

IN THE WEST'S MINERAL REALM

[Communications intended for the mining pages of the Standard, issued every Tuesday morning, will receive proper attention. They should be addressed to "The Anaconda Standard, Mining Department, Anaconda, Montana."]

THE MARKET'S RANGE.

Silver 60 3/8c
Copper 18 1/2c
Lead (brokers' price) 4-35c

Butte, July 24.—Local trading in copper stocks the past week was quiet and the market featureless, but considering the fact that this is one of the dulllest months of the year, the stock has kept up unusually well. The Boston & Montana company has declared a quarterly dividend of \$1 per share and an extra dividend of \$2 to stockholders of record July 27, and payable August 21. The high and low marks of the Butte stocks and Utah Consolidated for the period from July 18 to July 24, inclusive, were as follows:

Table with columns for stock names (Boston & Montana, Butte & Boston, Anaconda, Parrot, Utah Consolidated) and price ranges (High, Low).

A Butte Mining Exchange.

There is no good reason why Butte should not have a mining exchange. Not a bucket-shop affair, but a first-class exchange, made up of first-class men and organized upon a basis to command respect and confidence everywhere. In the aggregate value of her four great mineral products, gold, silver, copper and lead, Montana stands at the head of all the states in the Union. She is today the greatest mining state west of the Mississippi, and the time may easily come when her mineral output will be greater than that of any other state, even throwing coal and iron into the account.

Butte is Montana's greatest city, and will be as long as her mines hold out, and their ending no man can foresee. There is room for further development, not only in the Butte district, but all over the state. This is especially true of the western portion, of which Butte is the geographical and business center. Within one hundred and fifty miles of the city there are thousands of meritorious properties, great and small, that might be brought to the attention of capitalists only too anxious to invest in safe mining enterprises that promise a fair return.

There is probably no one thing that would contribute more immediately and substantially to that end than a thoroughly reliable mining exchange, through which the world of investors could obtain trustworthy information concerning mining properties of all kinds in the various counties and districts of the state. Such an exchange would serve the double purpose of advertising good properties and protecting investors against those unconscionable frauds which have done so much to hamper legitimate mining development and bring it into disrepute among financiers. It would, moreover, be no inconsiderable factor in the up-building of Butte itself. We should like to see some of Butte's leading business men take hold of the matter and push it.

A Mining Revival.

From all parts of the Western United States and from British Columbia the mining intelligence is of the most favorable character. No extraordinary "finds" are reported, causing wild and feverish rushes, and there is nothing to justify a stampede in any particular point. Many new developments are being made, but they are nearly or quite all in properties of a class requiring capital for their operation. Capital seldom gets excited in business matters—although it frequently does in politics—and it just as seldom fails to take advantage of really good opportunities. The reported improvements are generally of the most substantial character. New and improved machinery is being set up, deep shafts are being sunk, long tunnels are being run, expensive water ditches, railroads and tramways are being constructed. This means that the parties investing have made careful examinations of the properties and are satisfied with the result. Of course mistakes may be made, but in general such investments and improvements give an assurance of permanency.

Another very encouraging feature of the situation is the resumption of operations upon old properties which have been idle, or nearly so, for years. In many such cases we learn that new methods have been introduced, either chemical or mechanical, by which ores heretofore deemed too poor to work can be made to yield a profit. Among these may be mentioned especially the cyanide process, concentration, and mechanical appliances for the handling

of the scores and tallings. This revival will, of necessity, further stimulate invention, which in turn will give value to properties of still lower grade. Low grade ores must ultimately be the backbone of the mining industry, because of their relative abundance. Ores containing from three to five dollars per ton, exist in quantities that are practically inexhaustible. A system of mining and treatment by which they can be worked would give to mining a permanency second only to that of farming, and far more of uniformity and certainty in the returns.

That such a system may be devised in the near future is neither impossible nor improbable. The step is very much shorter than some which have already been taken.

