

GOLD MINES OF OREGON

Product for the Year About \$5,000,000—Development Goes Steadily Forward.

OREGON mines have had the best year in their history. It is evident to close observers and is admitted by the miners themselves that more substantial progress has been made in the past 12 months than in any other similar period. The industry has been steadier than ever before. Much new capital has been invested and the work of development and operation has gone forward systematically and with confidence. The trend of operations has been to gain depth—to ascertain positively how permanent Oregon lodes are. This has characterized most of the mining development of the year. And it is regarded as of the highest importance to the mining industry of the state that the lodes bear deep exploitation. The ore grows base with depth, as is to be expected, but this fact tends to establish the permanence of the deposits, as distinguished from pockets and other forms of gold-bearing strata that are soon worked out. It is gold mining that is here spoken of, gold being the chief mineral of the state and the basis of its present mining industry.

As to the output of the mines, no man knows accurately what it is. Most of the capital invested in Oregon mines comes from outside the state, a material part of it from foreign countries, and there is no desire on the part of the mineowners to "make a showing" for the state. On the contrary the results of the mining operations are guarded jealously and the managers of most of the large producers are at considerable pains to see that no facts by which their business could be gauged leak out to the public. The collector of statistics gets no consideration whatever from these mining men when it comes to statements of the value of the precious metals they put out. Even the Government finds it a difficult matter to get at this information, so difficult that it is believed the Government figures for Oregon are materially below what the facts would justify. The smelters and assay offices to which Oregon gold inevitably goes are all outside the state.

Estimates of men familiar with the mining industry of Oregon place the gold output for 1902 at \$4,900,000. Of this amount \$3,000,000 comes from the mines of Eastern Oregon, chiefly from the district tributary to Baker City; \$1,500,000 from Jackson and Josephine Counties, in Southern Oregon; \$500,000 from the Bohemia district, and the remaining \$900,000 from Blue River, the Santiam and the Trout Creek district, in Crook County. These figures are considerably reduced from the estimates mining men usually make. It is evident to all that there has been a large increase over the output of previous years.

The chief mining operations of recent years have been upon quartz ledges. Many of the old placers have been worked out and abandoned, though in some instances it is found that modern methods will make placers pay handsomely where they could not be made profitable in pioneer times with the imperfect facilities then available. This fact has led to the rehabilitation of many old placers, chiefly in Southern Oregon, but also to an extent in the Bohemia district, and a large part of the gold production of the state for the past year has come from those sources. Some dredging has been done on Snake River bars, but with indifferent results. It is said. The quartz ledges are looked upon as holding the great future of the gold mining industry, however, and the timidities that at first characterized attempts to prove the worth of the veins, ledges and shoots has largely disappeared, and confidence has taken the place of quizzical doubt. Miners from successful districts like Colorado, Montana and British Columbia are coming to recognize in Oregon the best traits of the formations they are familiar with. Instead of coming on a field that is new to them and which must be studied like a new lesson, they find rocks that are old friends, and which they know precisely how to deal with. The mineral formations and deposits here behave as they do in other districts of proved merit.

"One of the most promising incidents of the year's mining in Oregon," said E. J. Hard, of the Oregon Mining Exchange, "is the recognition of the mineral formations here as being similar to those in other well-known mining regions. This will greatly help the industry here, and I look for faster growth hereafter." There is not a county in Oregon that does not possess minerals in the native state. Gold, silver, copper, coal and iron are the most common and most important of these. No iron has been mined in the state in the past year. The coal mining business is confined to Coos County, where extensive mines are operated by their San Francisco owners, the product being marketed in California. Coal discoveries have been made in various other parts of the state and a certain amount of development work has been done on a number of these. But the mining industry of Oregon is confined practically to gold, silver and copper. These minerals being found in the same or related strata. In some of the mines the copper is the primary product; in more of them gold is chief.

The Southern Oregon district is composed of Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties. In that district hydraulic mining predominates. The northern edge of Douglas is in the Bohemia district, where large quantities of low-grade ore are in sight and where three mills of 10 stamps each have been in operation most of the past season. Farther northward are the Blue River mines and then the Santiam and Molalla districts, where operations have hardly passed the prospecting stage. The whole Cascade range appears to harbor a wondrous store of greater or less richness, but it is not equally available at all points. East of the range are the Trout Creek mines, the Ochoco diggings, and then the great mineral belt of the Blue Mountains, with their numerous spurs. Baker City is the center of that richly mineralized section. Outside of the districts whose names have come from usage to have a definite meaning, there are many individual efforts at mining in isolated spots where conditions seem favorable, and many of these are quite successful.

