

mill, but unfortunately the tunnel which was so nicely and thoroughly constructed was driven in the wrong direction for a distance of between 700 and 800 feet, every foot of which was carrying them away from the ledge. I believe that the Golconda or San Jose can be made as valuable as either the Ophir or Mountain Goat, and that a few thousand dollars properly expended would effect this result.

West of and adjoining the property of the Comfort Consolidated is a group of six quartz locations, (the Jim Blaine) owned by Cochran, Fitzgerald & Co. A continuous body of ore can be readily traced upon the surface direct from the Ophir workings to the extreme western boundaries of these claims. It is in fact upon the Yankee, Jim Blaine and Josie that the celebrated Ophir lode appears to have reached its grandest proportions, for a mountain of quartz is here exposed to view for a distance of 3,000 feet, any of which will mill from \$10 to \$15 in free gold, while samples selected from certain portions of the ledge have assayed over \$300 per ton. Without exaggeration we freely state that this property offers in our opinion, a more safe and profitable investment for capital than any mining project that the writer has examined for many years.

West of the Rocky Bar and adjoining the east end of the old reliable Elmore, Confederate Star and Objective claims, are locations worthy the consideration of any syndicate seeking investment in mines. The Esmeralda is the eastern extension of one of the ledges in the Confederate Star claim, as has been thoroughly demonstrated by the Elmore Company in sinking their new shaft, which is located at the common end line of the two claims. The vein is from three to nine feet in width and the last run of one milled \$45 per ton; some of the ore assaying over \$400 per ton, free gold. The owners, George Winder & Co., are expecting daily to make a sale to parties well able to work the mine to the best possible advantage.

Running parallel with the Esmeralda and east of the Ida Elmore is the Surprise lode claim. The general course of the Elmore vein as indicated by the underground workings will lead this lode through the Surprise ground, near the eastern boundary of which very heavy croppings exist similar in character to those of the Elmore. At this end of the claim a tunnel is being driven that will tap the lode at a depth of 400 feet. The claim is owned by Thompson, Tonkins and Quilizer. South of the above described claim and east of the Objective is located the Great Republic, which together with the Wedge lying south and west contain within their boundaries the apex of the Alturas lode. That this assertion is well founded will not be questioned by any mining expert upon an examination of the ground. There is no doubt but that this group of mines, extending from the Tiptop on the south to the Vishnu, on the north completely cut off the Alturas, Elmore and S. Confederate Star lodes at their common end lines, running thence east from the Elmore Company's works. It would be of great benefit to the camp were this property secured by some company having the energy and capital to properly develop the same, the ground being in all respects similar to the Elmore, and possessing the additional advantage of having its rich bodies of ore near the surface as yet in their virgin state, ready to repeat the history of the Elmore in its early days as a gold producer.

DISCOVERY OF THE PINE CREEK MINES.

It is now six years since a wonderfully rich quartz district was discovered in the Eagle mountains, in Eastern Oregon, lying to the southeast of Grande Ronde valley, and known as the Pine Creek mines. Of the legendary history of that region a correspondent from Baker City thus writes to the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*:

The Umatilla Indians, during one of their hunting and fishing expeditions in the Eagle mountains, brought several ounces of gold to a trader at Walla Walla, which indicated that it had been extracted from quartz in the crudest and most imperfect manner. This trader and two companions became wild with envy as each returning party of Indians displayed quantities of the same character of gold, and determining upon finding the locality of their treasure, a secret audience was held with one of the chiefs. By means of liberal offers of "fire water" the chief was finally persuaded to divulge the secret and lead the three traders to the place whence his long and handsomely beaded purse had so often been replenished. When all was in readiness for the start one of the prospectors was taken ill, and as the expedition could not well be delayed then, two adventurers, the chief and two warriors pushed through the Blue mountains and camped at the mouth of the Big Minnuc river to wait for the prospector left behind. This was in June, 1862, and, as the two whites and three Indians were known to be in camp together, a party of cavalry was detached from a command then stationed in Grande Ronde valley to inspect the camp of these Indians, as it was feared the prospectors had been inveigled into the mountains and murdered by the savages. Riding into the camp, the soldiers inquired for the white men, but meeting with no satisfactory answers to their interrogatories, they killed the three innocent Indians within hearing of the men whose supposed death they had so cruelly avenged. After rifling the camp they returned to their command, where they were applauded as heroes when the trophies of their victory were displayed. Enough had been learned of the general direction of the locality of the treasures to enable the prospectors to push on toward the towering mountain peaks of the Eagle range, and as it was not deemed prudent for them to remain longer in the neighborhood where their companions had been murdered, they accordingly pressed forward into the very heart of the mountains, where twenty years later, the northwest was startled by the discovery of quartz fabulously rich in gold. The gold-bearing region was within but a few miles of where our weary prospectors gave up the search. The streams of these mountains are alive with brook trout, and in the mountains deer, elk and mountain sheep were found to be on every hand, while bear and panther often made themselves far too familiar with camp life. For many weeks the party wandered among the almost impenetrable forests of the mountainous country. Placer prospects were found in many places, but, like Ponce de Leon, they sought a fountain which they never found. At last, however, they espied the beautiful Wallowa valley, then the home of Chief Joseph and his braves, and immediately repaired to the banks of the lake, where they pitched their tents, resolved to rest their weary horses as well as themselves before pursuing their journey. The Indians, however, were not disposed to give them peaceful possession of their territory, and ordered them to move on. This they did reluctantly, but without ceremony, leaving Chief Joseph and his band in peaceful possession of lake and valley. Going down to the Wallowa river they found their way into the Grande Ronde valley, where they heard for the first time the news of the discovery of gold in Boise basin, whither they arrived late in the fall. There is little doubt that the gold for which this thorough but unsuccessful search was made in 1862, was found in 1884 with the discovery of the Pine creek mines. The "Red Jacket" and all other locations there show unmistakable signs of having been worked by the primitive methods used by the Indians. Pestles of flint and concave granite boulders, used as hand mortars, have been found near these ledges, while corroded iron bars, used, no doubt, as picks and