

THE GROVES CASE

Editor Mining Reporter:

Dear Sir—The recent rulings of the Department of the Interior in regard to the status of patented mining claims have such radical tendencies, so entirely change the laws relating to mining and so completely ignore all court decisions that I think we may assume that they will never be carried into effect. Still, when those who have the best interests of the mining industry at heart and the best mining lawyers in the state of Colorado have practically stated they could do nothing with the Land Department, it behooves all those who have any mining interests to take up the matter vigorously and by concerted action compel the land office to change its position. Surely the mining industry has sufficient difficulties to contend with at the present time without having annoying doubts as to the validity of titles.

I understand the present position of the land office to be this. The actual boundaries of patented mining claims must be actually conformable to the positions assigned to them on the land office maps regardless of the positions of the monuments on the claim. On its face the ruling seems fairly harmless, but in fact it will change positions of claims and tangle up titles to such an extent that the entire industry would be paralyzed if it is allowed to stand. The crux of the whole matter is that the official survey maps of the land office show the section and other corners to