Mining in Alaska

Mingled with stories of rich strikes in the Alaskan gold fields come many tales of appalling hardships, and danger and death. In considering them it is well to remember that gold discoveries are almost invariably exaggerated, while the difficulties and sufferings are usually minimized. It is as natural for miners who have made "finds" to over-estimate their value as it is for them to breathe. Not that they intend to misrepresent, but merely because their boundless hope and enthusiasm warp their judgment and they view their prospects through highly-colored media.

When a shipment of gold is actually made, of course the shipper knows how much there is of it, and so does the person to whom it is consigned, but no one else does, except through second-hand information which may be true or not. In illustration of the uncertainty surrounding such matters, reference may be made to the case of Governor McGraw of Washington, who lately returned to Seattle after a two-years' sojourn in Alaska. It is said that the estimates of the gold dust which he brought back with him varied all the way from \$12,000 to \$100,000, the governor himself declining to make any statement.

This, however, we do know: Rich deposits of gold are comparatively few and far between in any country. If they were not, gold would soon become so abundant as to have very little value. There is no reason to doubt that Alaska contains fairly within this rule. It is quite certain that there is gold there in spots. How much there is of it is yet to be determined. But it is equally certain that there is almost no limitation upon Alaska's climate for two seasons and there is enough ore on the dump to warrant further development. It is proposed to ship ore back to the coast by the coastwise route, and to promote the development of the Big Hole copper lusters. J. A. Leggat is sinking a prospect shaft in the near of the vacant lot just west of the Silver King building.

Another strike of good ore has been reported in the fickle Silver King in Missoula gulch. This is what the leasors call a "traded" ledge, and is a large number of Butte citizens have inspected Barney Bohn and T. J. McGuire's new smoke consumer at the Holland rink and they all say that it works like a charm. The inventors hope to see their invention on all the fame stacks by next winter.

Tom Jewell, a wood hauler, reported to his friends in Butte that he panned some gravel in the old Thompson diggings in Homestead, and that he had dug out and obtained 50 cents from six pans. This ground is spotted. As high as \$120 to the pan has been taken from these diggings. The gulch has a depth of only four inches, and is owned by Martin and Jerry Phillips, former residents of Butte, are now interested in a claim in the Silver Crown district in Wyoming. The ore they are extracting is a copper concentrate assaying from 20 to 65 per cent. They will ship to Denver next week.

Among the articles of incorporation filed in Spokane are the following: (1) It will be the business of the capital is interested: Greenwood, Mullins and Mullins company—Capital stock \$100,000, in 100,000 shares at \$1; incorporators, S. H. Greenwood, E. L. Kern, J. H. Chaskey and J. H. King. (2) Smoke House Copper Mining company—Capital stock \$150,000, in 3,000,000 shares at 5 cents; incorporators, James Murray, John Noyes, W. McC. White, Pat Mullins and Charles S. Eiting.

LEVEL AND STOPE.

The Carson, Nevada, mint has been reduced to an assay office. For ten years past it has required a constant struggle on the part of the Nevada congressional delegation to prevent this action. The cost of coinage was higher there than in the other mints, partly because of its location, and partly because of its small size. Besides, the mint bureau always claimed that bullion cost more there than at the other mints. It is not easy to see why this should have been so, unless the officials included the cost of shipping the coin to points where it was wanted. However that may be, the closing of this mint is another evidence that the glory of the Comstock has departed.

