

# Elk City Mining News.

VOL. II. No. 22.

ELK CITY, IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO, SATURDAY MAY 27, 1905.

2.00 The Year.

## NEWS OF THE CAMP

### Local Happenings Among the Mines--Leases the Yellow Jacket--Will Develop the Union Group--Sensational Find

#### Leases the Yellow Jacket.

Messrs. Hillier, Whipple and Natwick have secured a two year's lease on the well known Yellow Jacket in the Siegle Creek section.

#### Are Looking for Property.

Messrs. Corkoran and Harsh of Boston and Denver are again in camp with the object of acquiring mining property.

#### Are Grinding Ore.

Cole & Duhrkop have started up their arastra on White Horse ore after a period of idleness, during which they developed their property to a considerable depth with the result that they have better ore than ever.

#### Gold Hill Resumes.

Walter Cook, who recently severed his connection with the C. R. M. & M. company as boss carpenter, has put a force of men to work on the Gold Hill placers, owned by himself and others.

#### Make a Mill Test.

Jno. Massam, of the Gold Dove, reports that himself and associates are taking out ore from that property preparatory to making a mill run with the object of testing the free values of the ore.

#### A Sensational Find.

E. E. Espey, one of the owners of the South Fork group, reports a new find in the same locality which, from all reports, is equal, if not superior, to anything yet found in the district. The ledge is five feet wide and is said to yield as high as \$300 per ton to simple pan tests.

#### To Thunder Mountain.

The Stonebreaker brothers and Frank Roberts of Stites passed through town Tuesday with their pack train on their way to Roosevelt. Nash Wayland and Harry Markham arrived in Elk Sunday with the former's pack train, also loaded for Roosevelt. They unloaded here and doubled back for another load before proceeding farther.

#### Will Develop.

W. E. Rispin and M. Campbell of Chatham, Ont., treasurer and director, respectively, in the Mammoth & Great Eastern Mining company, accompanied by N. E. Linsley, a mining engineer of Spokane, made a visit of inspection to the Union group this week with the object of deciding as to whether the development work done would justify the immediate installation of a mill. It is understood that while the gentlemen were well pleased with the progress made in development and the amount of ore developed, they concluded to sink 100 feet deeper and open a new level before considering the reduction question further. They returned to the outside Wednesday.

#### Samples the Buster.

M. J. Heller of San Francisco spent several days in camp this week sampling the Buster.

#### Warren-Big Creek Road.

The state wagon road commission made its first appropriation last Tuesday. It set aside \$10,000 to build the road from Warren to Big Creek, a distance of 30 miles. The mining companies in Big Creek and the citizens of Weiser and upper country have agreed to contribute an equal amount for the purpose.

#### Turning Out the Gold.

The Grangeville Standard says the chlorination plant at the Jumbo in the Hump is in full and satisfactory operation. They were delayed somewhat in getting a certain brand of flexible hose that is needed for operating the process, the chlorine attacking and destroying ordinary hose almost like a fire would do. The new material has been delayed for several weeks from the factory.

#### Senator Clark Wins Out.

Butte advices state that the circuit court of appeals at San Francisco handed down a decision in the case of the United Staes vs. Senator Clark, appealed from the federal court of Montana, involving title to large tracts of timber land in western Montana, affirming the decision of the Montana court, finding that Senator Clark's title to the land in question is valid and that his patents stand. It was stated that fraud had been committed by the entrymen, but this the government failed to prove; no fraud nor irregularity whatever being shown in the transactions whereby Senator Clark came in possession of the lands.

#### A Valuable Dyke.

Dixie, Idaho, May 20, 1905.

Editor Mining News:

During the last two years I have seen a great many articles, and heard much talk about the big dykes on the Printer group, near the mouth of Little Salmon. The major portion of the reports I had set down as the idle chatter of windy prospectors; but now I am willing to join with the procession in saying that the possibilities of the proposition have not been exaggerated in the least.

Since leaving Elk I have made rather a thorough examination of the various dykes, noting their length, width, etc.; and I can honestly say they take rank with anything of the kind I have seen in the fourteen years of my mining experience. In one thing the dykes are unique; being at an altitude of but 2,500 feet, work can be carried on the year round without any inconvenience from freezing and ice-clogged machinery. This is alone an advantage

possessed by but few mines. The main dyke outcrops good and strong about 200 yards from the river. From this point I followed the outcropping without a break, for about a mile and a half. In this distance the ground raised about 1,200 feet. The dyke ranged in width from 50 to 200 feet. It appeared to be mineralized the entire distance, and in many places the ore was of exceptionally good appearance. It is principally porphyry, with a good admixture of quartz. In many places the outcroppings show above the surroundings in masses of thousands of tons.

Aside from the main dyke at intervals along the way feeders branch out in all directions, some of them from ten to fifty feet wide. There are a dozen or more of these. In the aggregate, I should say the dykes are from 100 to 500 feet wide. The millions of tons of ore they contain are almost beyond belief. In fact, I see but one drawback to the proposition; there is too much ore; it would worry a man to death trying to figure out how to work out the veins in several centuries.

There is about 300 feet of development, all of which seems to indicate that the ore gains value with depth. In the drifts a foot or better in depth is gained for every foot advanced. In some places the hills rise so abruptly as to be almost perpendicular, making the proposition an ideal gravity one.

The trend of the main dyke is north-east and south-west. It cuts the formation at right angles, and has every appearance of being a true fissure.

The rushing torrents of the Little Salmon river will supply abundant water and power for any purpose. This stream carries several thousand inches of water and appears to have a fall of from 100 to 200 feet to the mile. The waters tumble along in a series of cascades, and makes the stream a picturesque one.

