

The Time When Salem Will Have a Great Mining Camp at Her Front Door, With Its Many Benefits, Is Now Drawing Very Close

OREGON WILL BE IN THE LIST OF REAL MINING STATES, SAYS EXPERT

Every Conscientious and Well Informed Mining Man Who Is Well Informed Predicts Satisfactory Mining Development For Oregon, Says Mr. Elmendorf, Who Is One of the Leading Mining Engineers of This Country and Who Has a Long and Unsullied Record to Maintain.

About a year ago, William J. Elmendorf, consulting engineer for the Northwest Copper company addressed the Salem Chamber of Commerce, and in the course of his talk gave the general principles of successful mining and told of the benefits of the mining industry to all other industries and the well being and progress of the people generally. Speaking more particularly, he said: "There are many legitimately operated mining companies in the state of Oregon today. I know something of the mines in this state, although for many years most of my work has been elsewhere, and I do know enough of your mines, I have myself seen enough of them, to predict that Oregon will surely be in the list of the real mining states in time as it has been in the past, and probably within a short time. Many careful miners and engineers have been looking at mining property here recently, and I have talked and advised with many of them. I have yet to find a conscientious and well informed mining man who does not predict satisfactory mining development for this state.

Ability and Honesty Needed
"But such development here and elsewhere depends upon the ability of the mine owner, to make a mine out of the prospect. Let us return now to that middle period in the life of our mining property. The period of development, growth, adolescence. Here is where the man who is anxious to promote the mining industry and who is willing and able to spend money for mining, finds his real opportunity. Here is also where the unscrupulous or crooked promoter or salesman also finds his best grazing. The owner, often a mistaken or ignorant man, is easily convinced by the slick talker and gives options or agreements for the disposal of the property that a more experienced mining man would not consider. The same slick talker tells stories of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice to the man in the street and he falls for them. The money goes anywhere but into the proper development of the property and another wild cat has been turned loose, another swindle perpetrated, another bar sinister placed on the escutcheon of the miner's shield.

"It is not easy to avoid the dangers and conditions I have mentioned. Sometimes conditions of transportation, of ore treatment of market, make the mine's development very difficult. Sometimes as difficult as to use a Mark Twain simile—it is to extract the precious ore from that elusive and ferocious animal, the ore. Well, we still have our ores and will continue to have them so long as the great open spaces of our great northwest afford opportunity for men to dig in the rocks with a reasonable chance of opening a profitable ore deposit whether it be gold or silver, lead or zinc, copper, arsenic, mercury or manganese. THESE METALS ARE ALL HERE, right in this state. And they are being mined, too.

Education Is Needed
I have said that the period of development was the time when the best opportunity for investment in mines exists. Money is needed; where and how can it be obtained? In former days the problem was not a serious one, as the prospect was usually close to some mining center where the whole community was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of mining enterprise, money was plentiful, and the matter could be handled locally. But times have changed and the great difficulty that the locator or owner of a prospect—and I mean by prospect any undeveloped mine—now has to obtain financial help is one of the two great factors, and it is making the principal one that is making the typical prospector almost a thing of the past. The other factor is, of course, that the mineralized areas of this country are so largely located, and there is so little really unknown ground to prospect. However, as I said, I consider this less important than the other, for we still have Alaska and British Columbia and THESE ALSO EXIST IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON. How then can we help in the perfectly legitimate business of developing this the most important of our natural industries? I think by education. Mining men as a rule don't talk. They dig. They ought to talk. They ought to be educated to know and avoid the pitfalls of mistaken—more often mistaken than crooked. I am inclined to think—the pitfalls of mistaken promotion and the investor should be educated to use the same good hard business sense in his mining investments that he does in all others. I said that he should call them investments, but call them speculations, if you prefer; no one puts money into the development of a mine to earn 10 per cent interest. Oh, no, it is a hundred or a thousand per cent he is looking for and sometimes gets. Why should he not realize that he is

playing the long shot, and if that means speculation let us call it by that name.

Consult An Expert
Nevertheless, investment or speculation, safeguard it in every way you can. Mining is a highly specialized business, technical to a degree. Consult a man whose business it is, before you put in your money. His opinion may often be had for the asking and in any event it is usually worth many times what it costs. The conscientious men who have the welfare of the mining industry at heart want to see plenty of capital forthcoming for mining; they realize that without it mining cannot progress and prosper, but they want to see the capital so employed that further supplies may be available as occasion arises. This means that it must be profitably employed.

"And look into the question of who the people are that own, promote, have reported on, or have invested in the property. Would you put your money into a bank whose officers and stockholders were unknown and irresponsible? Not any more than you would buy a timber tract without having it cruised?

A Legitimate Business
"Another thing to do, if you are contemplating investment in a mine is go and look at it. But, you say, I don't know a thing about a mine or mining. Well, if you are going to put money into it, you ought to learn. Mining is a legitimate business and should be conducted on legitimate business lines. Any man of intelligence can judge these points. Any man with good eyesight can see a salena underground, concentrates in the bins, equipment, location, power. Usually a trip to a mine is a most enjoyable one—we all like the wild open spaces and most of the mines are there. And ask of those who make the industry their life work the technical questions that may arise. A mining proposition is no more difficult to explain than any other.