In the march of mining development Arizona is keeping step with her neighbors. Reports from that territory are of a gratifying character. From various districts comes news of markedly improved conditions, both in the matter of new discoveries and a better outlook for old properties. The districts of Weaver, Union Pass, Mineral Park, Stinson, Liberty and others all appear to be showing up well, and to have taken a new lease of life. The new discoveries are of a diversified character, including placer and quartz gold, silver and copper. Arizona being a very dry region, should realize the full share of the advantages of the new

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No country in the world, says the Mining and Engineering Review, has furnished so much coin as Mexico. The mints have come into being with a certainty and in a quantity never equaled by any other country. The mint in Zacatecas has coined silver dollars at the rate of four to five millions a year from the 18th century to the present time. Even during the war of Independence, from 1811 to 1827, \$66,332,000 were coined. Large as the amounts coined by the different states of Mexico have been, they sink into insignificance when compared with the amount coined by the mint at the capital. It has coined from 1820 to 1893, \$1,352,000,000, and from the conquest to its independence, \$2,028,000,000, or to the present time exceeds \$3,000,000,000.

In some of the mines on the continent where both oil engines and electric motors have been used, some comparison between the cost of the two systems is possible. In one mine the cost of the former has been 1-34 per cent. higher than that of the latter, in the case of the electric motor. The cost of two oil locomotives is said to have been one-fourth of the cost of one electric motor. The steam, nitrogen and carbonic acid evolution, which was not enough to vitiate the atmosphere; and it has the advantage of compactness. It works on a two-foot one-inch power, and when exerting six horse-power, is capable of taking a maximum load of 17 tons. It is said that when running at the maximum speed of four and one-half miles per hour, with the full load, the consumption of fuel is but one and one-half pounds per hour. An arrangement of friction clutches and chain gear on the crank shaft enables the engine to run the subject of more or less good-natured objection between those arrayed on the opposing sides.

It was understood that Professor Clarence D. King, formerly of the United States geological survey, a man of the very highest standing, both as to character and scientific attainments, would open the case for the Anaconda company, which is the plaintiff in the action. In his testimony it was supposed that the scientific theories of the plaintiff would be fully and clearly stated. A foundation being thus laid, Professor King was to have been supported by the scientific testimony of associates scarcely less distinguished than himself.

Of these Dr. N. S. Shaler, professor of geology in Harvard University, is especially mentioned. He is said by his associates that Dr. Shaler is one of the most eminent geologists of America, state geologist of Kentucky, of which state he is a native—and for a time he was connected with the geological survey. He is the author of a number of scientific and popular pamphlets on geological and other scientific subjects, besides having been largely connected with mining in a practical way, both as an expert and as a lecturer. He is said to be indefatigable and unflinching, being affectionately and familiarly dubbed by his friends "Never Slay Shaler"—the nickname being a double play upon the initials of the name and his capacity for work. It is an amusing coincidence that he should now be connected as an expert with a case in which the Never Slay mine is deeply interested, the doctor being on the Never Slay side, where he seems to naturally belong.

Another very noted man in the group is Dr. R. W. Raymond. He was formerly editor of the Engineering and Mining Journal, and was its long-time founder. For several terms he was president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and for many years has been its secretary. He may hold the latter position in the case now pending. He is a man of wide scientific education at Freiburg, in Saxony, and by many he is considered to be the highest mining authority in America. Upon such a point, however, there are many who differ, and in our opinion, Dr. Raymond's peculiar efficiency as a mining expert lies in his combined knowledge of mining geology and mining law. He also possesses reputation so far as engineering, inventions and fine descriptive powers. Of this writer has some personal knowledge from having heard the doctor testify in court.

D. W. Brunson of Denver has had the preparation of the Anaconda case, so far as its geological features are concerned. He is a mining engineer, and an experienced of twenty-eight years, who has been in the possession of the most varied and practical character. His work having been generally in the line of management of mines and mining properties, he is well connected with the Anaconda people, more or less, for several years, in something of an advisory capacity. He formerly resided in Esmeralda county, Nevada, where he managed the Silver Peak mine. He is now in charge of the Cowhovey tunnel at Aspen, Col. With the exception of the Suro tunnel in Nevada, this is said to be the longest mining tunnel in the world, and is being about two and a quarter miles. It is also said to be the best paying mining tunnel in the country. Mr. Brunson also has charge of several mines.

