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MINING NOTES.

Spanish Gulch Mines Are Very Rich.

OUR NEAR NEIGHBOR

Extensive Placer and Numerous Quartz Veins When Found.

Situated in the southeast corner of Wheeler county, in the Camp Watson mountains, a spur of the Blue mountains, are the Spanish Gulch gold diggings, consisting of extensive placer and numerous quartz veins from which for the past 35 years gold has been taken which in the aggregate compares favorably with any similar area known. And after so many years of successful mining, the quartz propositions especially are still in their infancy, and new discoveries in placers are of very recent date. These mines take their name from a discovery made in 1862 by two Mexicans or Spanish packers, who worked out a pocket found in a ledge that crosses the gulch in the vicinity of the old trail. In the fall of 1864 a company was organized in Canyon City to prospect on Rock creek and its tributaries. The moving spirit in the enterprise was the late Dr. J. M. McKoy, well and favorably known to the old pioneers of Grant county, and for many years a resident of East Portland. Finding nothing on the creek, they turned their attention to the gulches and found favorable prospects in Spanish gulch, which led to the formation of a company, with the doctor as manager, which surveyed out the first ditch and built the same in 1865. This ditch is seven miles long and was worked by the hydraulic process, the company using a distributing chest, the most improved method of that day, which has long since given way to the "giant." Other discoveries have been made, another ditch known as the Swinerton ditch was constructed in 1871. It is five miles long, also from Rock creek. Both of the above ditches are owned by Geo. V. Owens and Mrs. W. E. Waterman.

The third ditch brought to the gulch is from Birch creek and was built by Dr. F. C. Horsely in 1872, and is known as the Shoo Fly ditch. It is now owned by Geo. V. Owens. There are two other mining ditches, one from Rock creek, known as the Sand Gulch ditch, owned by Joles & Co., of the Dalles, six miles long, the other is from Birch creek, also six miles in length, owned by Judge Keely & Co. The best developed quartz claim is the Red Jacket, owned by F. S. Allen, Andrus & Co. We were shown four assays from an average of the ore that ran \$16, \$19, \$22 and \$24 respectively. The vein is from five to seven feet in width.

The Kershaw Bros. have a quartz claim that bids fair to become a bonanza. George Anderson has one of the best prospects in quartz there is in this county. The name of this claim is not known to the writer.

Judge Keeley and his associates have a bond and lease on the Blue Bucket and Mystery quartz claims and have a one-stamp mill to test

the ore, and if it proves good will add more stamps in the spring. The Blue Bucket and Mystery are owned by Charles McCowan & Co., Messrs. Owens and McCoy have two claims on Juniper mountain, Spanish Gulch mining district, a recent discovery. The vein is 125 feet in width and any of the quartz shows from a trace to \$3.50 in gold on the surface. These claims are known as the Noma and Marian, and are deemed valuable propositions.

The best placer claim is owned by Robert D. Cannon and W. H. Johnson & Son. In a 10 weeks' run last summer with four men they cleaned up \$9800. The gold is coarse and of good quality. They took out several nuggets of from \$50 to \$100 and one piece of 16 ounces, value \$272.

The next best placer, which is more extensive than Cannon & Johnson's claim, is owned by Joles & Co., who last Spring took out a \$300 nugget, which, however, had considerable quartz attached to it. Joles & Co., cleaned up \$4000 during the season.

Billy Waterman & Co. cleaned up \$2500 in four or five weeks' run. The old Spanish Gulch claims are worked by Chinamen and it is not known how much they took out. A conservative estimate places at \$30,000 the total amount taken from the Spanish Gulch placers in the year 1900.—Baker City Herald.

Will Reduce the Army.

After a careful consideration of the situation the administration has decided to reduce the army in the Philippines to 40,000. The opinion prevails that this number will be ample for the present needs of the service in the islands, and if conditions continue to improve in the satisfactory manner that has shown in the past few months, the force may be reduced still further. The expectation of the war department is that all of the volunteers now in the Philippines will have left the islands by the end of June, leaving only regulars on duty there. Following the departure of volunteers will come the regulars, who were sent to Manila in 1898, just after the outbreak of hostilities, and their movement home will continue until the force is reduced to approximately 40,000 men.

