

MINING IN EASTERN OREGON.

It is the belief of those well-informed upon the subject, that mining in Oregon will take a new departure during the present year. Hitherto, mining in Oregon, has been mostly among surface diggings, and has not risen above the dignity of the hydraulic hose. The era of the long-tom and rocker, has long since passed by, and those primitive implements are used chiefly by the unconverted Mongolian, whose "smile is childlike and bland."

The quartz ledges of eastern Oregon have long been celebrated for the high grade of rock produced, but the narrowness of the veins, has hitherto prevented them from being worked at a profit. The Connor creek mine, in Baker county, owned by S. G. Reed, Jno. A. Faull and Joseph Myrick, was an exception to this class. The vein is over six feet in width, thus relieving them from quarrying any waste rock. What the yield of the mine has been, no one knows, for it has always been a close corporation, and its owners have never allowed it to be listed on the stock boards in San Francisco. The success of this mine caused a new activity to spring up among the veteran prospectors of that section, and we may be prepared for extensive discoveries in that region as soon as the snow goes off the ground.

Somewhere in the tributaries of Olive creek, near the boundary line between the counties of Baker and Grant, lies a body of argentiferous galena, similar to that found at Pioche, Eureka and the other large towns of eastern Nevada. This one has been sampled and assayed somewhat extensively in the past four months, and goes from 35 to 58 per cent. of lead. In some places it shows as high as \$30 in gold to the ton, while in other localities, it contains more silver than gold. A similar deposit has been found in Union county, with silver going as high as \$104 to the ton, while the traces of gold are barely discernible. Across from Olive creek, about eight miles, are the Granite creek ledges, of an entirely different character of ore, being the "ruby silver," found in southern Idaho. This is a "roasting ore," and has to be burned before crushing. The Beagle brothers, whose mine is about two miles from the "Monumental," have the best of these

ledges, the vein being over four feet in width. One hundred tons from this yielded \$102.50, and a second crushing of one hundred tons, yielded \$105.25. So far, the Monumental has not been worked to any great degree of profit, but the ledge widens gradually.

Eastern Oregon offers to capitalists two peculiar advantages not possessed by Nevada, and which contribute materially to the economical and successful working of mines. We allude to the splendid water power and abundant supply of wood, enjoyed by the tributaries of the Grande Ronde, Powder and Burnt rivers. The gulches all bear abundant supply of pure water, free from any refractory mineral substances, and the pine wood is so abundant, that four dollars per cord is over the average price. Just contrast this with Nevada mining. At Pioche, the same sort of wood is worth \$16 per single cord and \$14, by the thousand cords. The narrow guage road from Palisades carries Evanston coal to Eureka for fuel, but for which those mines would be lying idle to-day. In the Cornucopia district the Leopard mine declared dividends so long as the wood lasted, but was obliged to shut down in 1877, because there was no timber within forty-two miles, and the cost of hauling wood to smelt ore, cut off the profits of the mine. No such contingency can occur in either Baker or Grant county.

It is not always the richest quartz that makes the best paying mine. Mining upon scientific principles must be conducted with economy, or it cannot prove lucrative. From what we have been able to glean from parties better posted than ourself, we are justified in saying that the mining of these ledges will be profitable, and that Oregon is rapidly advancing as a bullion producing state. A geological survey of that section would be of untold benefit to our state at this time, but Oregon cannot afford the expense, and there is no private citizen who can afford to advance the money for it. Hence we must "learn to labor and to wait;" but we don't think we will have to wait very long for the dawn of a new mining era in our already wealthy state.

"Why is Hymen always represented as bearing a torch?" asks the Boston Post. That's easy enough. It's a hint as to who shall build fires.

COUNSEL AND CAUTION.

As our caption would imply, we feel moved at the present moment to give the good people of our sovereign state, a few words of wholesome advice well seasoned with a due allowance of caution.

Through and in consideration of the World's Fair, to be held at New York during the summer of 1883, it is pretty certain that strenuous efforts will be made by the constituted agents of the various immigration societies of our western states and territories, to secure their own quota of emigration which this fair will cause to leave Europe for our shores. That the fair will provoke a mighty influx of settlers from the Old World, nothing can be more certain. It may not be generally known by the masses of our people that this very object is one of the moving elements in the underlying machinery of these great movements. Eastern capitalists themselves have large land interests in the west and northwest as well as in some of the Pacific states and territories. By inaugurating these monster exhibitions of our facilities, they count on inducing thousands of well-to-do European husbandmen to come over here and purchase their lands that are now not paying the interest on invested capital. Much of this financial machinery has already been set in motion, though for the most part, as yet, only in a sort of *sub silentio* way, the active agents of each interested party thinking, very naturally that they have gotten the start of everybody else. Governor Perkins of California, however, comes out publicly and boldly in his recent message and appeals to the people of his state to begin operations at once in this good work. He proposes that the district agricultural societies report immediately to the state agricultural societies everything of importance relative to the inducements offered to settlers in their respective localities. The amount of wild and improved lands in market, the prices per acre, kinds of soil, adaptability to different crops, nearness to railroad or water transportation, character of markets, etc.; the approximate supply of timber and water, healthfulness, climate, rainfall and temperature, etc., etc., are matters of great moment to settlers, and these the governor wants collected and prepared in convenient form, ready for