

# LA GRANDE MAN VISITS MINES

### Tells of Different Gold Mines in the Upper Country where he is Interested.

To the La Grande Evening Observer:—I have just returned from the New Eldorado mining camp, in the Sumnerville district, where I have been inspecting the Blackboy group of mines, owned by my brother, John B. Cronse and myself. I have never been into the Whitman forest reserve and was very much surprised at the sight of such a vast growth of timber. I had never seen such great trees before. I went out on the Sumnerville railroad to Anshin, and then took the auto stage for fifteen miles out, and then walked five miles through the forest to my brother's cabin. The stage driver when reaching our destination told me to follow the road and pointed to a path that I started on the trail and got on a narrow worn footpath. I was not altogether sure I was going right on the path. I finally found footprints in the dusty earth of the path. The shoes worn had nails on them. I measured them and felt sure they were my brother's footprints. Finally I came to a cartilage box beside a log, and then I felt doubly sure I was right as I knew he always carried his rifle while journeying. I in this time came to the cabin of Charles Wray, a miner and neighbor of my brother, who informed me where he lived. I found after I arrived at the cabin that there was a wagon road that I had missed that went past the cabin, and past our upper mine, the Blackboy. Mr. Wray said, "you did very well to get here."

**Trees Very Large.**  
The forest trees are so vast in their growth I estimated I saw yellow pine 250 feet high. Such beautiful trees of Douglas fir, white fir, tamarack, yellow pine, spruce, balsam fir and some black pine. The first limbs on the trees would be 50 to 75 feet from the base. Vast yellow pines five feet and more in diameter in some cases scored 250 feet in the air. The huckleberry crop is nearly a fall-acre, except in some favored clumps, although my brother said the bloom was very heavy. The air of the forest was balmy and pure and the water so cold and pure, streams of pure water and springs everywhere; and it is a treat to bend down and drink. "O, what is here to Adams ate, no sparkling Hilo and free."

**Welcome Extended.**  
I found a warm welcome at the cabin, although my visit was a surprise to my brother. Our mining property I had never visited. I always believed implicitly what my brother told me regarding the mines and I know when I saw them they would be up to my expectations I had of them, from his description to me. I was tired and soon went to bed after our exchange of kindness and a welcome supper. As soon as daylight came after a good breakfast, we started on our tour of inspection. We first went to our Iron Mask mine, where two mineral zones cross, one northeast and southeast and the other north and south. One vein is 17 feet wide and the other nine feet wide on the surface, and under the surface we do not know the width of the vein, as we have never been able to find the hanging wall or footwall. This mine has a double shaft finely constructed with a shaft house over it. The ore is a beautiful ore of blue copper stain and iron carbonate, carrying gold and silver. This mine is a vast mine and the indications are that it is a mountain of ore, that perhaps deep under the surface is very rich. A piece of ore picked up on the surface assayed \$400 in gold to the ton. This mine in future years may be one of the agencies that will put the cities of eastern Oregon on the map of the world. Our belief is that the iron carbonate, or iron cap will disappear as depth is attained on this mine. A tunnel will be started at the cabin or below it that will be 400 feet long, and will tap this mine 150 feet below the surface, where we expect to run under the Iron cap. When the time comes that deep mining could be carried forward a tunnel could be started from Beaver creek, a natural gutter for a wagon road for ore or supplies, and run 2000 feet. This would tap our Duro mine 500 feet under the surface, go 900 feet under the middle fork of big boulder or Wary creek and tap the Iron Mask 1200 feet deep. This statement is what an Anshin prospect would only be proud of. We next journeyed to the Ureka, the Elona B. and the Welcome Stranger. There is a finely constructed tunnel at these mines 50 feet in length. The Ureka was located as a placer claim. My brother calculated there was an old bed of an ancient stream here that carried gold. The pay dirt started in very well, but was later on he proceeded. Perhaps it would take some expert geologist as Waldemar Lindgren to determine the ancient landscape. In this tunnel the Gloria Band, Welcome Stranger was struck. The veins where they come together are 20 feet wide, and were encountered about 80 feet in from the mouth of the tunnel. The ore is a mass of nearly solid iron. This present prospect would only be for low grade ore, but this ore might be very valuable in the future as a flux to treat the other ores with. The quantity would be vast. Regarding the Ureka placer claim we would like sometime in the future, when our duties from our other mines would allow it and we could employ a geologist who knew the probable area, and that perhaps were not disturbed. Then we would like to turn a hydroelectric stream on the ground we had mapped out and I think we