Considering the modern economical manner of working mines, I see no reason why this group should not prove a rich producer for many years. It is a low grade proposition, and necessarily must be worked on a large scale to be successful. As a great many companies have demonstrated within the past year or so that ore can be successfully mined and milled at a cost of about fifty cents per ton, I do not see any valid reason why the Nonpareil Mining & Development company should not enter this class. I can not conceive of any advantage, in the way of tonage and natural facilities for working, possessed by any company which would be in and way superior to this company of which I am writing.

Unlike the wildcat operators who are here today making a big splurge, and pulling out tomorrow owing everyone in the community, the N. M. & D. Co. is going ahead only so fast as funds are actually on hand. This makes the process of development rather slow; but under the conservative management of Mr. Baily, I have no doubt but what this system will win out in the end—benefiting not only the stockholders of this company, but the whole district as well.

MOSE THORN.

#### UNITED VERDE CAVES

##### If Bad as Feared the Property May Remain a Ruin.

A special from Prescott of May 22, published in the Tribune, says millions of tons of rock and earth caved in at noon today in Senator Clark's United Verde copper mine at Jerome, Ariz., the ground dropping over the surface to the 700-foot level. Cracking timbers gave the alarm and three hundred miners fled for their lives and escaped uninjured.

For several days the ground has been settling and the timbers cracking. Today with a mighty crash the earth caved, carrying with it the new shaft, levels, drifts and stopes.

From fissures on the surface came clouds of sulphur smoke from that part of the mine which has been on fire for several years.

The extent of the damage cannot yet be ascertained, but it is feared the great property will be closed and the existence of Jerome doomed.

The hoisting works, which are over the mine, have settled and the machinery cannot be worked. The smelting plant has also been shut down and all activity ceased. The officials of the company take an optimistic view of the situation and say the damage is not irreparable and the that smelter will be working again in a month.

##### Locator and His Discovery.

Mining and Scientific Press.

Notwithstanding the fact that the federal law plainly says a discovery of mineral-bearing rock in place must be made prior to location, many locations are made before a discovery and the actual discovery accomplished later by the work of exploration. The courts have decided that a location so made is valid and dates from the discovery of mineral by the original locator, provided no other party makes a location before him. There is, however, a growing tendency on the part of the courts to protect the prospector who locates in good faith and with diligence seeks to make a discovery by working on his claim after the act of location. In those instances where veins plainly outcrop there is no excuse for location prior to discovery; but there are places where discovery is impossible without days, or weeks, and, in some instances, months, of work. Leadville, Col., affords an excellent example of this condition, for the ore deposit of that district are to a very great extent covered by deep deposits of glacial drift and sheets of porphyry. The silicious ore bodies of the Cambrian and Carboniferous formations in Lawrence county, S. D., are in many instances similar where the formations originally overlying the ore bodies have not been removed by erosion.

In California miles of vein-bearing territory are covered by the debris of ancient rivers and their volcanic capping. At Tonopah, Nev., the extensions of the known mineral veins run underneath the later andesites, and surface discovery is impossible. It must not be thought that the courts will protect those who merely make locations without discovery, and then make no attempt to find mineral. It requires earnest and continuous effort on the part of the prospector to find a mineral deposit within the lines of his

claim by actually working at shaft sinking or tunneling or sinking bore holes. Having found the mineral an amended location may be made which does not conflict with the pre-existing rights of others. In former years the strict letter of the law was adhered to, and half a dozen different parties might prospect on a given area, all having made locations, and the first party to reach the mineral vein or deposit was awarded the claim by the courts. Leadville furnished numerous examples of this practice; but this was so manifestly unfair to the others whose efforts, while bona fide, had been in vain, that the courts now look with favor upon the first locator who actually shows his good faith by diligent work—not merely the assessment work, but continuous and vigorous work performed daily until a discovery of a vein, or ore deposit has actually been made. The conditions here described are preeminently exemplified in the oil regions, where a discovery of oil is practically impossible in most instances without boring a hole from the surface to the oil-bearing stratum, and the courts have protected the first locators who showed substantial evidence of good faith. The Mexican mining laws, framed to advance the mining industry and to promote the exploration of its mineral resources, are far ahead of those of the United States in this regard. There a citizen or resident may apply for exclusive permission to prospect a stated tract of land, and, if there be no legal reason why such permit should not be granted, the mining agent of the district surveys the tract selected and issues the desired permit to prospect and explore for minerals therein for a stated time. Having found mineral, the prospector may then denounce as many pertenencias as he desires to pay the tax upon. The advantage of the Mexican law is in the exclusive privilege which it gives those who desire to comply with its stipulations.

##### Platinum.

Pure platinum is a silvery white metal with a specific gravity of 21.15. It is the heaviest metal occurring in nature with the exception of iridosmium. It is almost as hard as iron and very malleable. Platinum does not amalgamate with quicksilver, is not dissolved by potassium cyanide when cold, is not attacked by acids, except the mixture of nitric acid and hydro-chloric acid known as aqua regia. It is more difficult to melt than gold.

Platinum is most readily distinguished as follows: (1) By its great weight—in panning it remains behind even gold in the pan; (2) its white color—it is whiter than lead and is distinguished from amalgam by its smooth surface, whereas the surface of amalgam, as seen under a good glass, is rough; (3) its resistance to nitric acid, as compared with native silver or lead.

Native platinum is usually very impure; occasionally it contains so much iron, chromite, and other impurities as to be dark in color and not easily distinguished from grains of chromite with which it is very frequently associated. It often contains iridosmite, which occurs as flat angular scales, while platinum grains are rounded like gold dust. Generally, platinum grains are smaller than gold grains. Large nuggets are rare.