Eastern Oregon Mines.
The development of the mines of Eastern Oregon during the last 12 months has been greater than during any preceding year since the discovery of gold at Auburn in October, 1861. The work has been of substantial sort and the results have been all that could be expected. Each mining district has received more or less attention. Improvements have mostly consisted of deep sinking, the extension of tunnels, the building of better roads and the installation of new machinery in suitable buildings. A large number of well-worked prospects have been brought to a better state of development and placed

on the list of producing mines. Many new prospects have been developed and are now promising properties.

The old, regular producing mines of Eastern Oregon may be stated as follows:

Stamps.
Bonanza mine, located at Oelver, Baker Co., 29
Red Boy, located in Grant Co., 49
Columbia mine, located at Cracker Creek, Baker Co., 29
North Pole mine, located near Columbia mine, 29
Badger mine, located in Grant Co., 29
Union Consolation mine, Baker Co., 29
Balsley-Elkhorn, located in Baker Co., 29
Virtue mine, located eight miles east of Baker City, 29

The new producing mines which may be considered to have come within the list of producers within the last year are as follows:

Stamps.
Phoenix mine, located near the Bonanza, 29
Don Juan, near the Phoenix, 29
Quebec, near the Bonanza, 19
Black Hawk, near the Quebec, 19
Gem mine, near Sparta, 19
Red Lion, located near the Phoenix mine, the I. X. L., the Virginia and the Snow Creek ship ore to outside smelters. At the Tempest mine, in the Greenhorn Mountains, of Grant County, a 20-ton Vulcan smelter is under construction. The Red Boy mine has added to the original property the claims of the Concord mine and is sinking a deep shaft to develop the whole property. Expensive sinking machinery was installed a year ago and the shaft is well down on the ledges, with a showing satisfactory to the owners. The Bonanza Mining Company has also installed deep-sinking machinery. The result of this improvement has been satisfactory and a 40-stamp mill is running night and day on good ore.

The Balsley-Elkhorn mine, which has been a steady producer for several years, has been shut down for the past year on account of litigation, but it has now been sold, and, together with the Robbins-Elkhorn, which adjoins it, is being made ready for extensive development work in the near future. When these two properties are developed by the long tunnel method, the mine in the state, in Cracker Creek, shut down last year by the owners, will be sold and is now being worked by a large force of men. The Columbia, which has been a steady producer of the year, has been sold, and the Gold Ridge mine, in Crook County, has been sold, and placed on the list of producing mines within the past year. Both these mines are well equipped with machinery and giving good results. The Cougar mine, at Grants, Grant County, has a stamp mill and granite plant now in operation.

Good results come from the mines of Burnt River, from Prairie Digging, on John Day River, from Cable Cove, from Rock Creek mines and from the copper mining districts of Lower Powder River and the Snake River mines.

Mines of Southern Oregon.
The past year has witnessed great advancement in the mineral industry of Southern Oregon. From a "pocket and blanket" era, the mines of this section of the state have entered a permanent and substantial business epoch. Though the pioneer mining section of the state, Southern Oregon has been the slowest in development, owing to its reputation for being a "pocket" country. But capitalists have begun to see and find something more than surface mines in Josephine and Jackson Counties, and have invested more heavily in this section in the past year than ever before. The success of those who have fearlessly sunk their shafts deep has led others to follow suit, and as a result the Southern Oregon districts have a number of well-developed and paying quartz mines. The future success of Josephine County mining is bound up in its quartz ledges, for there must come a time when the placer

out their ground in the next 25 to 30 years, at the present rate of work.

In Josephine County the Eureka mine, operating a 10-stamp mill and full equipment, has been brought from a hole in the ground to a billion producer of \$25,000 to \$30,000 in the past year. The Gopher is operating a 5-stamp mill, and was doing nothing last year. The Greenback mine has increased its equipment from a 15 to a 30-stamp mill, and has added a cyanide plant and other modern equipment. The Gold Bug has added a large cyanide plant to support its 5-stamp mill. The Kremer and Palmer have added a 4-stamp mill. The Copper State is preparing to put in a 10-stamp mill. The Golden Wedge has put in a 2-stamp mill. The Baby and the Oregon Belle have each been recently purchased by Eastern men and will each install large mills so soon as they have been sufficiently developed.

In hydraulic mining the greatest advancement of the past year for Josephine County is represented in the enterprise of the Golden Drift Mining Company, which is damming Rogue River, three miles above Grants Pass. From there power will be utilized in operating mammoth pumps and forcing water to the Dry Diggings, where five or six giants can be kept in constant operation, thus overcoming the embarrassment of a long delay and suspension of work during the dry season. Irrigation and power for manufacturing purposes are also to be incidents of this great enterprise, which will be completed the coming Spring and Summer.