The Standard's representative is not so familiar with the personnel of the experts upon the Colusa-Parrot side, but it may be said that no special effort has been spared to secure the aid of most thoroughly equipped and competent men. The general work of preparing that side of the case is in the hands of George E. Robinson, of Salt Lake City. All of the experts connected with the case on either side we know Mr. Robinson, speak of his abilities in terms of unstinted praise. He is a man of wide scientific and consulting engineer and general expert.

Probably the most noted man on the defendants' side is W. S. Keyes of San Francisco. Mr. Keyes is a son of General Keyes, fourth army corps fame in the civil war. He graduated at Yale, took the usual courses at the Royal School of Mines in Freiberg, and in 1863 he went to California. He is an expert in all the big flume cases since then has been the best-known mining expert on the Pacific coast. Living alternately in California, Mexico, Nevada and Montana, he has been a conspicuous figure in mining litigation for the last thirty years. The early litigation on that line in Nevada was of the most important character, and a mining case of any magnitude without the aid of Keyes is a prominent factor was an anomaly. He has held many important positions, official, semi-official and private, in all of which his mining law was an essential requirement. He is now operating mines as owner, director or consulting engineer in California and Old Mexico.

Several other prominent mining experts are also in Butte, among them Louis Janin of San Francisco and S. W. Tyler of Denver, both mining engineers of high standing. These gentlemen are associated with Clarence D. King in the Boston & Montana side in the suit between that company and the Montana Ore Purchasing company, involving lodes lying beneath the surface of the Pennsylvania claim, and it is not unlikely that they will be called upon to give their expert opinion on the ground is Walter S. Kel-

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Pending Litigation Has Brought Noted Specialists to Butte.

THE GALAXY OF EXPERTS

Some of Them Are Men of Fame in the World of Science—The Case Is Adjudged, but They'll Come Back.

In the case of the Anaconda company against the Colusa-Parrot company, all further proceedings have been postponed until September, the precise day not being named. This announcement was made on Wednesday last, greatly to the disappointment of an expectant public whose interest had been aroused to a high point by the nature of the case, the character of the parties and the number and distinction of the scientific men who had been assembled for the purpose of throwing light upon the geology of the Butte district in general, and of the lode in controversy more particularly. No reason for the postponement was given to the public. Even the experts seemed to be taken somewhat by surprise, and it was made the subject of more or less good-natured objection between those arrayed on the opposing sides.

It was understood that Professor Clarence D. King, formerly of the United States geological survey, a man of the very highest standing, both as to character and scientific attainments, would open the case for the Anaconda company, which is the plaintiff in the action. In his testimony it was supposed that the scientific theories of the plaintiff would be fully and clearly stated. A foundation being thus laid, Professor King was to have been supported by the scientific testimony of associates scarcely less distinguished than himself.

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LOCAL MENTION.

Alderman McIntyre of Walkerville is developing a promising copper prospect in the Big Hole country, about nine miles above Divide. He has worked the mine for two seasons and there is enough ore on the dump to warrant further development. It is proposed to ship ore back to the coast by the coastwise route, and to promote the development of the Big Hole copper lusters. J. A. Leggat is sinking a prospect shaft in the near of the vacant lot just west of the Silver King building.

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ley, who is on the side of the Montana Ore Purchasing company. This case will be tried, and it will be the Standard's pleasure to suitably mention these gentlemen when that case shall have been further unfolded. The continuance of the Anaconda-Colusa-Parrot case led to an immediate exodus of these gentlemen, some going in one direction and some in another, all in the best of humor, but nevertheless each with the warlike promise of meeting his adversary "at Philipp," that is to say, in the United States circuit court next September.

FOR SIX MONTHS.

Figures on the Production of Copper for the Year's First Six Months. Boston, July 24.—The apparent consumption of copper in the United Kingdom for the six months ended June 30, 1899, was 10,000 tons, against 10,000 tons in 1898. The stock June 30 on London, Liverpool and Swansea was 20,470 tons, against 19,460 tons January 1, and 21,550 June 30, 1898.

