



Coal has been discovered on the western slope of the Cascade mountains, in Yakima county, W. T. That it is of good quality is evidenced by the fact that gentlemen connected with the mines at Newca. recently located sixteen claims on a five-foot vein. The discovery is in the Teanaway country west of Kittitas valley.

A ledge of silver ore was recently discovered near Fairweather, Spokane county, W. T., about twenty miles from Cheney, and when the news reached that enterprising town there was a lively scamper to secure locations on the lead. A mining district has been organized and many claims taken. The rock is pronounced very rich in silver by quartz experts.

Coal was recently struck in shaft No. 1, on the Esplanade, by the Vancouver Coal Co., near Nanaimo, B. C. Sinking was begun in June, 1881, and a circular shaft twenty feet in diameter was sunk 635 feet until it reached a seam of excellent coal seven feet and four inches in width. The event was celebrated by a grand banquet given by the company to its employees.

The valuable deposits of mica which were discovered some time since at the head of Bear creek, about four miles northeast of Lewiston, Idaho, have already sent two consignments to Boston and New York. The mica, which is declared by experts to be superior in quality to that procured in the Carolinas, is found in small intermittent veins or streaks covering a large area, indicating an abundance that will render the mines of permanent value. The metal is prepared for market at the mine, being split into thin layers, cut to patterns of some eighty sizes and shapes, neatly wrapped in tissue paper and packed for shipping.

Returning miners from the Kootenai region say that considerable prospecting has been done there this season. The ore is low grade, assaying from twelve to forty ounces of silver and carrying a large per cent. of lead. Prospecting down the Columbia some ninety miles from the lake, revealed no placer diggings of much value, but placer mines have been found on Bull river by prospectors from Kootenai. Many quartz claims have been located this season, and the indications are that a flourishing mining district will spring up there. A number of large boats have been built to navigate the lake and river and transport supplies to the miners.

The county of Meagher, Montana, which has always been known as the "cow county" is developing great mineral wealth in the Belt mountains that occupy its eastern end. The mountains are full of prospectors and many rich strikes have been made. There are promising ledges in Maiden, Yogo, Wolf creek, Copperopolis, Sage creek, Castle mountain, Montana, Barker, Birch creek, Belt Park, Mossgate and Sixteen-mile creek districts, many of which have been located a number of years. Preparations are being made by several

companies to begin operations on quite an extensive scale, and chances for the springing up of large mining camp in the near future are very bright.

At Harrisburg, Alaska, mining has been suspended for the winter. The Treadwell mine, on Douglas island, has a ledge 500 feet wide which has been uncovered a distance of 1,000 feet. The ore is low grade but in great quantity and easily taken out. In twenty-three days 220 tons were brought to the surface and crushed in a five-stamp mill, yielding \$2,600 without saving the sulphurets, which would have averaged \$6 per ton. It is proposed to erect a 120-stamp mill next season. Several other claims show paying ore. About 120 people are wintering in Harrisburg this season. The judgment of the Schiffelin Brothers that the season in Alaska is too short to render mining profitable is no doubt correct, except in the case of such mammoth ledges as the Treadwell. Returning miners bring many samples of fine coal and a superior quality of white marble.

Reports from the Coeur d'Alene gold mines are somewhat conflicting, ranging in tint from blue to rose, but all agree upon the conclusion that the placers, or at least portions of them, are rich, but just how extensive and valuable they are can only be demonstrated by actual working. Many claims have been located, though but few of them have been opened. The following from the Walla Walla Union is as reliable a report as can be had at present:

"Tom Bently, Pat Flynn and Robert Smith, three practical miners from Wood river, have just returned from the Coeur d'Alene mines and speak in the highest terms of the prospects there. They report Pritchard's creek (or gulch) about eighteen miles long, varying in width from twenty to eighty rods. It is flat and smooth, having a fall of two feet to the hundred, with a gradual and even slope. The gulch is all covered with heavy timber. Rocks are also quite numerous, but the largest can be easily handled by two men. Water is abundant and sufficient for the diggings. The ground will be worked by either stripping or drifting, but most likely it will not pay to drift very extensively. Ten miles of the gulch have already been prospected and pay dirt found. Two hundred claims have been located, and every claim opened up so far pays from \$20 to \$100 per man daily. Only ten strings of sluices are now running. The bed-rock is slate, and pays from one to two ounces per pan. There are a few inches of pay gravel on the bed-rock which prospects from 25 cents to \$10 per pan. It is not ascertained how wide the pay streak is, but parties are now working in the center and on both sides of the gulch in various places. When the party reached the gulch they found only two men opening it up—George Ives and a man named Gillett. After looking at the records they discovered that several men were holding all the way from 60 to 220 acres apiece in their own names, as well as the names of those who had never been near there. They accordingly staked off twenty acres of such land apiece, and were immediately followed by others, who did likewise. Miners came in from all directions, and now only two men have twenty acres each—Ives and Gillett. The claims were voluntarily divided up and given to new comers. The miners generally were in favor of not asking Ives and Gillett to divide up, as they

were the first in the gulch, and had shown such energy in opening it up. There are several gulches tributary to Pritchard's which have all been taken up, viz.: Eagle creek, about seven miles long; Butte gulch, three and a half miles long; Gold Run, two or three miles long; Quartz gulch, on the south side of Pritchard's, four or five miles long. On the latter there were only two claims when the party left. This gulch gets its name from an extensive quartz formation at its head. It is thought some eight hundred or one thousand men will winter in the gulch. A post office will soon be established. Seven hundred names have already been signed to a petition for the establishment of mail service. A trail is now open between Heron Siding and the diggings, crossing over the Coeur d'Alene ridge. The trail is a comparatively easy one, and being the shortest most of the travel to the mines will go via Heron Siding."

AGRICULTURE.

MONTANA FARMS.

The character and peculiarities of farming in Montana are well set forth in the following articles by several of the leading papers of that territory. The *Glendive Times* says: "The western emigrant who starts for Montana with a view of farming, should not suppose that the country is like Dakota, and offers large areas of land of even fertility ready for cultivation. Montana, with the exception of the high, rolling, grassy plains in the eastern portion of the territory, is essentially a mountain region. It is the backbone of the continent, and its surface is upheaved into countless ridges and ranges and into so many gigantic peaks that nobody has found time to give them all names. People who get their ideas of mountains from a map, and imagine that a range consists of a single line of ridges and summits, will be surprised to find that what is called the main divide of the Rockies is about fifty miles wide, and that spurs and lateral ranges fill a belt of country more than two hundred miles in breadth. Then there are detached groups and ranges that lie out on either side of the main body like the flankers of an army. The mountains are by no means valueless to the settler; for their slopes are covered with grass to an elevation of seven or eight thousand feet above the sea level, and timber grows in the ravines on both sides. Agriculture, however, is necessarily confined to the valleys which wind around among the lofty ranges in long, narrow belts of fertile bottom-land. The farmer only seeks to own a strip or valley land, knowing that the slopes of the adjacent mountains will afford a free range for his flocks and herds. Not only is Montana farming limited to the narrow valleys, but to such portions of the valleys as can be irrigated. Crops are raised in many localities without irrigation, but this is in low land close to the streams. Generally speaking, on Montana farms the scanty rainfall must be supplemented once or twice during the growing season by an artificial watering of the fields. Thus far the irrigating methods adopted have been simple and cheap, each farmer providing a ditch for his own use. Usually the large rivers are not drawn upon at all, but the little streams that come down from the mountain gorges are