



#### THE OKANOGAN MINERAL BELT.

The well known mining man, W. H. Townsend, writes the following about the Okanogan mining country in Northern Washington: The Okanogan mineral belt extends from ten miles south of Ruby City to and across the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia. This area of mineral field, although but partly prospected, shows a greater number of outcroppings of quartz ledges, with greater width and richness at the surface, than any mineral field of equal extent in the country, and is generally pronounced by such experts as have examined it to present the finest surface showings of any mineral belt they ever saw. At Ruby City, I am informed, \$150,000 will be expended by the Arlington company in the completion of their mill and developing and opening of their mines. The owners of the Fourth of July mine will spend a large sum in developing their mine, and will sink to a depth of 200 feet as fast as possible. At Conconully the Lone Star shaft is now down 300 feet and will be sunk 100 feet further as soon as possible. On Palmer Mountain, twenty-two miles north of Conconully, the Ophir Company has sunk shafts 100 feet in depth on each of their mines, and propose the erection of a twenty-stamp mill this year to work their product. The following railroads are building towards this mining district: From the west, the Fairhaven & Southern and the Seattle & Northern are building up the Skagit river; from the southeast, the Central Washington is building from Almira and down Foster creek to the Columbia; from the east, the Spokane Falls & Northern is prospecting a route for a road from Marcus to Conconully via Osoyos and Wannacutt lakes, and from the north, the Canadian Pacific will build from the Shuswap via Okanogan lake and river to Osoyos lake. These five lines will all probably be in operation before the close of the year 1891. No mining country in the world possesses such favorable conditions for the prosecution of mining cheaply as this does. The climate is such that it can be prosecuted every day in the year. There is plenty of timber for mining purposes right on the ground, plenty of water for power and other uses, and plenty of grass to feed working stock. It is so situated that a railroad may be run through the very heart of the district for fifty miles, so that the ore for shipment will in no case have to be carried over five miles to reach the railroad. Within the district and immediately adjoining it is the finest agricultural and fruit-growing section in Washington, consequently the cost of living will be quite as cheap at the mines as in other parts of the state. The ores are of all character, free milling and rebellious, rich, poor and medium, but in unlimited quantity.

#### FRUIT RAISING IN WESTERN WASHINGTON.

In the rapid and wonderful development of the Puget sound basin within recent years, while fortunes have been made in real estate and the press engaged in lauding our natural advantages and resources to the skies (and not undeservedly) but little attention is paid, especially by the metropolitan journals, to the fact that Washington, or, at least, this part of Washington, is undoubtedly one of the best fruit producing regions on earth. If this fact were more freely advertised, it would undoubtedly have the effect of inducing still a larger immigration

from less favored localities of food producers who are naturally the bone and sinew of a nation. It is a fact that but a small percentage of the fruit consumed by the sound cities is produced at home. Thousands of dollars annually are being sent out of the state to Oregon and California in payment for fruit, while we are capable of producing a better quality at home, and for less money and then allowing a heavy margin for the producer. We can challenge the world in producing the apple, pear, cherry, plum and prune. The peach, apricot, nectarine and quince are all moderately successful with us, and are certainly worthy of a fair trial, and, indeed, are sure to be profitable when planted near salt water. That all manner of small fruit are a success here goes without saying. But it is to the cultivation of the prune that our horticulturists do and will continue to give their special attention. The character of our soil, together with our humid atmosphere, makes this pre-eminently a prune country. Here the prune can be raised to its highest perfection. We have no need of irrigation, as in California, by which means the fruit is robbed largely of its tone and rich flavor. As for profit, the writer knows young, six-year planted trees of the Petite D'Agen and Italian varieties yield 350 pounds to the trees; even last year, and that was undoubtedly an off season, the fruit sold on the market green at three cents per pound. This gives us a result of \$10.50 per tree, and being 100 trees to the acre, ought to make a grand total of \$1,000 per acre. It is estimated that had this same fruit been dried at a reasonable expense, and placed on the market in that state, it would have yielded one-half as much more. In what else under heaven can a farmer do and make such princely returns as in what the prune and general fruit business offers him? But we have heard some farmers demur and say they are afraid the business is going to be overdone; that there are already too many going into the business; or, "I will wait and see how my neighbor is coming out with his orchard." Such talk is pure balderdash. Old fogies said the same thing in California fifteen years ago. But time proved them false prophets, and many find their land worth ten fold what it was formerly. What was true of California will be true of the great Puget sound basin, and Thurston county in particular. This county has peculiar advantages well recognized for fruit raising over other portions of the state. Although tree planting may go on at an unprecedented rate, it will be some years before sufficient fruit can be produced to supply the constantly increasing local demand, and after that we are sanguine of the time arriving when our matchless Washington fruit, dried and green, will go forth in train loads to compete and conquer in the markets of the world.—J. D. Medill, in *Olympia Review*.

The Hidden Hand mine, eight miles east of Deer Lodge, Montana, is thus spoken of by the *Butte Miner*:

It is a remarkable locality. Nothing like the Hidden Hand veins has ever before been found in Montana, and if it holds out, as there is every prospect, not only will its owners be made wealthy, but the smelters of Montana will be placed on an equality with those of other states in fluxing ores. It is this class of ore that is needed by the smelters, and it was a lack of it within a reasonable distance that compelled the Helena and Great Falls smelters to close. Superintendent Long, who is