It is often asked why we should invest in mining when there are so many other safer places to put money. Is safety the only thing to be considered in investment? If so we had better bury our money in the ground or sink it in the ocean. But that is not what we have money for. Grant the risk of mining investment for the sake of argument, and a careful study of the subject leads to the inevitable conclusion that the profits are far more than commensurate with that risk. And the proof lies in the fact that the mines of the Pacific northwest have paid \$112,000,000 in dividends to date, \$48,000,000 last year. These figures are not production, they are not even profits. It is quite possible that if the accumulated assets of the large companies and the profits made by individuals and their operations were added to this figure it would be nearly doubled. Can anyone imagine the people of the Pacific northwest or the people interested in the Pacific northwest having lost more than \$112,000,000 in mining investments? And still there are those who will tell in all seriousness that there is more money lost than made in mining. How long would mining last if this were so? Recently the New York Herald-Tribune, one of the most conservative failures in the east, published the following under the title, "Mining an Investment."

Greater Than the Banks
"One of the things that investment brokers have had to admit is that the gold and silver dividends of the United States during the past two years are greater than the combined dividends of all the banking institutions of this country, and on this head the government figures show that the average returns on capital invested by banking interests are 6 1/4 per cent while the return on mining was 182 per cent, and Dun and Bradstreet show that only 22 per cent of mining investments fail against 54 per cent of failure in other lines of business."

The Santiam District
In his concluding remarks, Mr. Elmendorf spoke of the mining prospects of the Santiam district in very favorable terms. He told something of the development work that had been undertaken on the property of the Northwest Copper company, which he was directing, as consulting engineer of that company. He impressed upon his hearers that nothing was being guessed at; that he would advise nothing in the dark; that every step would follow full investigation along the rules of up to date mining.

What Mr. Elmendorf has come to think further concerning the prospects for developing a real mine on the property of that company is found under another heading in this issue. Every person interested in Salem and the future of the Salem district ought to read that article carefully. The time has come for some definite action towards keeping the work on the property of that company going, looking to the opening up of a real mine with large operations, that would lead to making

SOIL EROSION ALARMING, FEW EXEMPT, EXPERT SAYS; 126 BILLION POUNDS OF FERTILIZING ELEMENTS ARE SWEEPED FROM AMERICAN FARM LANDS EVERY YEAR



Soil erosion, shown at lower left advanced stage, has destroyed utterly 15,000,000 acres of farm land in the U. S. The unchecked gully (right) reveals how rapidly soil washes away in a single year. Terraces formed by plowing land into semi-circular ridges across sloping fields (above) will halt, without interrupting cultivation, the rapid flow surface water which wears away soil, says H. H. Bennett (left), federal soil scientist.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—(AP)—Sweeping 126 billion pounds of fertilizing elements from American farm land every year, soil erosion has reached such proportions that it is doubtful whether the farmer may any longer hope to handle the situation alone. This is the conclusion of H. H. Bennett, federal soil scientist and co-author of a government circular on the national menace of erosion. "After 24 years spent in studying the soils of the United States," he says, "I am of the opinion that erosion is the biggest problem confronting the farmers of the nation over a tremendous part of its agricultural lands." Bennett considers insignificant the fact that 15,000,000 acres of formerly tilled land has been utterly destroyed, when compared with the less violent form of erosion—sheet erosion.

Land depreciation by this slow process of planing off the surface is of almost incalculable extent and seriousness, he says, and since denudation does not cease when the subsoil is reached there must be in the near future, unless methods of land usage are very radically changed, an enormous increase in the abandonment of farm lands. Recounting the damages of erosion, Bennett points out that by minimum estimate this form of wastage takes from the soil annually 20 times as much of the elements of fertility as is removed by all the crops grown. At recent selling prices of the cheapest forms of commercial fertilizer, he says, these plant nutrients could not be replaced for \$2,000,000,000 a year. By actual survey it is revealed that 90,000 acres once cultivated have been ruined by erosion in a single South Carolina county.

Much costly washing away of soil has occurred in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. In the drier regions to the west, erosion is even more destructive. In the Tennessee valley the river runs red with eroded soil much more quickly after a heavy rain than in previous years. Comparatively few areas in the United States are not subject to erosion. So important is the question in Texas that the federal land bank at Houston insists that vulnerable lands must be terraced before loans to farmers owning them will be granted. While terracing is the chief safeguard against erosion, Bennett declares very little is known in this country concerning incipient engineering principles, the rate of erosion of different soils, and the holding effects of terraces of different build.

MARKER DEDICATED TO M'CONNICK ON SITE WHERE HE BUILT REAPER



In front of the little cabin near Raphine, Va., where 97 years ago Cyrus H. McCormick perfected his grain reaper, a tablet has been erected in tribute to the inventor whose machine revolutionized agriculture. Cabin and marker are shown above. Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus H. McCormick III and Cyrus McCormick II (right) shared in the ceremony.

