QUARTZ MINES OF WESTERN OREGON.

THE quartz mining industry of Southern and Western Oregon, although a matter of twenty-five years standing, has of late begun to attain a prominence which stamps it as almost a new industry. At various times within that period discoveries of greater or less importance have brought the subject prominently before the people, but the interest thus awakened invariably proved ephemeral, and in no case has the community at large received permanent benefits from such discoveries, and the individuals who have benefitby them have been few.

The stagnation and depression prevailing in other lines of business has of late caused the diversion of considerable wealth into mining pursuits, and to a large extent those principles which prevail in ordinary business have been transplanted into the new pursuit of gold and silver mining, thereby placing it on a plane of responsibility and straightforwardness. Men who desire to invest in mines now demand to know plainly the chances of loss or gain, and the facts embraced in this article were gathered with the view of disseminating such information as may serve to assist investors and prospectors in a choice of location in which to conduct their operations. Without further preface, we will proceed to consider the different quartz mining districts of the state.

There is no doubt but that metamorphic vein-bearing rocks of the same description as those which prevail in the mineral regions of California, exist in great thickness on the western slope of the Cascades; but unfortunately denudation by glaciers and mountain streams has failed to remove the lava, sandstone and other late formations which lie upon and conceal them and their mineral wealth. It is only about the headwaters of such powerful streams as the Umpqua, the McKenzie, the Santiam and the Molalla that the erosion has gone deep enough to expose mineral veins of magnitude. On the former stream some promising quartz leads are now being prospected; on the Santiam several mines have at times been worked, and indications are very favorable for the finding of additional extensive and rich veins in the lower exposed strata all along the western slope of the range. It is almost unnecessary to add that the alluvium of nearly all the mountain streams flowing from this region contains gold, sometimes constituting workable placers. The principal mines of Southern Oregon are not situated in the Cascade range, but in the transverse chains which connect that range with the coast mountains. The formations are like those of Northern California, the same description of slates predominating, and quartz veins are large and numerous. The most important lodes lie in the hills which separate the Rogue, Applegate, Illinois and South Umpqua rivers.

JACKSON CREEK DISTRICT.

The Jackson creek quartz veins belong to a strongly developed system which permeates the steep hills which lie about the headwaters of that stream, and are characterized by parallelism and uniformity of dip. They contain little base metal, and their content of gold is found in small, but often very rich chutes—in short, they are "pocket" veins. The principal mines thus far worked are the Hicks ledge, the first quartz vein worked in Oregon; the Davenport, Bowden, Holman, Johnson and Elder and New El Dorado, all of which have produced considerable gold, their estimated production being as follows:

Davenport ledge	$10,000.00
Holman "	10,000.00
Hicks "	2,000.00
Bowden "	5,000.00
Johnson and Elder	.....
New El Dorado	.....

Since the revival of quartz mining in Jackson county, work has been resumed on the Davenport, Bowden and New El Dorado claims, with great promise of success. Besides these, several hundred new locations have been made, fine prospects being found in innumerable places. The most noted of the new mines are the Bell & Moody, Birdseye & Co., and the Mosquito gulch claim. This district has the advantage of possessing a good quartz mill, with efficient apparatus for working large or small lots of ore. The Salmon pulverizer, the best quartz reducing machine yet invented, is in use at this mill, and gives the best of satisfaction to those able to judge of its workings.

APPLEGATE DISTRICT.

This district includes but one mine that has yet produced gold, but that one is the renowned "Steamboat" mine—the most productive claim ever worked in Oregon. It was discovered in 1860, and within two years produced $315,000—almost as much as all the other quartz mines in Southern and Western Oregon. Several partners owned it, but abandoning the claim after it was in their opinion thoroughly worked out, it lay for many years idle, but eventually fell into the hands of Richard Cook, who is now engaged in prospecting for further deposits.

GOLD HILL DISTRICT.

Gold Hill, a noted landmark in the Rogue river valley, has a wonderful history, the most of which is due to the finding of the celebrated quartz mine in 1860, which has ever since been known by the name of the Gold Hill mine. It was an immense "pocket" of very rich quartz nuggets, which gave out after a few weeks' work, but in that short space produced $150,000. The rock was worked at first by arastra, but during the year of its discovery a steam mill of twelve stamps, the first built in Oregon, was brought from San Francisco and set up at the Dardanelles, the present crossing place of the railroad bridge over the Rogue river. Nothing of moment has been done on the mine since 1861, but the organization which owns it is still kept up.

In the neighborhood of Gold Hill are several other important claims, the Blackwell, Swinden, McDonough,