

## OUR MINES.

Valuable Properties in the Sparta District.

RICH IN QUARTZ AND PLACER.

Output from the Sanger Mine—Other Promising Prospects in Union County.

Away back in the sixties but few camps on this coast produced more placer gold than was washed from the golden sands of the gulches surrounding Sparta, and it is a pleasant and frequent occurrence to meet an old timer and hear him relate the rich finds made on Maiden, Shanghai, Moultrie, Copperhead, Town, Sawmill and other gulches, where nuggets weighing as much as nine hundred dollars were picked up, and it was not unusual to make four hundred dollars a day by the use of the old-time rocker. But old time, that mighty changer of all things, has not forgotten Sparta, and while great has been the change regarding the richness of the placer mines, the indications are now favorable for a bullion production from the quartz mines that, in quantity, will far excel the output of gold during any one year when the placer mines were at their best. The past season has been an eventful one in the history of this old camp, and when we say the placer output has been the largest for several years past we only state the facts and sound the key note of what is to follow the next several years to come.

Sawmill gulch, which has for these many years been known to be rich in placer gold, has at last fallen into the hands of that mining prince, Capt. E. E. Clough, and by his practical ability and good, common sense has demonstrated the fact, to the satisfaction of even the old fogies, that with plenty of water, his bed-rock flume, constructed the past season from the falls on Sawmill gulch, will enable him to successfully handle the tailings in working this rich and extensive property, over three miles in length.

The Walla Walla Placer Mining Company, with E. H. Beyer manager, own several rich claims on Humboldt, Dead Horse and other gulches near the old Gem mine, all tributary to Sawmill gulch, and through a combination arrangement with Capt. Clough, owner of the Sparta canal, Mr. Beyer will now be able to successfully work these extensive diggings, as the water after leaving Humboldt gulch is used again by Capt. Clough and all debris is carried without interruption through the bed-rock flume on Sawmill gulch, thus enabling both of these rich, extensive and long-neglected mines to be successfully worked, and we expect to see several hundred thousand dollars placed to the credit of these enterprising gentlemen the coming season. While these two properties named are the most extensive and promising of anything in our camp, there are many other mines that will be worked, and as long as free water lasts in the spring, will pay the owners from five to fifteen dollars a day.

### QUARTZ MINES.

During the year 1891 much permanent development work has been done, and while it is a well-known fact that within a radius of three miles, taking Sparta as the center, there are over one hundred quartz ledges, all carrying gold, we will only describe a few of the most promising. The Gold Ridge, owned by Capt. Clough and P. Basche & Co., undoubtedly stands at the head of the list as not only the best mine in camp, but it will compare favorably with the best gold mines in Eastern Oregon. Over one thousand feet of development work has been done on the Gold Ridge and at the three hundred foot level, the deepest point reached on the ledge, three feet of ore is found that will yield ten dollars in free gold to the ton, and an equal amount in the sulphurets, easily saved by concentration. The Gold Ridge is now ready for a mill.

The Del Monte mine, upon which is standing idle the most extensive hoisting plant in the county, has done nothing for a year, but with the return of spring we hope to see active operations resumed. The Oro Dell, owned by a Chicago company, will be extensively worked during the winter, and, if the quantity of ore will justify, a ten-stamp mill, with all modern improvements, will be placed on the property, as the company has several well-known capitalists in its organization. The Oro Dell will undoubtedly prove a bullion producer ere the close of 1892.

The Little Pittsburg mine and mill is now being successfully operated by Mr. John Thomas, who has proven himself one of the most competent as well as economical mining men in Eastern Oregon. Under the management of Mr. Thomas the Little Pittsburg will again prove a paying proposition. The Silver Queen, owned by Dr. Lewis, is under active development and several hundred tons of ore will be placed on the dump ready for treatment in the early spring. The Gold Hill, the first north extension of the Gold Ridge, owned by Rapelle & Lewis, is a very promising mine and several tons of ore treated in the Clough arastra during the summer gave satisfactory results, and quite a good many tons are now on the ore dump ready for treatment the coming season.

The Mary Ainsworth group of mines, located on the head of Rattle Snake gulch and owned by Capt. Clough, is now under active development and the owner expects to cut the main ledge with the tunnel now under construction about April 1, 1892, and if the mine will justify, a mill will be built thereon. The Gray Eagle and Union mines, owned by Clough and Reed, have been extensively developed the past year and several thousand tons of high grade ore are now exposed in the winzes sunk to a depth of one hundred feet from the bottom of their nine hundred foot tunnel. The Golden Gate and Blue Cloud, owned by that veteran miner and loyal democrat, Wm. F. Apple, are undoubtedly the most promising properties in camp, and when the nuggets are dropping will not only give

the owner a plethoric bank account, but allow him a few hundred for Cleveland and Reform.

The Ollie Woodman group, owned by the Thomas brothers, is nicely situated for mining, and where shafts have been sunk, good veins are exposed and the indications are favorable for a good paying property. The Red Elephant and Poughkeepsie, owned by Tag Wilson & Co. has made a splendid record the past three months and with the completion of their double bed, nine-foot arastra, the output will rival the product of the now famous White Swan mine of Baker county. The Santa Petre, R. E. Lee, Tom Paine, Free Thinker and Rabbit's Foot are all promising prospects, and only need the touch of capital to make them good paying mines. Since the death of that pioneer miner, Capt. Mitt White, the famous Dolly Varden mine has suspended operations, but during the summer several carloads of ore were sent to Portland for reduction, and returns show that the ore paid over \$100 a ton, after deducting the necessary expenses. The Dolly Varden is a valuable proposition and worthy the attention of some wealthy syndicate.