would find the gold. All over these locations are the finest timber I ever saw. I have never visited the red woods of California but I certainly would not exempt anything else. Great shake trees are growing plentiful where shingles could be split out with an axe, the grain is so straight. And all of our claims have a water power on the middle fork of the big boulder or Wary creek of 400 or 500 inches at its lowest stage in summer with the purest springs of water anywhere. We next visited our Duro mine. We have had a surprise in the Duro, a mine that has been idle for some years, until the last year, when my brother cleared the mouth of the tunnel out and newly timbered it up for 50 feet in. This is the original locator but only within the last year have we learned the truth. We now own this mine with our Blackboy mine, the most readily available mines the slope of a side hill the Duro for ready money when we strike the veins through the tunnel. On from out, and to all appearances is a free milling gold vein. The name Duro comes from a Mexican word meaning hard. If the mold is removed from the side hill where the vein of the Duro crosses, parallel, all the ground below the Duro will pan gold. I have had quite an experience with mines in Arizona when a very young man, but I never saw a whole hillside pan out gold below the vein. The rock is a hard free milling rock to all appearances and assays well for surface ore. We will strike this vein by running the tunnel 150 feet further about 100 feet below the surface, with all the indications of rich ore (free milling) which would make us very independent. It is not necessary however, for this ore to be very rich if it is free milling, as one of this kind we could treat ourselves on the ground and if it only went \$10 a ton in gold, and the indications are that it will go many times this amount, we could make it pay well. In fact a miner's independence comes from having free milling ore. If a person could do no more, they could erect one of the California arrastres of the old forty niners and get a horse and mule, or a gasoline engine, that would draw an arm attached to flat rocks around an inclined circle, which had ports for sluicing out the waste material; and owing to the high specific gravity of gold would cause it to settle to the bottom, where it could be collected with quicksilver; the gold being separated from the quicksilver in retorts and the quick silver being used over and over. My brother has temporarily given up work on this mine until fall, although he regretted very much to have to do it, as his services as a miner were needed so badly in our Blackboy mine. The Blackboy mine is our upper mine, and the deep snows and storms of winter were so severe that we have been unable to work it during winter months although if we strike the vein and commence getting out the ore, we will come near doing anything within reason. We went up and examined our Blackboy mine. There is a tunnel run on the Blackboy 300 feet. The work is valued at \$2000. This is one of the richest mines judging from the float rock that I ever saw. The vein of the Blackboy cannot be found on the surface, with the exception of two small stringers. The whole surface where the vein should be is disintegrated granite and slate, with great masses of very rich gold rock lying within a small area. This rock is a black rock, that runs in some cases up to thousands per ton of ore. And their is hardly any doubt but what the float rock could be gathered up and shipped away for treatment.

