

Salem Will One Day Become a Great Mining Center

Gold Output of Oregon Is Likely to Double in Very Near Future, Says College

This Much Will Come From Operation of Single Mine, and That Not Primarily A Gold Mine; General Survey Needed

The following is furnished for this annual mining slogan number of The Statesman by John C. Bart, director of the department of industrial journalism of the Oregon State Agricultural college:

The glamor that surrounds gold mining in the popular fancy goes in this highly developed and relatively prosperous age. Oregon has seen her share of the stampedes resulting from real or bogus "strikes" from the early years of the first "digging" in this state to the present.

Like the industry in every state, mining here has had its share of attention from the cranks and near cranks, but these are more than balanced by the substantial and honest developments.

Though Oregon, because of other abundant and diverse resources, has never been known primarily as a mining state, mineral production, especially of the metallic minerals, has for half a century been a major industry, and right now is thought by many to be on the verge of a real revival that may push it to the forefront.

Gold production alone in this state, may within the very near future be doubled in volume over the present annual output through the operation of a single mine—and not a gold mine at that, in the exclusive sense of the word.

To understand how that is possible, let it be said first that the annual output of metallic mineral in this state for 1922, the last year for which complete figures are available, was \$393,657 in value of which \$303,383 was represented by the gold output. In other words, though much has been heard of copper and lead developments, and less of silver, approximately 80 per cent in value of the metal mined in this state is gold.

Baker county right now is in the midst of a mining revival that is not of the boom variety but rather the culmination of extensive and even very expensive preliminary work conducted over a number of years in preparation for large commercial operations. Copper is the primary metal concerned in these operations, but as is so frequently the case, according to mining men, the determining factor in making some copper mines profitable is the presence of gold in greater or less quantities in the ore, which is recovered as a by-product in smelting operations.

One Mine to Do It. Such, according to disinterested reports, appears to be the case. Baker county large scale operations are about to begin on a huge deposit of ore which carries, in addition to the copper, a probable average of at least \$3 a ton in gold. Thus if developments result in an output of but 500 tons a day, the amount of gold recovered in a year will exceed the total 1922 output for this state.

Gold production at present is far below that of past years, as shown by a glance at comparative figures for the last 10 years. The United States bureau of mines report for 1922 shows that in 1917 the total metal production of the state amounted in value to \$2,270,874. No industry was struck harder by the after-war depression than that of mining, and the total figures for this state diminished until a low of \$134,740 was reached in 1922. As noted before, the tide turned slightly in 1922 and a further rise is generally expected. Whether gold will remain as the dominant metal in future remains to be seen, several factors entering into the question, including the prospective copper developments.

When Mining Began. Gold mining first began in this state some 15 years after the frenzied days of '49 in California. Many of those who left Oregon for the promise of sudden riches in the south, passed directly through regions which later were the scenes of rich strikes, notably in southwestern Oregon.

territory. After the mineralization of this area, perhaps the Cascade range arose, separating the two regions. The entire mid-section was then covered with lava, burying the older metal-bearing strata in some cases thousands of feet below the surface. Where streams have cut deep canyons, outcroppings of these older formations may be found.

No Adequate Survey. Just what are the potential mineral resources of the state in general and the gold resources in particular, no one now is able to say, as an adequate survey of these resources has never been made.

The Oregon Mining Survey has been created by the legislature and is located at the school of mines of Oregon State college, but no appropriation has ever been made for its operation, hence it exists largely in name only and has not been able to serve the industry as effectively as planned.

Present cooperation is limited to office studies and reports on specimens submitted for examination. As for prospecting, in the generally accepted sense of the term, the state has been fairly well covered. Yet some sections of western Oregon, in the known mineral bearing regions, are so densely mantled with vegetation and soil that rock outcroppings are hard to find. What lies beneath remains for the future to reveal, possibly by the aid of geophysical prospecting, and now is merely a matter of conjecture.

On the other hand, certain limited sections of eastern Oregon, notably in the Cornucopia district north of Baker, offer possibilities for further prospecting, according to geologists. Some renewed activity has been shown in this district recently, as is also the case west of Baker at the old Paisley-Elkhorn mine.

Some renewed interest has also been shown recently in the region of Bourne in Baker county, where in 1904 the series of mines known as the North Pole, E & E, Golconda, Columbia, and Taber Fraction were at the zenith of their gold production. These mines closed down when the richest ores were exhausted. Recently a movement has been undertaken to consolidate these holdings with the idea of working the lower grade ores by new methods.

Another part of the Blue Mountain mining section undergoing renewed development is the Mormon Basin district near the Idaho line and close to the boundary of Malheur and Baker counties. These properties have been consolidated there and are now undergoing unified development, and this may result in greatly increased gold output.