The mines on Paddy's creek and also on Paddy's Paradise, are being worked under a lease, and as these mines in the past have proven rich under the able management of Davis & DuBois, they will certainly be made to pay. The Sanger mines owned by the C. T. Bradley Mining Co., of Milwaukee Wisconsin, and so ably managed by W. J. Townley, the efficient superintendent, is now beating all past records as a bullion producer. On the four hundred-foot level the ledge is nine feet thick, and has every indication of growing larger, and richer, as they go down. This mine has the most complete as well as the most powerful machinery in Eastern Oregon, and the output in free gold reaches \$12,000 every fifteen days by the dropping of ten stamps, and the value of the sulphurets saved by concentration equals in value the free gold, making the output nearly \$1,000 every twenty-four hours, a record hard to beat anywhere in the United States.

Several other valuable mines are found in the immediate neighborhood of Sanger and we are pleased to learn that several of the owners have pooled their interests, and have completed arrangements for the construction of a ten-stamp Custom mill, ready for operation not later than the 29th of May, 1892.

Several promising properties have been neglected in this report, but it has been our honest intention to estimate values as we find them, and not exaggerate, as the over-estimation of our mining industry has done much to discourage and disgust capital, and if the honest miners of Sparta today, like the noble Spartans of old, would rise in their night and throttle and expose three or four illegitimate, dishonest and swindling enterprises, it would do more to sustain honest and legitimate mining than years of toll as wage workers.

Yours respectfully,  
TWO MINERS.

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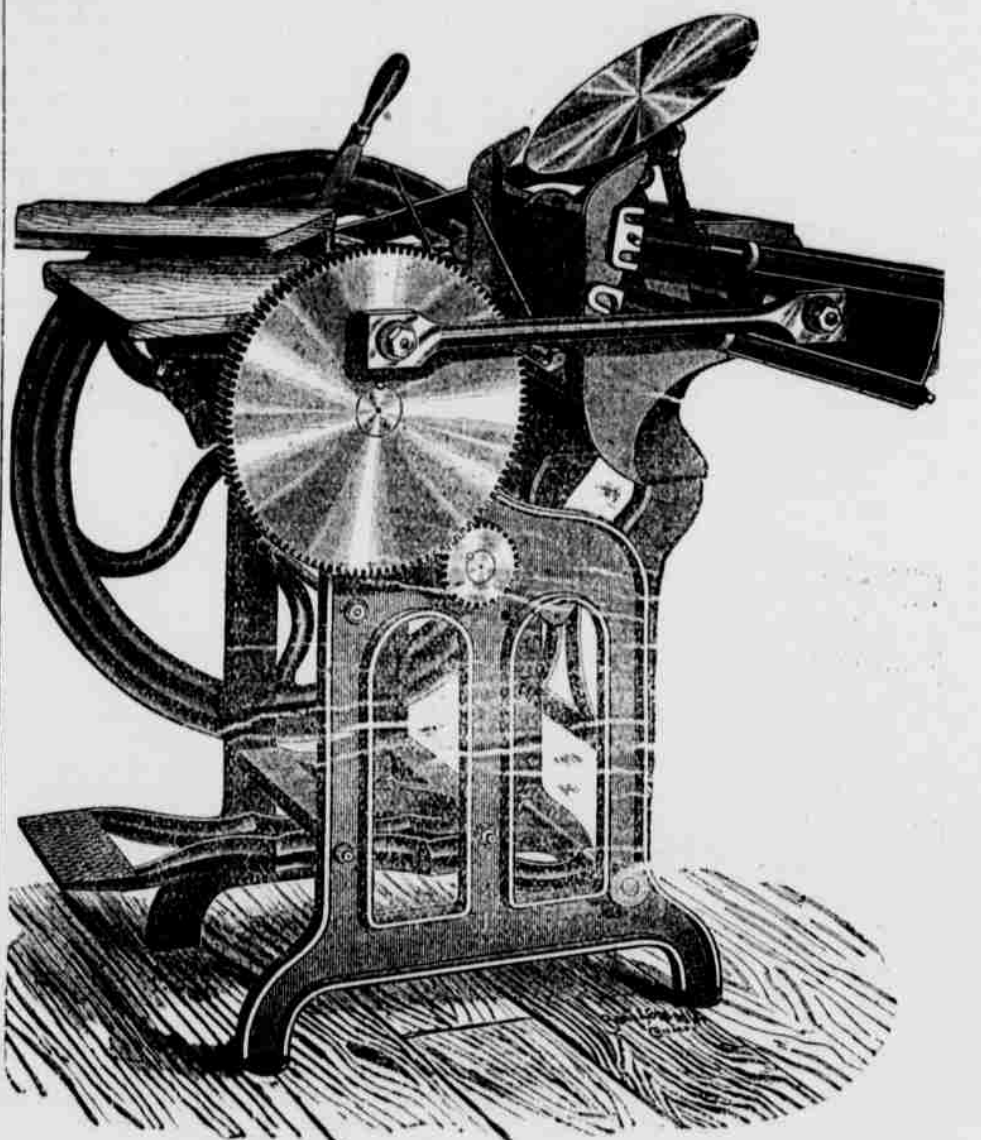
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