

## THE CRACKER CREEK MINES.

The Cracker creek mines are situated thirty-five miles west of Baker City in Eastern Oregon. The leading properties are the Eureka & Excelsior consolidated, owned by a St. Louis syndicate, and the Columbia mine, owned by the Cable Bros., Baker county. The Eureka & Excelsior, two full claims, is opened by a series of tunnels 300 to 600 feet long run on the vein, and opening an ore "schute" of two to eight feet thick and nearly 1,000 feet long. The ore runs from \$8 to \$500 per ton, gold with an average of about \$50. The company has put in a new twenty-stamp mill just below the lower tunnel dump, this year.

The Columbia is the first south extension of the Eureka & Excelsior on the Fruit Creek side of the divide. It has been under bond until recently to eastern parties who during the past year, have expended \$46,000 in development work and made of it a very handsome mine, in the judgment of many mining men, quite equal to the Eureka & Excelsior, if not superior to it, with big faces of high-grade ore exhibited in many places on the ledge. One car load of the ore taken from the surface at the upper works netted the owners \$2,200 in Denver. The sale under the bond failed to "go," it is said, because the middle men were asking too high a figure above the bond.

Two or three miles west of Cracker creek is the Cable Cove group of mines including some eight or ten claims all having more or less development work done on them. The California and Gray Eagle are the best developed, the former being opened by a series of five tunnels driven in on the vein for distances varying from 50 to 250 feet, and everywhere showing a continuous "schute" of ore of from two inches to two feet in a strong, well defined fissure vein from four to eight feet wide. The ore runs from \$20 to \$900 in gold and silver, the two metals being of about equal value. The Gray Eagle vein is opened by a tunnel 213 feet long on the vein which is from sixteen to twenty-four feet wide with the ore "schute" varying from six inches to six feet thick. This ledge is tracable on the surface through the whole length of the claim, 1,500 feet, and wherever opened by open cuts the ore is exposed. The average grade of the ore is claimed to be \$40, the assays varying from \$12 to \$800 per ton, chiefly gold.

The Winchester, Silver Star, Imperial, Miner, Ingersoll and Dead Shot, constitute the other claims which naturally belong in the group, and all of which present good ore showings for the amount of work done. Timber for all purposes is abundant and the water powers are numerous and good. This group of claims, it is believed possesses sufficient merit to make a great mining camp, but, like all other mining properties, will require capital to bring it to the front. They are owned by Cabbel Bros., Cable Bros., Burdett, Murphy, Downing, Young and Huntington, and have never been under bond.

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST MINING CAMP.

Butte City, Montana, has grown to be the greatest mining camp in the world. The mineral yield of last year placed it in the lead, as it placed Montana ahead of its sister states and territories in mineral production. Montana's output of gold and silver in 1888 was \$24,618,000. That gave her first place by \$2,000,000. And when the copper product was added her contributions to these three items of the wealth of the country reached \$40,500,000. This year, it is estimated that the new state will show a yield of \$50,000,000 in gold, silver and copper. More than half of Montana's mineral output last year came from Butte. The development has been recent and marvelously rapid. Five years ago "the Leadville of Montana"

was a very appropriate title, for Butte then was turning out \$6,000,000 a year. But now, with a twelvemonths' showing of \$24,000,000, the claim to be "the richest camp in the world" must be conceded. Eight thousand tons a day is no unusual output of ore for the Butte mines. Nine silver mills, with their 475 stamps have a capacity of 700 tons a day. Then there are four smelters. But most notable of all are the Anaconda works with their capacity for treating 3,000 tons of ore daily. In this Butte district, four miles wide by six miles long, there are four clearly defined classes of mines. The first class of ore yields silver only. Another class produces copper only. The third class is a combination of gold and silver, and the fourth class is copper bearing silver. But more remarkable than this close association of ledges of different metals is the freak by which a ledge will change from one metal to another. More than one mine of Butte has been opened and developed for silver, but after years of working has turned to copper. The camp of Butte is spread out on easy slopes of the mountains. There are mines above it and mines below it. From the streets in the heart of the city one may see in any direction shaft houses, dumps, stamp mills or smelters. The pay rolls of the mines and works at Butte disburse \$600,000 a month. The gambling houses, which occupy the choicest business locations in the principal street, are obliged to run all day Sunday to keep their money in circulation. Even then it is impossible to reduce the surplus, and the banks of the camp carry deposits aggregating \$3,500,000.

## THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY.

The Stillaguamish river flows through Snohomish county, Washington, from the Cascade mountains to the sound. Like all streams on the west side of the sound it flows through a valley of rich alluvial soil. The first settler located there in 1864. Since then settlements have been made, as at Florence, Norman, Stillaguamish, Sloman, Glendale and Allen. At these points the country is more thickly settled up and the roads or trails lead off to the homes of the hardy pioneers. The land is generally held in 160 acre claims, though in some cases it is cut up into smaller tracts and thus becomes more easily cleared and brought under cultivation. What farming is done, as a general thing, is on a small scale, and there are a few ranches that have more than thirty acres cleared and in seed. On the river banks, however, there is considerable good land either in fruit or hay, the average yield of the latter being four, five and six tons to the acre. One farmer harvested this year over seventy tons of hay from a thirteen acre patch. He also sold \$900 worth of stock, and \$1,000 in fruit from hardly 100 trees. Another farm near Florence consists of 500 acres, about 250 of which are sown in oats. During 1889 10,000 sacks of oats were harvested from this place, which at two and three-fourths bushels to the sack made the enormous total of 27,500 bushels, or 110 bushels to the acre. Upon this place were kept forty head of cattle and over 100 tons of hay were cut in addition to the oats. Farming, timber and mineral lands are very cheap in comparison to other points in Western Washington. There still remain large tracts of government land yet to be surveyed and entered. Following the forks of the river to the mountains a rich and undeveloped mineral country is struck which will some day surprise even those who are most sanguine as to its future. Vast deposits of coal and iron are known to exist; the precious metals have also been found, and in a recent week fifteen silver claims were said to have been taken up. Much of the land here is unsurveyed and it is confidently hoped and expected that the general government will take steps looking to its speedy location and entry.