Eastern Oregon Crop Report.

Prairie City, Grant county, John W. Hall.—Warm rains and no frosts. Everything growing nicely. No grain up that I know of. Crops nearly all in. Some gardens are up. Potatoes are being planted.

Island City, Union county, J. M. McCall.—Nice warm rains during the fore part of the week. All grains and vegetables making good growth. Fruit is blooming nicely and promises a good yield. Sugar beets are being planted.

Harney, Harney county, Jasper Davis.—Warm and good rainfall during the fore part of the week. The ground still thoroughly soaked and still signs of rain. Crops have improved greatly. Fruit buds are ready to bloom; and early planted gardens are growing nicely.

Paulina, Crook county, L. D. Claypool.—Cool most of the week; considerable wind. Crops are growing. Some grain frosted.

FOUND GUILTY

Of Murder in the Second Degree For the

KILLING OF REILLY

At His Homestead on Black Rock Creek Near Ashwood, Oregon.

Probably no one event for years has occasioned so much interest in Prineville as the trial of D. L. Bruner for the killing of Thomas Reilly in the neighborhood of Black Rock ranch near Muddy in the north end of the county. On April 4 the sheriff received a message by telephone that a man had been killed and that D. L. Bruner was at Muddy station awaiting his arrival to be placed in custody. The sheriff, accompanied by Deputy District Attorney Fell, left at once for the scene of the killing. Bruner was brought to Prineville and lodged in jail, and an inquest was held on the body of the dead man by Justice Childers of Ashwood. From the testimony offered before the coroner's jury a verdict was rendered charging Bruner with murder in the first degree. The prosecution and defence have gone over the ground and made drawings and surveys and otherwise prepared their evidence. On Monday morning the trial began and from the evidence introduced it is found that Thomas Reilly had taken up a homestead on Black Rock creek and that the Prineville Land & Livestock Company also owned some land in that vicinity. The company had several bands of sheep, and among them was one of which Bruner had charge. Reilly and his partner Creegan also had a band of sheep which they were running on and around the homestead of Reilly. In changing camping places Bruner drove his band of sheep across a part of the land claimed by Reilly or at least attempted to do so, and was asked by Reilly to not drive them on his land, at which point in the story the evidence of the two sides is widely divergent. Creegan testified that Reilly and Bruner walked together for a distance of about 250 yards and then after some words at or near the corner of Reilly's claim Bruner shot Reilly and that he dropped the rifle he had been carrying all the time and started to run. Bruner picked up the rifle and fired at Reilly then ran about 25 yards and fired another shot and then ran about the same distance and fired a third shot from the rifle and Reilly fell.

Bruner's testimony was to the effect that he and Reilly were having some words and that Reilly drew the rifle down on him and he grasped it and threw the muzzle up and the gun went off and at the same time he drew his revolver and fired at Reilly striking him in the arm and then Reilly let go of the rifle and ran and he fired it to show that he would defend himself. A loaded rifle cartridge was found at the point where the quarrel should have taken place and three empty shells at about 25 yards apart in a line from the scene of the first shooting and where the

body was found. The body was 125 yards from where the last empty shell was found, indicating that to be the distance the fatal shot was fired.

The evidence of Creegan was corroborated by the empty shells and by Reilly having been shot in the back of the head. The lawyers all did well but the most eloquent pleading could not overcome the facts which showed that a deliberate murder had been committed.

After deliberating for four hours the jury brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree which means a life sentence in the penitentiary. Bruner took the verdict very coolly, in fact he has all through the trial conducted himself more like a school boy who expected a chastisement for some minor offense, which he resented, than as a man whose life was at stake. Bruner has the appearance of being about 19 or 20 years of age and is married. His girl wife was present at the trial. Up to the time of going to press, Wednesday morning, sentence has not been passed, but will be done some time during the day. No doubt every effort will be put forth to secure a new trial.

