

PROPERTY PROSPECTED

Ladue Company Secures Working Bond

On a Group of Quartz Claims on Lepine Creek—Excellent Surface Indications.

"Now, wouldn't that jar you?" The speaker was D. A. Mathison and as he uttered the classical expression and a look of disgust over-spread his countenance he pointed to a copy of yesterday morning's joke and the article which gave him credit with having received a cool \$300,000 as the result of a deal made with the Ladue Company for a group of quartz claims on Lepine creek. And Casey was not in town, either.

"It is true a deal something of the character described was made with the Ladue people, but instead of myself alone being the big thing I am only one of twelve, and besides there was not a dollar exchanged hands. The company was given a sort of option or working bond on the property and they propose to do considerable development in order to ascertain if it is of the value we think it is. If the future should demonstrate that our ideas are correct and the bond should be taken up the amount involved will be about equal to the sum mentioned, but there are a great many contingencies dependent upon the final consummation of the deal."

The group embraced in the bond consists of twelve claims lying on Lepine creek about two miles up from the mouth of the creek, five miles back from the Klondike and 15 miles from Dawson. The ledge has been examined by many experts who have been unanimous in pronouncing the showing on the surface excellent. In one place a bare cliff exposes the vein matter for a width of over three hundred feet and of the thousands of tons at the base which Nature has quarried out presumably ready for the mill one can not pick up a specimen that will not return an assay of from \$4 up. A gentleman connected with the famous Treadwell mine on Douglas island near Juneau upon examining the claims and making an examination of them said that the Treadwell was not in it with the Lepine group judging from surface indications. The ledge has equally as great a width and assays three or four times as rich.

Dr. T. B. Cooke, of the Ladue Company, when seen fully corroborated the statements of Mr. Mathison. His company proposes to do a certain amount of development work on the claims and has let a contract with some men for a quantity of tunneling. The contractors began work last Monday and the extent to which it will be carried will depend upon the success that attends their efforts. The company is exceedingly well pleased with the indications and is equally as sanguine as Mr. Mathison and his associates.

The past winter has demonstrated one thing with regard to the operation of quartz mills in the Yukon in the winter time. It is not considered practicable to do mill work during the excessively cold weather owing to the almost impossibility of maintaining an even temperature in the water that is used on the plates. Another important factor that is to be taken into consideration is the question of power to operate the machinery. At present prices of fuel the use of steam is prohibitory which would leave water power as the only recourse and which would be another insurmountable obstacle in the way of winter operations. On Lepine creek there is sufficient water for mill purposes, but not enough for power, which would necessitate the establishment of the mill, should one ever be erected, at some other point, presumably along the Klondike.

Mr. Mathison left this morning for the scene of operations and will return this evening. Should conditions warrant it the work of development will be carried on all winter. The prospecting so far laid out is confined entirely to tunnel work.

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IMPORTANT DECISION

Hillsides at Right Angles With Base Lines

Result of Protest on Last Chance—General Direction of Creek Not Considered.

Gold Commissioner Senkler this morning rendered a decision in the case of George Napier et al vs. Jas. Haddock, mention of which action was made in the Nugget several days ago. The question involved was the manner in which the claims should be surveyed, whether at right angles with the base line or at right angles with the general direction of the creek. The commissioner holds that the former is the correct manner of procedure and the protest of plaintiffs is allowed with costs. The decision in full is as follows:

"The two hill claims known as the Trabold and McTigue claims on the left limit of Last Chance creek were recorded on January 9th and 13th, 1899, respectively, and are still subsisting locations, the Trabold claim being the property of the plaintiffs. The Haddock fraction was staked on April 18th, and recorded May 5th, 1902, and on June 24th a plan of survey of said fraction was filed by Mr. Jephson, D.L.S., on behalf of the owners of the claim. On June 28th action was commenced by the plaintiffs protesting against the Jephson survey on the ground that it included a portion of the plaintiffs' claim (Trabold claim).

"The question is upon what principle the two hill claims first above mentioned should be surveyed, as it is fairly clear where the location posts of all three claims were originally placed. Mr. Jephson used a straight line between the original location posts of both the hill claims as their respective base lines, and on running their end lines at right angles thereto it left a V-shaped fraction between them, that is claimed by the defendant under his location. As the base line of the McTigue claim as found by Mr. Jephson is practically parallel with the base line of the creek established by Mr. Gibbon, D.L.S., in the summer of 1899, the whole of the Haddock fraction covers the plaintiffs' claim if its end line should be surveyed at right angles to the Gibbon base line.

"Mr. Jephson followed the principle laid down by the minister of the interior in the case of McDowell vs. Johnson and Yarwood vs. Clegg, in which it was held that the line between the location posts should be the base line of a hill claim in each case.

"Mr. Justice Craig on the other hand held in the case of Fleischman vs. Getchell that the end lines of a hill claim must be run at right angles to the general direction of the creek. That the base line referred to in section 13 of the placer mining regulations of January 18th, 1898, does not necessarily refer to the line between the location posts, and a line run by a government surveyor indicating the general direction of the creek should be accepted.

