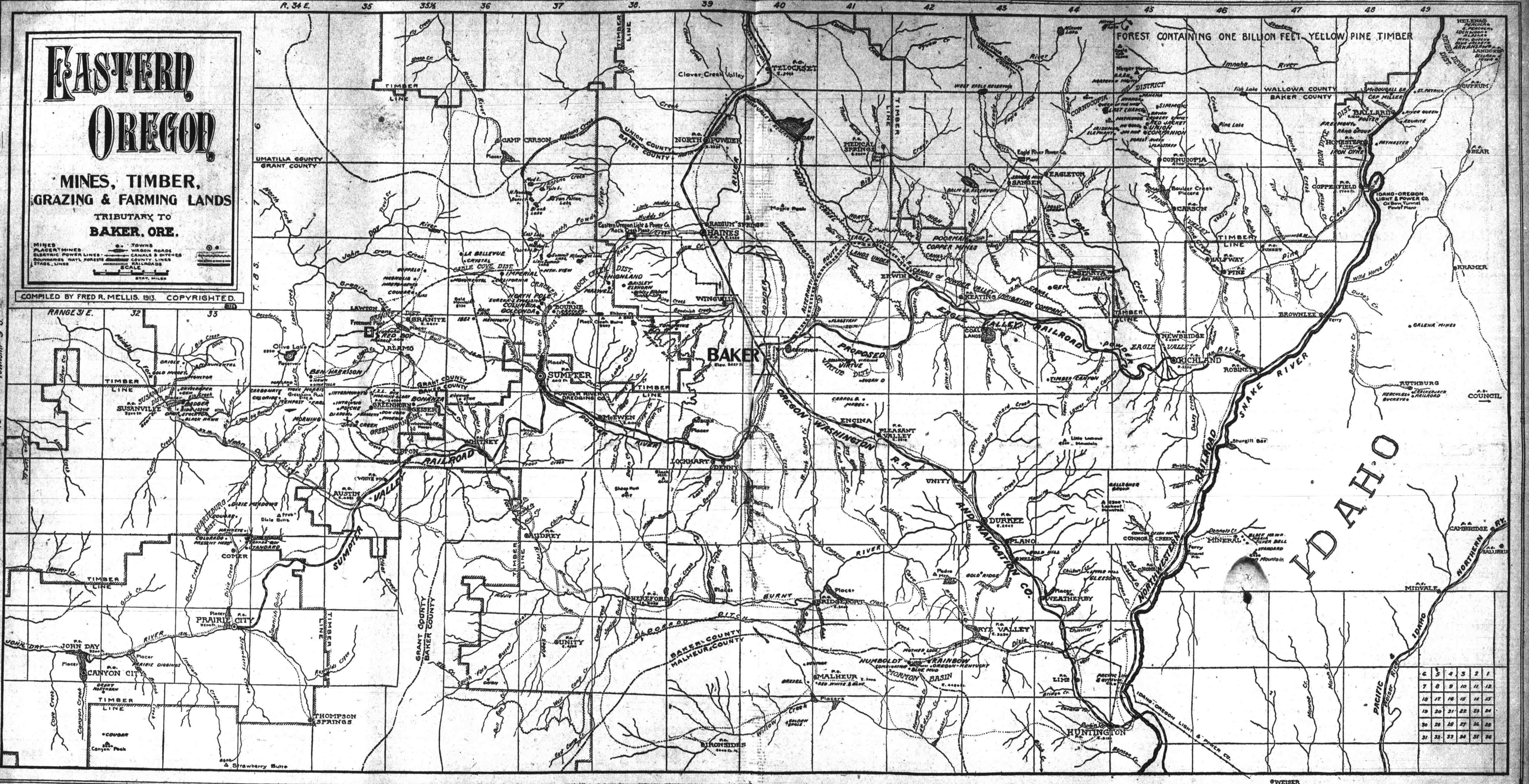


GOLD MINES OF EASTERN OREGON, NOW IN OPERATION, YIELD LARGEST PRODUCTION IN HISTORY OF THAT RICH DISTRICT



Map of Eastern Oregon District Showing in Detail the Locations of the Several Mining Properties in Baker and Adjoining Counties, the Towns, Railroads, Wagon Roads, Stage Routes, Lines for the Transmission of Electric Power, Etc.

Written for The Journal by Fred R. Mellis.