The New York Metal exchange gives its estimate of the output, exportation and domestic consumption of copper by the United States for six months of 1899 in long SUPPLIES. For the six months ending June 30, 1899: Domestic production, producers' estimate, 124,487; Net importation, 13,908; Total supplies, 138,395. DELIVERIES. For the six months ending June 30, 1899: Exports of domestic to Europe, 51,723; Exports of domestic to British North America, 229; Exports of domestic to Mexico, 50; Contents of sulphate of copper exported, 7,640 tons at 25 per cent., 1,910; Total deliveries, 125,903. It points out that the domestic production shows an increase of exactly 4,000 tons compared with 1898, but compared with the last half of 1898 the increase amounts to 10,702 tons. The importation for the six months ending June 30, 1899, shows a decrease of 13,611 tons from 1898 and of 14,180 tons if compared with the last six months of 1898. The contents of sulphate exported show an increase of \$20 tons compared with the last six months of 1898. The surplus in supplies over deliveries amounts to 12,492 tons, the greater part of which went into newly established refineries.

The doubtful factor in the above calculation is that of domestic consumption, which there seems to be no means of measuring. Perhaps the foregoing estimate of the supply of copper in this country and so way of knowing the stocks brought over from 1898, it is worth remarking that the importation for the six months ending June 30, 1899, shows a decrease of 13,611 tons from 1898 and of 14,180 tons if compared with the last six months of 1898. The contents of sulphate exported show an increase of \$20 tons compared with the last six months of 1898. The surplus in supplies over deliveries amounts to 12,492 tons, the greater part of which went into newly established refineries.

DEVELOPMENTS AT LIBBY. Important Work on the Buzz Saw—Others Properties Bonded. Special Correspondence of the Standard. Libby, July 20.—Operations at the Buzz Saw mine, situated eight miles south of Libby, are progressing steadily. The first day of September it is expected that the concentrator will be started up. This mine is one of a group on Shaughnessy hill which has been acquired by the Libby Creek Mining company, which is controlled by the United States & British Columbia Mining company, which is operating mines in several of the Western states. The property was acquired by the Buzz Saw mine, the original owners, and it is generally supposed that the deal was made on a basis of \$70,000. The first payment on the property was made about a month ago, and the balance is to be paid in the operation of this property is the construction of a 150-ton concentrator to be run by water power. The foundation of the mill was put in the past week and large part of the framing has already been done. All the buildings on the side of the mill building are now completed and these include the offices, residence of the superintendent, bunk house, stable, assay office, powder house, and a new mill building. Every day in the week turning out about 20,000 feet of lumber every 24 hours, and this is about enough to keep the carpenters going. As fast as it is cut it is loaded in the different parts of the works and is put into the various structures.

The biggest part of the work in getting the plant in operation is the construction of the flume. This is to be three and a half miles in length and is three feet wide and a half and a half deep. It will carry 2,200 inches of the water of Granite creek and will give a fall of 400 feet at the mill. The bottom of this has about been completed and the carpenters are now engaged in putting up the sides. It will require in the neighborhood of a million feet of lumber to complete the flume. The flume was begun in the middle where the timber is delivered by wagons, from which place it is taken to the end of the work by dolly train.

In addition to the flume described above, the company has already completed a flume which conveys the waters of White Fan creek to the buildings, and a good water supply pending the construction of the big flume. This is used in all the buildings and affords a protection against fire and is also used to drive a Pelton wheel, which furnishes air in the mine. This water is to be used for the water system for the camp and will be piped into the various buildings, the pipes having arrived this week.

