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WILL BLACK LAKE BREAK OUR BONDS

IRON SPRINGS CO. PROMISES TO RIVAL FORD OPERATIONS.

For long years Washington County has struggled against every imaginable adversity and drawback to get her mining industry on a productive footing. Mineral, Ruthburg, Seven Devils and other districts have in turn shown prospects of being able to break the bonds that seem to hold us fast, and as regularly has some unjust condition or fateful cause set the day of deliverance. It appears that Black Lake, a district we never mentioned until two or three years ago, will be the locality to pull us out of the mire and establish our mineral reputation on a basis that will enable us to secure the capital necessary to open one of the greatest

mineral belts in the west. The Fords have the honor of placing the first complete mining camp in Washington county and next season they will astonish the mining world. They now have one million dollars worth of ore on the dump, thousands of tons blocked out for stoping and development for opening of new bodies going on. They will get the tramway and pipe line in for a short run this fall but not until next season can they have a fair opportunity to prove the mineral pre-eminence of Black Lake.

The Iron Springs Mining Co., operating at Paradise Flat, bids fair to bring a second group to the same

prominence, while several important transfers of other property show that Black Lake is now on a road to fame, and there are no present indications of a break in the proceedings or any financial adversities to contend with as in other districts.

C. F. Macey, superintendent of the Iron Springs Co., is in Weiser purchasing supplies for the mines and he thinks several cars of machinery, hoists, air compressors, steam drills, etc., will be ordered this fall and that a complete milling plant will shortly follow. Mr. Macey is now building a wagon road from Black Lake around to Paradise Flat one and a half miles, in order to facilitate development. A force of seven men are now on the group of a dozen claims owned by the company. The largest tunnel is 250 feet and the greatest depth is 185 feet. The force will be increased and work continued all winter. The president of this company is J. E. Neven of Youngstown, Ohio, and other Youngstown people and Pittsburg parties are interested.

Story of a Frontiersman.

Once upon a time there was a merchant who thought himself the proper stuff. He had one wholesale house he favored with all his

business. Of course that house treated him very nice and called him a good fellow and made him believe himself a favored customer. Anyway what did it matter to him, for if he paid too much for his goods, his customers had to pay the cost of his folly. But this way of doing business did not last long. Pretty soon he had competitors who bought their goods from houses that sold the cheapest and therefore could undersell him, so he had to do likewise. Farmers, you are just as foolish as this merchant was if you trade with one special store regardless of price. Rest assured the store you are trading at buy their goods where they can get them the cheapest, and you ought to do the same thing. The Leader doesn't ask you for your trade unless we can sell you goods as reasonable as anyone else. The only way to find out is by comparison. Compare our goods and prices with others and we do not fear your decision.

Harader & Morton are now getting the lumber on the ground for the erection of their flour mill. The site finally chosen is a piece of property on the river bank at the west end of Payette avenue. The property was recently purchased from David Mellveen, who will remove his residence to Melcher's addition.—Payette Independent

TOM GALLOWAY'S GRACIOUS GIFT

\$500 TO CITY WATER WORKS AND \$500 TO CITY PARK.

"Now they are shouting!" said the Hon. T. C. Galloway to the Signal man Sunday. "When they begin to discuss a first-class reservoir system and a plant designed to supply 10,000 people from the start, they suit me exactly. I believe we will have more than money enough for that kind of a system but we can't have too much, and I am going to give \$500 to the water works fund if the city puts it in right—a complete reservoir system I believe we should plan for a town of 10,000, as Weiser will have that many before we know and it is better that we do not have to do things over. The reservoir above the

Academy would be very desirable as it would furnish water to the Academy and grounds and to the cemetery.

Besides the \$500 I will give to the water works, if they are put in right, I will give \$500 towards a city park—perhaps I may give the land instead of the \$500, but it will be one or the other."

None who know Tom Galloway—with his impulsive, generous way of doing things, even to the way in which he opposes you when on the other side—will be surprised. It is just such a thing as he is likely to do at any time. The land he would give, should he so decide would be of several times the value of \$500.

Travelers Give Testimony on Thunder Mountain. Symposium by Several Sojourners.

Ross in the Review.

Spokesman-Review.
J. W. Ross, who writes that he has just returned from a trip to Thunder Mountain, writes in defense of the camp, and he reproaches the critics of the camp with whom interviews have been published in The Spokesman-Review. He writes:

"To the Editor of The Spokesman-Review: Thunder Mountain is not a fake as it was termed by a critic in not altogether a recent issue, and if that party had investigated and prospected the district as some others have done, we believe that his opinion regarding the camp might be a little different. A man that only spends two days in a section of a country within 10 miles square of Thunder Mt., one going one and one half miles up Mule creek from Roosevelt to the Dewey mine and one shoeing horses for the return trip knows very little of it and his opinions are worthless.

