genus prospector, he had hoped to arrive in time for dinner, a hope, by the way, which nearly failed, owing to a difference in time of which the scribe was ignorant. However, "all's well that ends well."

Superintendent Hye, with his accustomed courtesy, showed the reporter around, pointing out the development work accomplished or under headway. The main tunnel upon which he is working two shifts extends into the hill about two hundred feet with a present depth of one hundred feet. Should existing conditions obtain for another two hundred feet it will demonstrate the surprising fact that there is a veritable mountain of low grade ore there.

There are also two adits extending east and west respectfully from the main tunnel, thus demonstrating that the ore body is at least one hundred feet wide. Mr. Hye states that this ore pans nicely and that the entire body gives an average assay value of \$4 per ton. As stated in a former issue, this group consists of nine claims, all of

which, it appears, carries good values. The Le Roy No. 2, however, is the only one upon which extensive development work has been done. The group is well timbered and endowed with all nature's facilities for operating upon an extensive scale. The machinery for the mill is nearly all upon the ground and it is intended to begin active construction at once and it is the intention to have the stamps dropping about the first of June. In speaking of the Le Roy's acquisition of the Homestead Mr. Hye said:

"We have made the initial payment on this property and expect to get to work in about six weeks, we are merely waiting for Mr. Plummer to make his final report to the company. There are two tunnels run on the ledge. No. 1 is in 315 feet and No. 2 is in 450 feet, with a distance of seventy-five feet between levels. The ledge varies in width from eighteen inches to six feet and shows good safe values throughout. The surface work consists of a large number of crosscuts which shows the ledge up for a good distance.

This property was located by Penman and Yetter in 1894 and has been held by those gentlemen ever since and to whom great credit is due for their energy and perseverance."

## Tactics of Some Reserve Officials.

It now transpires that the prosecuting witness in the recent ejection proceedings begun against W. R. Bullock, is liable to find himself in a jackpot if a certain piece of information as given in the MINING NEWS is correct.

In the light of this information, which we are not permitted to give out at present, it would seem to us that this suit is the direct outcome of petty malice, engendered in a little mind, and brought to head by the good natured contempt with which the lordly pretensions of certain reserve "officials" was treated.

Let the reader conceive, if he can, what his own state of mind would be, if he received orders, mind, not a request, to the effect that he must not build a fence or put any other improvement he saw fit upon his mineral location, or be compelled to listen to the assertion of an impertinent ignoramus to the effect that his ground was not mineral, or as was the case of the American Eagle company, the said "official" remained carefully out of sight until the company had cut and rafted several thousand studs several miles and had them banked, when he made his appearance and confiscated the pile. We are credibly informed the studs were hauled during another period of retirement.

At the risk of becoming tedious we will relate another incident as being illustrative of those "beneficial laws" that seem to be such a sweet morsel to Major Fenn's palate. The keeper of a

road house in this district was reasoned with and bull dozed in turn by all and several of the officials in turn, from and including the superintendent, the supervisor and the head ranger to the last joined third class ranger, to the end that he take out a permit to do what the constitution of his country already permitted and guaranteed—the right to establish a home and make an honest living.

Well, this man, for the sake of peace, applied for the permit, signed the bond as published in these columns, only to find himself practically reduced to penury. For example, he related to the writer, the following incident: A man named Puelz established a saloon in the same locality as the road house and being of sturdy stock himself, he refused to apply for a permit. Now for the sequel. Those worthy officers whom Mr. Fenn says does so much good, in an obtrusive way, did not attack the saloon keeper because of his refusal to take out a permit. Learning that he was running a saloon without a county license, they ordered the keeper of the road house to make a formal complaint against him, threatening upon his refusal to play the part of a tool, to revoke his permit and expel him from the reserve. How the matter was finally worked out does not transpire. The incident is merely related to show what opportunities from harm are sometimes impulsively placed in irresponsible hands and how ready the average reserve official is to usurp the powers of regularly constituted authority.

## FIRE ASSAY THE BEST.

The Engineering and Mining Journal says: The vitality of a fallacy is proverbially great; one of the toughest appears to be the notion that a process can exist which will extract, profitably and on a working scale, more gold than can be determined in an ore by the fire assay. The name of Beam has been associated with such claims for a great many years. By reference to our files we find that in 1838 and again in 1897 the Beam process was made the subject of statements the absurdity of which was exposed in these columns. By the use of a muffle of special design and by the admixture of salt and sawdust, more gold was claimed to be extracted from ores than was detected by careful fire assay; several moribund mining enterprises were to be rejuvenated by Mr. Beam's alchemy and vast bodies of low grade ores were to be rendered profitable.

As was pointed out at the time, the emphasis on the inaccuracy of the ordinary assay means one thing to the technical man who understands that there are limits to human skill, but it conveys a wholly false notion to the public, who are led to the belief that the limit of error is big enough to represent a margin of profit for any method which can do a little better, even on ores usually discarded as so poor as to be beneath the reach of ordinary processes. As a matter of fact, the fire assay, when properly conducted, exceeds in accuracy any of the ordinary methods of ore reduction, and when a smelter, for instance, extracts an aggregate of gold greater than that paid for, an assay of samples representing a

large number of ore shipments, this result is due to the cumulative effect of minute quantities scattered through a number of lots, some of which contain gold below the minimum on which, according to contract, any payment is allowed. In the same way, certain lead ores in the crude state may not carry enough silver to be appreciable, yet what there is may become so concentrated in the pig lead as to yield a notable silver content, warranting extraction by subsequent refining.

At the present time the Beam process is the mainstay of a mining excitement in the Wichita mountains, in Oklahoma. The Roosevelt Record supplement contains assays of samples calculated to encourage fictitious hopes. As a matter of fact, government experts have recently examined, with great care, a large number of the best developed prospects in the region referred to, trying in each case to get fair samples of the presumed ore, and, when they secured, from the owners, samples of the same sort as those in which the Beam assayers had found values. Upwards of 300 pounds of samples were shipped to Washington and 71 separate assays were made; large quantities were used and every possible precaution was taken, yet not a trace of gold was found in any one of the samples. The whole excitement appears to be a fraud of the first water, and we would warn persons who might be misled by statements such as those emanating from the township which is doing dishonor to an honorable name.