The output of placer and quartz gold from Southern Oregon for the past year has been at least 50 per cent greater than it was in 1901. The following figures show the amount of gold that the Southern Oregon districts have added to America's output in the past year, according to the best information available. The first eight districts named are in Josephine County, the remaining ones occupy the border of the Southern Oregon mineral belt surrounding Josephine County:

Altitude mining district	\$2,150
Waldo mining district	100,000
Williams mining district	100,000
Gallop mining district	120,100
Briggs-Soldier Creek district	50,000
Grants Pass district	50,000
Mount Reuben-Northern Josephine district	200,000
Grave Creek district	400,000
Lower Rogue and Curry districts	25,000
Lower Rogue district	50,000
Gold Hill district	200,000
Western Jackson district	25,000
Other Jackson districts	25,000
Total	\$1,580,200

MINING EXCHANGE.

The Oregon Mining Exchange Is Doing Much Good.

The Oregon Mining Stock Exchange has just completed work for the third year of its existence, and has evidenced to the world in a substantial way the important fact that the Northwest is bound to become a large factor in the mineral production of the country. Its efforts have been more along the line of advertising the various mining districts of the State of Oregon, and attempting to educate the public that mining is legitimate and probably the most profitable and important industry of the world.

This exchange has not recognized stock manipulators and has had no room for unscrupulous brokers. The day has not come for an active market, as most of Oregon's mining is yet in a state of development. Reported sales have been confined to facts. No "wash" sales are allowed. All stock dealt in the past year has been sold by companies for development purposes. Listed stocks have been considered favorites to investors, who investigate before they invest, instead of afterwards.

The management know that the Oregon quotations published every day in Eastern papers among quotations of other exchanges have attracted much attention, and been the means of much inquiry about the various districts; indirectly, the exchange has been the starter for many mining enterprises and hundreds of thousands of dollars being expended. Several prosperous companies can trace their start

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NEW REGION OPENED UP

RICH MINERAL AND TIMBER SECTION REACHED BY RAIL.

Great Chances for Mill and Timber Men as Well as Farmers and Orchardists.

COTTAGE GROVE, Dec. 31.—Fourteen miles of the Oregon & Southeastern Railway have been completed, reaching out from this city toward the great Bohemia mining region; four more miles are ready for the ties, and an equipment of two locomotives and ten flat cars are doing service on the road. Two round trips a day are made from here, and great quantities of sawlogs and planks are brought out from the tall, heavy timber through which the line passes. The year ushered in by the issue of

completed from Cottage Grove to the Champion Mine, 36 miles, January 16, 1902. On November 5, 1901, W. F. Morphy, a total stranger to the state, arrived here from New York, for the purpose of looking over the ground, reporting on the resources of the country, and to secure contracts for right of way. On the strength of his reports a company was organized about the first of April of this year, right-of-way contracts were closed, grading contracts were let, and actual work upon the line was begun on the 10th of May. Fourteen miles of grading was completed, track put down, and the company began the operation of that much of the road on August 1, 1902. Many side tracks have since been put in, and in consequence of the operation of the logging trains a large saw mill has been erected here, giving employment to several scores of men. Other mills will be built the coming Spring and Summer, and the road will be taxed to its utmost capacity to supply them with logs to be made into timber, lath and shingles. Branch roads are to be constructed upon the numerous creeks that flow from the mountains down into the valley, and within another year this place is bound to become one of the important lumber and timber centers of the state. In fact, this should be the Mecca toward which timber and mill men will navigate for some time to come, and I shall be surprised if Cottage Grove does not speedily become the most active business point in Southern Oregon. The Pacific Timber Company has two camps engaged in getting out piling, and great numbers of railroad ties are shipped from here. The railroad is already paying the cost of its operation, and Manager Morphy is well satisfied with the outlook.

BOHEMIA MINES.

Showing Great Values—Permanency Assured.

The mines of the Bohemia mining district have been visited by many large mine-owners in the past season. Several companies have been able to dispose of amounts of the treasury stock in the East, and more work has been accomplished in this district than ever before. It is strange, but true, that a district so conveniently located has been so long undeveloped. No district in the world has more surface encouragement, nor can one be found where less money is required for development. There is not a ledge but that can be explored by deep tunnels, scarcely a claim that has not enough timber for mining purposes, and there is abundance of water in all the streams. There is free gold at the surface, with sulphides in deeper levels, and every indication leads to permanency of values.