The mine has been developed by seven cross-cut tunnels, the longest one being 550 feet, through which all the ore from the upper levels will be taken into the mill, which is being built a little way down the gulch from the mouth of the tunnel and this tunnel is just being widened to a working size, being now seven by four feet in the clear, and has been retimbered the entire length of the vein. On this level a force has been put at work driving both ways on the vein and the ore is being piled up ready to be run through the mill. On the tunnel just above the level of the mill, the work is being done on the level below. On account of the level below not having been extended to a point under the face of the tunnel, it has been found necessary to sink a shaft rather than to sink and make an opening, as there is not

been enough stopping ground opened up to keep the mill running. These seven tunnels have exposed a continuous ore body over 900 feet in length and from the lowest to the upper tunnel the elevation is about 400 feet. The average width of the ledge is about four feet and the ore averages about \$10 a ton, and about \$2 is in gold. It will concentrate to the best advantage 11 into one.

The concentrator will have a capacity for using up 150 tons of ore every 24 hours, and will have eight Wilfley tables, and one feature of the plant will be the introduction of the Pratt-Wetley screen, which has recently been invented by the two employees in the Butte Reduction Works, and the invention bears the inventors' names. It is considered a great improvement over anything yet known to the mining fraternity, and Mr. Dikeman, the superintendent of the company, has just returned from Butte, where he has seen the work. The result of his inspection is their introduction into this plant.

A new wagon road has been surveyed from the mine to Libby and a uniform grade has been found, which in no place will exceed 4 per cent. Part of the work on this road has already been done and the rest will be completed soon as the weather advances. The concentrator is a little further advanced. Arthur Winslow, the president of the company, is expected here about the first of August and while here will determine as to whether or not drills will be put into the mine, whether electric light plant will be installed, steam heaters put in the mill and the other buildings, and a telephone line built between the mine and Libby. All this work has been done by Messrs. Imhof & Prader of Spokane for \$7,500. These claims were owned by Ed Michaud and others of Libby, and have been developed by about 200 feet of tunnels. They are now being purchased by the mine and the gentlemen who purchased them already own some ground in the same gulch. The deed for the property was placed in escrow in Nef & Plumbe's office, and the highest assessor has been given 60 days to make the payment. The ledge on the St. Paul, on which most of the work has been done, is about four feet wide and the ore is about 100 feet long. The ledge has been in the neighborhood of \$60 in silver and lead.

John L. Searlet, an Englishman of means who has been making Libby his headquarters for the past year, has bonded the Old Jack claim, situated on the head of Libby creek, from Jake Teeter of Libby. The papers were made out yesterday, but the terms of the deal were not given out, although the conditions of the bond known, but it is known to include doing a certain amount of development work, and a force has already left this place for that purpose.

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The biggest part of the work in getting the plant in operation is the construction of the flume. This is to be three and a half miles in length and is three feet wide and a half and a half deep. It will carry 2,200 inches of the water of Granite creek and will give a fall of 400 feet at the mill. The bottom of this has about been completed and the carpenters are now engaged in putting up the sides. It will require in the neighborhood of a million feet of lumber to complete the flume. The flume was begun in the middle where the timber is delivered by wagons, from which place it is taken to the end of the work by dolly train.

In addition to the flume described above, the company has already completed a flume which conveys the waters of White Fan creek to the buildings, and a good water supply pending the construction of the big flume. This is used in all the buildings and affords a protection against fire and is also used to drive a Pelton wheel, which furnishes air in the mine. This water is to be used for the water system for the camp and will be piped into the various buildings, the pipes having arrived this week.

The mine has been developed by seven cross-cut tunnels, the longest one being 550 feet, through which all the ore from the upper levels will be taken into the mill, which is being built a little way down the gulch from the mouth of the tunnel and this tunnel is just being widened to a working size, being now seven by four feet in the clear, and has been retimbered the entire length of the vein. On this level a force has been put at work driving both ways on the vein and the ore is being piled up ready to be run through the mill. On the tunnel just above the level of the mill, the work is being done on the level below. On account of the level below not having been extended to a point under the face of the tunnel, it has been found necessary to sink a shaft rather than to sink and make an opening, as there is not

been enough stopping ground opened up to keep the mill running. These seven tunnels have exposed a continuous ore body over 900 feet in length and from the lowest to the upper tunnel the elevation is about 400 feet. The average width of the ledge is about four feet and the ore averages about \$10 a ton, and about \$2 is in gold. It will concentrate to the best advantage 11 into one.