This tunnel has caved towards the mouth on account of black pine timber being used. It will need three sets of tamarack timbers to replace those broken, and the tunnel beyond the cave in and the timbers were all heavy tamarack and all in good shape. The lagging in the tunnel is mostly black pine and we agreed it would be best to take out all black pine, and substitute tamarack or yellow pine for lagging. We may not be able to get far beyond the present depth in the tunnel this season after repairing the tunnel thoroughly and then again the first blast may strike the vein, but we will strike it within one hundred feet. My brother is an expert miner and understands ore and mines thoroughly. He puts in heavy timbers hands can only do so much. When we strike the Blackboy vein, the question of getting along in this world should not be very hard, for from all appearances judging from the rich float on the ground, the mine would pay from the first shovel full of ore. All of those veins run northeast and southwest and north and south. The tunnel has been caved and run very carefully and after a careful examination I don't see how we will fail to strike the vein. Our plans for working the mine are for my brother to work in the Blackboy tunnel as long as the season will permit, and then come down to the Duro and work there during the deep snows of winter. The mine at the cabin was 10 feet deep on the level all winter, and the roof of the cabin have to be well braced to stand the weight of the snow. After spending a month for Christmas and New Years in La Grande with me, my brother could go back to the cabin well stored with provisions and fuel. Then as the distance between the cabin and the mouth of the tunnel of the Blackboy is about 200 yards, and practically no grade, he could put on skis and go that distance from the cabin to the mouth of the tunnel where he would be very comfortable and where during the winter he could work out the remaining distance from the mouth of the tunnel to the vein. If our expectations prove true as we hope them to be, we would reach the free milling ore of the Duro. And perhaps we will reach the rich shipping ore of the Blackboy this season. This would give us the means to develop the vast vein of the Iron Mask. And with this done we feel our mining life would be complete, and the prosperity of all would be increased. As my brother and I have formed a close company between ourselves to develop the mines we own together, and as this will call for all we can at present do, for if these mines succeed there will be plenty for us, without any other mines. There are four other good mining properties first class in every way. I have made a personal examination of them and can guarantee them. They will bear the closest inspection and are the Colorado, Utah, Montana and Vulcan. They have the same water power and timber as we, and they are all large veins. They have two good cabins, wood sawed for six months. The Vulcan has a tunnel 500 feet long, my brother in these mines has a partner, Mr. Wray. I will say that the winters are very severe on account of the heavy snows, but there is everything there to do with. A fine loghouse could be built any size, without any expense except nails, windows and work. Wood in unlimited quantities would be available for every purpose including smelting. Water could be piped into a cabin most anywhere. The cold is not as severe as my brother says it is at the cabin. My brother said the ground

did not freeze at the cabin last winter, this being prevented by the heavy snow. I think a person could clear off some little flat by the streams, plant strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, currants and many vegetables, including potatoes, planting them in the fall and let the snow cover them up and when the snow went off the first of June, there would be many comforts to cheer a mining family's life up here. If a miner was prosperous for a small sum of money they could have radio, a graphophone, a player piano, their books and they would forget all about the hardships of that nomadic life, and in the summer they would be pleased to be in the forest. All work on mines here is tunnel work on account of the water. In looking for the stage I shall not forget the pure streams and springs of gold water I drank from on the way. Very respectfully,  
WILLIAM CROUSE.

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# ANCIENT CRATER BEGINS SPOUTING

(By Associated Press)

HONOLULU, Aug. 12.—The glory of Hawaii, Madam Pelee, goddess of Kilauea volcano, has come back to Halemauana, her "house of fire" in the ancient crater, and things are as they should be in the thirteenth pit.  
Pelee recommenced some strange and weird behavior this summer and con- cluding her exhibitions with a dive out of sight into the bowels of the earth, leaving her devotees dismayed at the prospect of never seeing her again.  
The recent drought, where for centuries the lava lake has flowed, sur- rounded and "baptized" lay dead as a pile of gold pieces, with only an occasional wisp of smoke reaching the top of the crater rim, and not a sign of the vivid molten red below.  
Then in the "wee-wee" hours of a day a week or so back a messenger came running to Dr. Thomas Jaggar, Jr., official observer of Kilauea and

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interpreter of the wayward Pelee's moods, with the information that the goddess had returned. And she had.  
From the side of the crater, a hun- dred feet above the deep floor, was pouring a bubbling cascade of molten descent back, reforming the dead lava below, and starting once again the boiling footpaths as of old.  
That night, "Madam's grandchild," the old Hawaiian who has pulled tourists about the crater since 1882, slept once more in peace in the "house of fire" at the station.

**E. N. TO ADD TRACKAGE.**  
CHILAN, Wis., Aug. 12.—It is reported that the Great Northern rail- way will commence construction soon of 3400 feet of passing track and 1200 feet of additional industrial track at Cheilan station. It is expected for the week of 1923, which is estimated to be the largest ever grown here. Bids are being received for a two-story 30x150 foot warehouse, with concrete base about the crater since 1882, slept once more in peace in the "house of fire" at the station.

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