"Although I must admit that there is much to be said in favor of Mr. Hagel's argument that the exact position of a location should not depend on the establishment of a base line by a surveyor subsequent to the staking of a claim where a surveyor simply uses his judgment in establishing said base line, it being impossible to find the general direction of the creek valley by actual measurement, I must follow Mr. Justice Craig and hold that the surveyor is the best judge of the general direction of the creek valley, especially when one considers that if it were held that the base line of each hill claim is the line between the two original location posts, it would throw the end lines of the hill claims for the whole of each creek into a state of chaos not to mention the opportunity it would give to unscrupulous locators to change the position of location posts, a small change in the position of either location post making a great difference in the position of the upper end of a hill claim.

"By holding that the end lines of the hill claims shall in every case run at right angles to the base line established by the government surveyor, the end lines of all hill claims are left in a uniform direction, and only conflict when an angle in the base line is established. This can not be avoided.

"The Trabold claim was surveyed in April, 1899, by Mr. Hawkins on behalf of the owner before Mr. Gib-

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WILL HAVE SMELTER

Seattle Suburb Will be Scene of Activity

Old Steel Plant to be Completed and Operating in Seven Months.

Seattle, Aug. 20.—Details are now being arranged in New York for the construction of a large smelter at Kirkland, directly across Lake Washington from the terminal of the Madison street car line. The new corporation is the Seattle Smelting & Refining Company, and it has purchased 1,700 acres of land, which includes the buildings and site of the old steel smelter plant at Kirkland. It is proposed to have work begin on the plant in sixty days, and seven months from the time the work starts the keys will be turned over for a complete smelting plant, with a guaranteed capacity of 700 tons for each day of twenty-four hours.

Plans for the establishment of a smelter at or near Seattle have been hanging fire for several months, and it was only three weeks ago that the first definite steps were taken toward the organization of a company financially able to swing a proposition so large. William Gelder, of Denver, one of the best known smeltermen in the United States, and a principal mover in the new company, was in Seattle about three weeks ago, in company with capitalists from Ohio and Pennsylvania, and it was after the gentlemen had looked over the ground carefully and inquired into the matter thoroughly, that it was decided to buy the townsite of Kirkland and establish the plant at that place. The deal includes three miles of frontage on the lake. Both the Northern Pacific and Great Northern had tracks running to the site of the proposed plant up to about a month ago. The rails were torn up then to be used in other places, but assurances are had from the railroad people that the tracks will be relaid in plenty of time for the shipment of ores.

The old buildings of the steel smelter will be remodeled and be used as a nucleus for the new plant. There are ore bunkers on the ground having a capacity of 100,000 tons, and these will be put in thorough repair. Orders are now being placed in the Eastern markets for the necessary machinery, and once the details are arranged the work will be carried forward with a rush. The machinery will be shipped to Seattle while the work of building is going on, so there will be no delay in installing it.

The Seattle Smelting & Refining Company was recently organized in New Jersey, with a capital stock of \$5,000,000. Of this amount, \$1,600,000 has already been paid up in cash, which is an evidence that the company will permit of no delay in getting ready for the smelting of ores. William Selover, of Portland, a well known smelting man, and J. H. Marshall, of New York, have been active in the organization of the new company, and Mr. Selover leaves for New York tonight to complete the details of organization. He is confident that active work in the way

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of constructing the plant will begin within ninety days at least, and that within seven months from that time the plant will be completed and ready to receive ores.

The capitalists who compose the company spent some time upon the coast looking for a favorable site for a smelter, and Kirkland was decided upon after careful consideration. The articles of incorporation call for a refining plant to be built on the Hudson river and that will be operated in connection with the Seattle smelter.

The plant will have a capacity of 700 tons of ore every day of twenty-four hours, and ores will be shipped here from Mexico, Alaska, South America, Montana, Idaho, as well as from the mining sections of this state.

Assurances have been received from both the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern, so the promoters say, that the tracks will be relaid up to the new plant, so that ores can be dumped into the bunkers right from the tracks. When in operation the smelter will give employment to a large body of men at good wages. The price paid for the land is understood to be in the neighborhood of \$100,000, and the plant when completed will represent an investment of something like \$3,000,000. The men interested decided that Seattle was the best shipping point on the Pacific coast, and the most advantageously situated for a smelter of the size they intend to build.

It is thought the people most heavily interested in the project will again visit Seattle in the course of the next three or four weeks, and that three months from now the work of active building will begin.

To Try Moral Suasion.

Manila, Aug. 22.—Gen. Chaffee returned to Manila from his tour of the southern islands. He has not taken decisive action against the Moros of the island of Mindanao. He regards the situation there as uncertain, but not critical. Gen. Chaffee still hopes that moral suasion may avert a conflict between the Moros and Americans, and he has directed Capt. John J. Pershing, of the Fifteenth infantry, commanding the American column at Lake Lanao, to open communication with the sultan of Bacolod, and ascertain the reason for the repeated attacks by Moros upon the Americans when the latter were not on the offensive. He will await a reply from the sultan before taking further steps in the matter.

At Ibagai Gen. Chaffee conferred with a number of Moro chiefs in the Lake Lanao district. They were quite friendly, and the leading chief agreed to visit Capt. Pershing.

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