The concentrator will have a capacity for using up 150 tons of ore every 24 hours, and will have eight Wilfley tables, and one feature of the plant will be the introduction of the Pratt-Wetley screen, which has recently been invented by the two employees in the Butte Reduction Works, and the invention bears the inventors' names. It is considered a great improvement over anything yet known to the mining fraternity, and Mr. Dikeman, the superintendent of the company, has just returned from Butte, where he has seen the work. The result of his inspection is their introduction into this plant.

A new wagon road has been surveyed from the mine to Libby and a uniform grade has been found, which in no place will exceed 4 per cent. Part of the work on this road has already been done and the rest will be completed soon as the weather advances. The concentrator is a little further advanced. Arthur Winslow, the president of the company, is expected here about the first of August and while here will determine as to whether or not drills will be put into the mine, whether electric light plant will be installed, steam heaters put in the mill and the other buildings, and a telephone line built between the mine and Libby. All this work has been done by Messrs. Imhof & Prader of Spokane for \$7,500. These claims were owned by Ed Michaud and others of Libby, and have been developed by about 200 feet of tunnels. They are now being purchased by the mine and the gentlemen who purchased them already own some ground in the same gulch. The deed for the property was placed in escrow in Nef & Plumbe's office, and the highest assessor has been given 60 days to make the payment. The ledge on the St. Paul, on which most of the work has been done, is about four feet wide and the ore is about 100 feet long. The ledge has been in the neighborhood of \$60 in silver and lead.

John L. Searlet, an Englishman of means who has been making Libby his headquarters for the past year, has bonded the Old Jack claim, situated on the head of Libby creek, from Jake Teeter of Libby. The papers were made out yesterday, but the terms of the deal were not given out, although the conditions of the bond known, but it is known to include doing a certain amount of development work, and a force has already left this place for that purpose.

MORE ORE IN LITIGATION

Suits That Are a Part of a Famous Fight in Butte.

SOME FINE POINTS RAISED

In This Pair of Lawsuits Between Mr. Heinze and the Boston People Law and Geology Will Figure.

The litigation now pending with reference to mining properties in the Butte district is of the most important character. Not so much because of the actual or supposed money value of the rights in controversy as by reason of the nature of the questions involved, and the far reaching effect which their decision may have upon rights in mineral lodes throughout the entire country. The actions both at law and in equity are being watched with the keenest interest by the members of the local bar, and with even more intense feeling by the eminent geologists and mining engineers, who in one relation or another have lately been attracted to Butte.

Last week reference was made to the case of the Anaconda company against the Colusa-Parrot, and the nature of the issue was stated as well as it is known in this city. The case having gone over until September, public interest now centers in the action by the Montana Ore Purchasing company against the Boston & Montana. This case is said by attorneys and experts to be even more important than the Anaconda case against the Colusa-Parrot. It is certainly more difficult and complex, both in a legal and geological point of view. The case is a double action at law and in equity, and the causes of action being stated by the plaintiff.

The first is a simple action of trespass, in which the Montana Ore Purchasing company, after alleging its ownership of the Johnstown lode, claims \$100,000 damages, the value of ore claimed to have been extracted from the lode by the Boston & Montana people. The special averment is that the Johnstown lode dips to the south to such an extent as to carry it beyond the south side line of that claim and into the surface of the Pennsylvania claim, from which portion of the lode in question it is alleged that the ore has been taken through the workings of the Pennsylvania.

The second or equity cause of action, it is alleged, is the defendant's taking of the surface of the Pennsylvania claim, from which portion of the lode in question it is alleged that the ore has been taken through the workings of the Pennsylvania. The second or equity cause of action, it is alleged, is the defendant's taking of