"J. Colmorgan and I left Spokane on May 24.

"On arriving at Thunder Mountain City, we found it to consist mainly of tents, about 40 in number, some of which have been replaced by log cabins and business houses. Four miles south from there and up Monumental creek we came to Roosevelt and found it much like the former town. Tents could be seen in every direction with here and there a log cabin. Many of these tents have also been replaced by more substantial structures, and in two or three instances whipsawed lumbee was used for flooring, counters, benches, etc.

"On prospecting in the immediate vicinity of the Dewey we found it to be nearly all staked, but on prospecting farther out we found some very desirable locations. Any parties wishing to go in there need not be afraid but what there is just as good a showing still open for location as what is already staked.

"The country is more or less a lava formation with large dykes of gold bearing porphyry. The ore is mostly low grade, but very soft, making it very easy to mine and mill.

"In the article previously referred to, the writer says, 'that he did not

see a prospector but what was disgusted with the camp.' The trouble was he met too many tenderfoot, trail prospectors that never leave their campfires, and close their eyes at night with the expectation of seeing upon opening them at a very late hour, huge boulders of glittering gold that have rolled down the mountain side.

"There are also complaints among many that they can not get colors. The main trouble is they do not pound the rock fine enough.

"Thunder Mountain will in time, make a big gold camp. At the present time the cost and inconvenience of transporting freight and machinery, which will be necessary to economically work the mines, are too great. What the country wants to bring it to the front and rank with some of our greatest gold producing camps, is a wagon road, railroad, or both, and when that is accomplished, which will take some time even if immediate steps are taken for the construction of the same, the camp will stand on the foundation of its own merits. J. W. Ross.

Jones Is Jubilant.

Another Colorado man, Mr. I. T. Jones, is condemning the condemners and in a two column article in the Colorado Springs Telegram, he takes to task men from his state who made flying trips on top of the snow to Thunder Mt. and then went back to Colorado to pronounce the country no good.

Jones says: "The future of Thunder Mountain is very bright—so bright that we are all contented to deny ourselves the pleasures of fair Colorado for an indefinite period and cast our lot here. Mails will be coming our way from Boise today, and when they reach us the sense of desolation and isolation will surrender to the charm of communication."

Telling of his experience over the Boise trail, he says: "After leaving the transfer station in Bear valley and taking the trail, Elk Summit, which is at the source of Elk creek, a tributary of the Salmon river, is first encountered, and the north slope is covered with snow and slush,

making the trail very boggy and slippery. The same condition prevails on the first summit north of Pen Basin, but aside from these there is nothing difficult in the trail aside from the usual things to be encountered in passing sharp points and attaining stupendous heights and depths on a 14-inch path. To those only who have never taken such a trip, I have a word of advice: Either do not attempt it, or nerve yourself to look into the Jaws of Hell, pass through the Devil's Kitchen and calmly survey the cauldron of Hades. If you cannot do this do not start. So late in the season you are not likely to have any unusual hardships, lest, of course, you should call 'hitting the gri' for 200 miles and more in itself a hardship."

Of the knockers he remarks: "Upon nearing Thunder Mountain we met various pack trains, most of whom were headed for various points to prospect, and two or three who were discouraged and leaving prematurely. There is, of course, the usual diversity of opinion. The professional placer miner (and that gent is abundant in this state) can never become a quartz miner; the Cripple Creek miner looks for his porphyry-granite contact, and failing to find it, condemns. The Californian looks for white quartz and failing to see it, packs his mule and after a two days' sojourn departs in disgust. Meanwhile the innocent tenderfoot looks for gold, stays with it, and finds it. It is here beyond question, and two or three years will find Thunder Mountain district a very large factor in replenishing the gold supply. The Dewey mine has enough low-grade ore in sight to keep their 200-ton mill producing for 100 years, and about two-thirds of the mill is now on the railroad track at Nampa. They are putting men to work as fast as they can get them and find accommodations for them. By July 10 they will be employing 300 men. The Fairview company is producing good ore, and the Tiger group of claims has opened an extensive deposit of \$600 ore. It remained, however, for an ignorant Dane, who was not sufficiently wise to locate the discovery, hence had to give half of it

away for advice as to making his location, to discover a ledge which runs \$2000 per ton. This happened on Thursday last.