Larger scale production in southern Oregon, where some of the richest lodes in the country have been found, is also predicted by mining interests of that region. Many of these rich strikes have proved of limited extent in the past, but others opened up through sluicing and dredging have been continued on a fairly large scale.

The largest present development reported is that of the Llano de Oro placer mine operated by George Esterly, though a few lode mines are increasing output.

The Esterly mine has been operated for the past 50 years and is just now undergoing expansion so that the average daily output will be increased in volume 10 or 15 times, according to reports. Modern equipment is being used in this operation, power being chiefly electric.

SALEM A FUTURE MINING CENTER

SALEM will some day be a mining center. When? When the undeveloped mines of the Santiam region are developed. There is no longer any guess work about the wealth that lies in the mountains there, near the summit of the Cascades. In the case of the Northwest Copper company's property, William J. Elmendorf, one of the greatest mining engineers of the country, has satisfied himself. The ore is there, and in quantities to pay the costs of working, with large profits. And the extent, from every indication, is all but exhaustless, in the common acceptance of that term.

If the Santiam mining district were near Salt Lake or Spokane or Denver, or any other place where the people are mining minded, it would not remain undeveloped for a day; rather not a day would pass without the beginning of major development undertakings.

One of the greatest sources of wealth for Salem is so far untouched in a way to bring its golden stream into use. Salem has a great mining district almost at her front door.

SALEM TO BECOME A MINING CENTER

There is wealth sufficient to make this a fact, in Santiam District

That the Salem district, meaning the trade territory of this city, will eventually add materially to the size of the great mineral output of Oregon, there is no question.

The whole upper Santiam district, up near the summit of the Cascades, is mineralized. There are many paying mines in the making in that region; no doubt running through the Cascade range. Ever since the pioneer days, when the Little North Fork of the Santiam river, clear down to Mehama, was worked by placer miners, there has been prospecting in that territory and a lot of copper, lead and zinc prospects are marked out—all of them carrying from a trace to a considerable showing per ton of ore of gold.

Northwest Copper Company. A large number of Salem people have long been interested in the property that is now known as that of the Northwest Copper company, formerly the Lott-Larsen claims, and still further back the developments of a number of other pioneers of that future great camp.

William J. Elmendorf of Seattle, one of the ablest mining engineers of the country, has been the consulting engineer of the Northwest Copper company, and he has had prospecting done on a thorough scale. This has gone far enough to show him that there is the making of a great mining

of a great mining camp up there. The claims of the company that have been thus thoroughly prospected are near the confluence of Gold creek with the Little North Fork of the Santiam river, about 50 miles from Salem.

A Good Road. Long years ago, the Black Eagle Mining company, with claims just below the Northwest Copper company properties, spent about \$75,000 in building a road along the north bank of the Little North Fork—literally blasting it out of the solid rock for seven or eight miles.

There is now a very fair automobile road all the way to the property from Salem. It is paved over half the way, that is, to Mehama.

Men who are good judges have predicted that in the course of time the Santiam region will pour wealth into the lap of Salem in sufficient magnitude to make this city known everywhere as a mining center.

With the newly awakening interest in mining in this state, the time when there will be major development in the Santiam section cannot be far away. The Northwest Copper company property will be known as a copper mine, though it will yield also lead, zinc, silver and gold. The ore is especially desirable for smelting.

RAMSHACKLE CAR IS NO LONGER VIEWED

Students Discarding Old Type of Auto for More Modern Styles

The sloganized, ram shackle, collegiate automobile with its grotesque motor and exhibitions of art on every available inch of space from radiator to gas tank is fast disappearing, according to reports from university campuses and automobile companies the country over. Instead, the spirit of youth in motor car demand is turning to cars embodying characteristics of youthful beauty and performance.

"It is true, students from this vicinity have shown a decided change in attitude toward the automobile they want to drive now compared with a year ago or more," declared W. L. Anderson of the De Soto agency here.

"Rumor says the same fair coeds who refused to accompany hatless student through the streets of college towns also issued an ultimatum against the freak automobile mode of personal transportation which swept the campuses.

"The open type of automobile is in high standing now, according to a national survey made not long ago by a well-known collegiate magazine. Modern youth demands the freedom—the speed—the dash of the open car."

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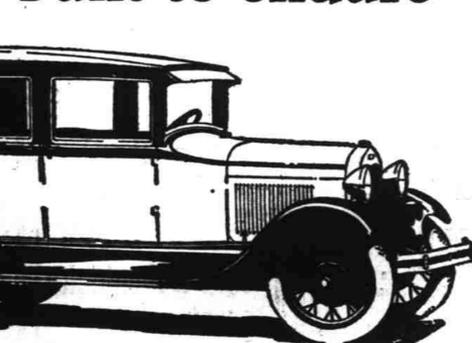
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