Mangy Horses.

Quite a large number of horses on the range is afflicted with the mange. One little yearling colt was reduced to only skin and bone, the skin was hairless nearly all over the body, and was treated at Wallace's corral yesterday morning for the mange. The colt was first curried, then received a thorough wash all over with Haworths sheepdip, which is said to cure the mange. Another, of this year's colts, was also affected with the miserable disease, but not nearly as bad, was given similar treatment. It seems as though that treatment these horses received, ought to either kill or cure. The mange is much more prevalent on our range this year, than ever before, therefore some step should be taken to stop it.—Antelope Republican.

Governor Appoints Delegates.

Governor Geer has appointed the following delegates to represent Oregon at the International Mining Congress, to be held at Boise, Idaho, in July:

Col. F. V. Drake, Portland; J. O. Booth, Grants Pass; J. W. Virtue, Leland; W. D. Dennis, Cottage Grove; W. D. Hawley, Eugene; W. J. Coy, Salem; Dunham Wright, Union; Jonathan Bourne, Portland; F. S. Bailee, Bourne; Geo. Barin, Granite; Wm. Smith, Baker City; H. Himes, Canyon City; J. W. Larkins, Granite; Arthur Conklin, Grant's Pass; R. G. Smith, Grant's Pass; J. W. Cook, Portland; Geo. A. Dyson, Blue River; Geo. W. Lloyd, Eugene; W. T. Wright, Union; E. J. Godfrey, Portland; W. A. Thatcher, Geiser; Alice Case, Cornucopia; Albert Geiser, Baker City; H. S. McCarlum, Sumpter; Ira Sproul Canyon City.

Z. F. Moody has a representative now at Shaniko to look after the needs of his wool growing and shipping customers. His agent is prepared to advance freight to customers, receive and forward wool and to give personal attention to receiving and forwarding merchandise of any description to his care.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges, News Notes of the Week, Timely Topics.

Col. N. B. Knight of Salem, has gone to England to prosecute the breach of promise suit brought by his daughter, Portia Knight, against the Duke of Manchester.

Theodore F. Swayze, the chief clerk of the Treasury Department, has resigned on account of ill health, and Wallace H. Hills, superintendent of the Treasury Building, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Ex-secretary of the treasury Chas. W. Foster has filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy with \$747,000 liabilities and no assets. He was the founder of the town of Fostoria, Ohio, and a member of Harrison's cabinet. He failed for a large sum once before.

The state board of agriculture decided to put up the largest purse ever offered in Oregon, in the form of futurity stakes—\$1500—for colts of 1900, to be contested for at the fair of 1901. This will create the most widespread interest of any purse ever offered, and will be the prominent racing event of next year.

At present only those trade-marks which are alleged to be used in commerce with foreign countries or Indian tribes can be registered at the United States Patent Office. This will, however, be changed when the bill now pending before Congress is passed, requiring the registration of all trade-marks used in interstate commerce.

A cow elk has been making herself at home with the cattle of a farmer residing near Forest Grove. The farmer, whose fields she has selected as browsing ground, complains that she tramples down his fine pasture. He has asked permission from Game Warden Quimby to kill the animal, but this permission the game warden could not grant.

The Umatilla County Court has made an order which ignores the provisions of the law passed by the Legislature of 1901, in regard to selling lands heretofore purchased at tax sale. Instead of selling these lands to the highest bidder, the County Court proposes to get some return from the investment and will lease them instead of selling.

Some rich copper mines have been found lately in the southern part of Harney county near the state line, which are receiving considerable attention from prospectors. One vein has been traced 40 miles. The ledges vary in width from 2 to 10 feet and the ore assays at \$75 in copper and from \$5 to \$10 in gold and silver. The general opinion is that these mines will prove to be among the richest copper properties in the West.