F. J. Hard, secretary of the Oregon Mining Stock Exchange, has been most prominent in attracting attention to this district. His companies, the Oregon-Colorado, Vesuvius and Riverside, are proving his judgment in selection, and the large amount of work he is having done proves his faith in the district, which is reached by stage from Cottage Grove, 140 miles south of Portland, on the Southern Pacific Railroad.



A STAMP MILL IN AN OREGON MINE.

—Photo by George M. Weister.

mines now being worked will be washed off. This in turn will depend upon the attitude of capital toward the district, for, as a matter of fact, few of the Southern Oregon miners who have good quartz claims have the means adequately to develop and equip them.

There are three times as many paying mines in Josephine County at this time as there were one year ago, a fact that proves that the quartz ledges of the district are receiving much attention from men of means. Eastern capital has done this work.

Placer mining, by hydraulic, is still a great industry over all Southern Oregon, and more especially in Josephine County, where more than 100 acres are worked by pipe and giant. All of these mines got water early this season and an uninterrupted run six to nine months is expected. Owing to the extent of the old channel occupied by the diggings of the Josephine and Jackson County placers, few of them could hope to wash

directly from the influence of the exchange. One railroad now in operation is a direct result from the work of the exchange.

Among the flourishing companies now listed are the Crystal Consolidated, Gold Hill & Bohemia, Oregon Monarch, Judson Rock, Oregon-Colorado, Riverside, Sweden Copper, Vesuvius, Old Astra, Cascade, Calumet and Chicago.

In the secretary's annual report are many important facts and figures that show the importance and permanency of the exchange. The report deplores the lack of interest taken by those who are direct beneficiaries and ought to be active; and sounds high praises for the faithful, encouraging work of The Portland Evening Telegram and Eastern mining journals in devoting many of their columns to Oregon mining.

The directors were unanimous in their request to Manager F. J. Hard that he continue as manager and secretary. Complimentary resolutions were adopted at the close of the annual meeting, and it was directed that the present policy of the exchange continue.

The Oregonian in which this article will appear, will witness the completion of this important highway to the heart of the mining section, and will doubtless bring to this part of Lane County hundreds of immigrants seeking homes in this rich valley, or desirous of finding lucrative employment in the lumbering and mining camps adjacent to this city.

Cottage Grove, let it be remembered, is a fully populated city, with its Mayor, Common Council and other necessary officials. It has a fine graded school, an electric light system, waterworks and all other adjuncts of a thriving municipality. It is located 144 miles south of Portland, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, and its resources are as varied as are those of any part of Oregon. It is a dairy, fruit, grain, hay, hop, vegetable and honey country, and the products of the tributary mines and forests will soon be so great that a brisk and permanently prosperous metropolis is sure to be maintained at the junction of these two roads.

The preliminary survey of this new railroad was begun on October 20, 1901, and

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There is absolutely no question but that the fortunate owners of a producing rubber plantation will realize fabulous profits annually.—Chicago Journal, Dec. 10, 1902.

If I had my life to live over, I would go into the tropics of Mexico and grow rubber.—Chas. P. Huntington, late president of the Southern Pac. Ry. Co.

If I were a young man I would invest my money in a rubber plantation, as it is better than a bank, or most anything else.—Russell Sage.

Rubber culture is probably the safest investment that can be made, as no reasonable contingency can arise to limit the demand.—Hon. Wm. O. Wilson, Sec. Philadelphia Commercial Museum.

Rubber will, in a few years, make greater fortunes under present conditions than steel, or, in fact, any other branch of manufacture.—Andrew Carnegie, Leslie's Weekly, Sept. 18, 1902.

There are few agricultural ventures today more attractive to capitalists than rubber planting. It seems to be an absolutely sure thing.—N. Y. Evening Post, June 15, 1902.

At the first tapping after the trees have reached the age of 6 years, a net profit of \$450 gold per acre is made. As the yield per acre increases yearly, the profit also increases in proportion.—Bureau of American Republics, Washington, D. C.

Within the past year rubber has advanced from 80 cents to \$1.15. A rubber plantation is a mine which is continually producing.—George C. Woolson, Pres. Manhattan Rubber Works.

One hundred thousand rubber trees the first year's harvest will yield \$120,000 (\$240 per acre).—British Foreign Office Report, No. 385, page 927.

Rubber will give 1000 per cent on the capital invested, including the value of the land.—Hon. Matias Romero, late Mexican Minister to U. S.—India Rubber Culture in Mexico, page 402.

Most of the rubber exported from Mexico comes from State of Chiapas, and the best rubber lands are in this state.—Philadelphia Record, July 15, 1899.

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