EASTERN OREGON mining is coming into its own. For years the mining industry of this district was hampered by illegitimate manipulations, during which time it was the foothold of mining sharks and irresponsible stock brokers, whose only object was to get the money by speculation, and spend as little of it as they possibly could in actual mining development. In spite of these adverse conditions, the legitimate miner retained his belief in the merit of eastern Oregon mines, and it is largely due to his unshaken faith and patient toil that some of the properties that have been developed have finally reached a stage of development where all methods of work have been dispensed. Added to this is the introduction of modern methods of mining and extraction of precious metals from low grade ore bodies that cover thousands of acres in this district. From 25 per cent to 50 per cent was formerly considered a reasonable saving, and only

high grade ore could be treated profitably. The adoption of improved scientific principles and installation of modern machinery makes it now possible to effect a saving of from 85 per cent to 97 per cent of the value, assuring big returns, where formerly failure was the rule.

Many capitalists are becoming interested in this district, but are only making investments after approved examination by competent mining engineers. The best obtainable mining talent is then placed in charge of the property. Among the important producers and promising mining properties are the following:

Bainbow.

In the class of Oregon's big mines, the Bainbow is entitled to rank among the largest. The Bainbow group consists of twelve patented claims in the Morning Basin district, Baker county, 15 miles southwest of Durkee, the nearest railroad. The geology is a contact deposit of a large basalt dike, which intrudes between the granite and lime. The mine is opened up by four levels

to a depth of 500 feet, and is operated through a double compartment propeller shaft. In the upper levels, the values occur in free gold, but considerable quantities of arsenical pyrites are found in depth. The ore bodies contained in this mine are abnormally large, and in the first level the pay ore averages seven feet in thickness, averaging 11.75 feet per ton. In the same level another ore body has been developed for a distance of 185 feet, that averages 10 feet 2 inches in width, assaying 153.10 per ton in free gold.

According to Howard A. Leek, superintendent, the ore that is being milled has an average value of from \$15 to \$25 per ton, and an extraction of 37 per cent of the values is made. Between 7 and 20 tons are being milled daily. The mill is of the latest type, and the process consists of grinding the ore after it is crushed by the stamps, until after it it will pass a 200 mesh screen.

The estimated production of the Bainbow is between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per month. The property is operated in the electric power. A. F. Anderson is general manager and H. Lee is in charge of the mine.

The Humboldt group is composed of five large claims, and the company owns 300 acres of timber land. About one-fourth of the ore zone is developed to a depth of 400 feet. In the vein, which is 60 feet wide, the ore occurs in a normal contact fissure, between trachyte and diorite, and is composed of clean quartz and sulfide. Practically one ton of ore is blocked out, and at this stage a heavy armored cable, G. W. Darby is general manager of the Powder River Gold Dredging company.

The Ben Harrison was purchased about two years ago from James A. Howard and appraised for the sum of \$45,000, and a fund of \$25,000 was placed at the disposal of W. C. Follis, present manager, and he still had \$6000 on hand when production commenced. The present output is estimated at \$50,000 per month.

See Harrison.

There are 19 quartz claims in the Ben Harrison group, located four miles southwest of Grants, Grant county. The owners are Lina, Ohio, capitalists, headed by Arthur L. White, president of the Lima, Ohio, locomotive works.

The main claims are developed to a depth of 200 feet, on which level 1800 feet of drifting has been done. The ore averages six feet three inches in width, assaying 317 per ton. In place of a head line to hold the float up to the bank when digging, two "spuds" are used at the start of the float. These are made of steel and weigh 11,000 pounds each.

Everything on the boat is operated by electric power, the current being furnished by the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company. Power is transmitted to the boat through a heavy armored cable. G. W. Darby is general manager of the Powder River Gold Dredging company.

The production is variously estimated at from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per month, and the company expects to operate several dredges in the district and from 20 to 25 men are regularly employed.

See Harrison.

The Humboldt property is located in the Morning Basin, Malheur county, 20 miles southwest from Durkee, Or., the nearest railroad point. The Morning Basin, to its early history, was the largest placer gold producer in the state, but not until within the last

year was any systematic attempt made to develop quartz gold mines in the district. The Humboldt group is composed of five large claims, and the company owns 300 acres of timber land. About one-fourth of the ore zone is developed to a depth of 400 feet. In the vein, which is 60 feet wide, the ore occurs in a normal contact fissure, between trachyte and diorite, and is composed of clean quartz and sulfide. Practically one ton of ore is blocked out, and at this stage a heavy armored cable, G. W. Darby is general manager of the Powder River Gold Dredging company.

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