RAPHINE, Va., May 26.—(AP)—The little weather worn cabin in the Virginia hills where Cyrus H. McCormick toiled in 1831 to perfect the reaper is no longer just a mountain cabin. A marble marker, erected where the inventor completed his first machine, designates it and tells the story of the great agricultural achievement. Cyrus H. McCormick, Jr., vice president of the International Harvester company, was a guest of the student branch of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at the dedication of the monument to his grandfather, with Mrs. McCormick and his father, Cyrus H. McCormick, Sr.

The old workshop used by the inventor in his pioneer achievement stood a few feet from the building, and the marker is erected on this spot. It is a gift of the student society of Virginia Polytechnic institute and was planned by the students. Direct sunlight and fresh air are essential in the sick room. Let the sunshine directly upon the patient's bed for at least a part of each day.

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den plots. They also take a stand for construction of all-weather roads, improvement of schools and promotion of social activity among boys and girls. The tenants promise to beautify farm yards, plant and care for trees and shrubs, rotate crops, practice diversified agriculture, sow seeds free from disease and protect the land against erosion. "If men are to act with effect, they must act in concert," the consultant concludes. "If they are to act in concert they must act with confidence. If they are to act with confidence, they must have common opinions, common affections and common interests."

ALFALFA BETTER EVEN THAN GRIMM

The people of the Willamette valley counties should be interested in an item sent out by the Associated Press with a Washington date line, and no doubt the Oregon Agricultural college people have taken or will take note of it, and get a supply of the seed of the new alfalfa as soon as possible. Following is the item: Originating in the Ladakh province of northern India, a new alfalfa known to department of agriculture specialists as "Ladak" is expected to withstand to a large degree the rigors of North American winters. H. L. Westover, federal agronomist, says Ladak consistently has shown somewhat less winter-killing than the hardy commercial alfalfas such as Grimm and the Northern Common, and in a majority of cases has yielded a somewhat larger tonnage of hay and generally has produced better seed crops. The strain was introduced to the United States 18 years ago as a small package of seed. After nine years of careful work, the department obtained a quantity of seed large enough for test planting. While the supply of seed now commercially available is limited, the department says it is probable there soon will be a considerable increase from sowings made in 1927.

From the first Ladak attracted attention because of its unusual vigorous growth, apparent resistance to drought and cold, and its abundant seeding habits. The hay is considered of better quality than a number of other alfalfas, having finer stems and being more leafy. It has not been as seriously affected by bacterial wilt, and is especially valuable in those regions where a short growing season and lack of moisture make only one cutting possible.

BLOODED STOCK FOR NORTH DAKOTA

GRAND FORKS, N. D., June 2.—(AP)—In a rapid transition from all-wheat farming to a diversified system, North Dakota farmers have purchased two trainloads of purebred bulls in less than 20 days. The first shipment, started from Fargo, was sold out in less than two weeks of its scheduled three-week tour. Customers raised such a demand for blooded stock that a second trainload was started from Grand Forks May 14 with 50 of the 300 bulls it carried already sold. The others were sold in 10 days. All animals were sold under the auspices of the Greater North Dakota association, which had obtained them from accredited herds in the United States and Canada.

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FEDERAL EXPERIMENT PROVES PAPER MULCH IS AN AID TO AGRICULTURE



Experiments of Dr. L. H. Flint (inset), federal physiologist, prove that paper mulch benefits field and garden crops. Mulched cotton plants (above), their maturity hastened, will be brought in production on the Arlington, Va., experimental farm, much farther north than thought possible ordinarily. Corn (below), growing through perforated mulch, gained over unmulched corn of the same age.

BY FRANK L. WELLER (Associated Press Farm Editor) AURORA HILLS, Va., June 2.—(AP)—Four years of careful experimentation prove conclusively to the department of agriculture that paper mulch has a definitely beneficial and important effect on crop development.

Dr. L. H. Flint, federal physiologist, under whose supervision the tests were made, says that in addition to increasing yields, paper mulch eliminates all weeding between rows, facilitates weeding between plants in the row, and goes away with the necessity for cultivation. In certain crops the power of germination has been increased, which results in greater yields, there has been a marked hastening of maturity, and a superior crop product in point of size, quality and cleanliness.

The government's acclaim of paper mulch is the result of experiments started in 1924, following its successful use in Hawaiian pineapple culture. It first came to prominence in 1914 as a control measure against rank weed growth on an unirrigated sugar plantation in Hawaii. By 1922 it had become such an acknowledged success that 90 percent of the Hawaiian pineapples were grown under mulch. Last year the industry paid approximately \$500,000 for mulching paper.

While public declaration of success with American crops has been held in abeyance pending positive information, tests at government farms in Aurora Hills and elsewhere in Virginia have indicated from the first that response to mulch in this country is both certain and substantial. Discussing the 1927 trials, Dr. Flint says the mulched plants were the first to germinate, bring with certain crops fully four days in advance of the unmulched plants. The vegetative growth, with most crops, was appreciably in advance of crops on unmulched areas. Typical of this growth was the response of potatoes, in which the mulched plants came into flowering from five days to two weeks earlier. Twelve different field and garden crops have been mulched

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