"The most discouraging feature to the average prospector is that the country is all staked for many miles in every direction. But to those on the outside who grub-staked irresponsible fellows at an early date, I must say you must look to your laurels. There is not to exceed one claim in ten which is not fatally defective. And so defective are they that our advice to those who are at present prospecting in earnest is to utterly ignore the snow location. The camp suffered untold injury from this so-called 'snow-boom,' and many an unwary investor has purchased a claim located by blazing one or two lonely pine trees and digging an assessment in a convenient snow bank.

"This is severe, but it is the penalty for reckless investment. Fortunately for the camp these high-binding, grub-staking knaves have all gone home to tell to their principals their discouraging stories of hardship, loneliness and want, hoping thus to excuse themselves for the disappointment sure to follow; and the persistent, industrious prospector who has come to stay will reap the reward.

"Mr. Wallace, of our party, has located eight claims about three and one-half miles south of Roosevelt, west of Monumental creek, and is very jubilant over the surface showing upon two of them. He has arranged to begin his assessment work the last of the week, and believes the work will make a remarkable showing."

Robertson's Revelation.

A New Mexico man who knows a thing or two and who don't like knockers is J. F. Robertson of Santa Fe.

He arrived in Boise the other day after three months in Thunder Mt. When approached by a Capital News reporter, he shouted: "It is the greatest camp ever discovered on God's green footstool!"

In speaking of the development going on at present, he said: "In

every part of the camp the prospector seems to be engaged in work. The Dewey and Sunnyside managements have a large force of men at work and the Dewey mill is dropping 10 stamps night and day, on what I am informed is high grade ore. I am told that the Dewey plant is going to make a 30-day run on some of their best ore to show the doubting world some of the wealth that is to be found in the mountains of the famous camp.

"As to the jumping of claims," Mr. Robertson says, "the reports have been greatly exaggerated. The prospectors themselves are largely responsible for most of this trouble. They did the work in a careless manner and in many of the instances the property was open to relocation. The camp organization of miners has investigated numerous cases and invariably it has found that the proper location work had not been performed. But these things are now all adjusting themselves and in the future work by prospectors will be done in the right way. There has been considerable wild-cating done in the district, and men have been in the camp for months trying to find property paid for but can't find located in the district. This condition is not general, but has occurred altogether too frequently."

Mr. Robertson says he has located some promising property on Profile and Monumental creeks, which he will develop for a New Mexico syndicate. He has placed a force of men at work on the claims, and after a brief visit in Denver he expects to return to the district to remain until snow flies. If the development is satisfactory men will be kept on the property throughout the winter season.

Brassfield Believes.

J. Brassfield is a Portland man who located nine lode claims and a large tract of placer ground for a Portland syndicate. He tells the Boise Statesman that it is the richest country he ever visited.

In speaking of the new mining district, Mr. Brassfield said he considered it the richest country he had

ever visited. He has been mining since 1882 and has visited every important camp in the west which has come into prominence since that time. He stated that the mineral belt was the most extensive he had ever heard of, being at least 50 miles wide and probably 200 miles in length. His locations were made about 30 miles west of Thunder Mountain proper and on the contact between the porphyry and granite.

On the Holy Terror, one of the lode claims, there is exposed a vein of four feet, four inches wide, which will assay from \$600 to \$1000 to the ton in gold. Every indication, said Mr. Brassfield, points to its being a true fissure vein.

Mr. Brassfield has had two mining experts examine and report on the properties he has located. R. B. Rogers, who spent several years in Alaska, returned from a trip to the claims recently and in his report to the Portland parties it is said he stated that with the amount of work done, the indications were indeed very promising. A. L. Minor of Portland was the other expert to examine the properties, and his report is said to be even more flattering than Mr. Rogers'.

Mr. Brassfield stated that a force of four men would be kept at work during the balance of the year and that if present indications were borne out a company would be formed which would install a large plant next year to handle and reduce the ore. Mr. Brassfield will return to Thunder in about three weeks.

Owens Optimistic.

Terrence Owens a California mine owner has just arrived in Boise from Thunder and informs the Capital News that there are about 3500 people in the district and that Thunder Mt. city and other points are booming.

"Idaho has an enormous mineral zone," said Expert Owens, "and if located in any other state a large area of it would have been developed long ago. Where the coyote and deer now roam undisturbed you would have saw mills, population and school houses. Thunder Mountain

(Continued on Eighth Page.)