

Heppner



Gazette.

TWENTIETH YEAR

HEPPNER, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEP. 11, 1902.

NO. 903

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Secretary of Treasury..... Leslie M. Shaw
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Secretary of War..... E. B. Root
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Clark..... Vester Crawford
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Stock Inspector..... Henry Schelsinger
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HEPPNER TOWN OFFICERS.
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Councilmen..... O. E. Farnsworth,
J. J. Roberts, E. W. Rhoads, Phil Cohn, Theo
Quaid,
Recorder..... J. P. Williams
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Marshal..... George Thornton

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Heppner, - - - Oregon

GREAT COAL FIELDS OF MORROW COUNTY

Heppner Railroad & Coal Company
Developing the Property.

RAILROAD SURVEY IS COMPLETED

Coal Will Be Freight to Heppner Within
a Few Weeks -- High Grade of
Bituminous Coal.

The Heppner Railroad & Coal Company has an immense coal field. This is now settled beyond a doubt.

The coal measures in nine different places have been uncovered. A visit to the fields will convince any one, for the coal is there. It is in sight.

A GAZETTE representative visited these mines this week and made a thorough examination of this property.

Heppner people hardly realize the activity now in progress, only 20 miles from this city.

Several crews of miners are already at work in opening up the seams of this beautiful coal that has been uncovered.

The quality of this coal taken from outcroppings and from shallow depths in tunnels, is something remarkable.

Experts have pronounced some of this coal anthracite, and when proper depth is reached this anthracite will be of great value.

The operations of the Heppner Railroad & Coal Company have heretofore not been made public for the reason that the company wanted to fully determine the extent of the coal measures before letting the matter get out.

The drill records show the penetration of five measures of coal, while other measures have been uncovered above the level of the drill hole.

At the different levels these measures have been uncovered at different distances apart showing the absence of faults, and proving that the coal exists in regular measures and not in pockets.

The fact that expert geologists have not been able to find any trace of volcanic disturbance in this coal field, is one of the encouraging features.

The company is now uncovering and taking out coal in nine different places, and a personal visit by a GAZETTE reporter gives the following observations:

PROSPECT NO. 1.

This is the first prospect in the coal field on the west. The company now has a force of men on No 1 and will run a tunnel. This vein was located by the well known coal expert Geo. Wells, and was traced by the uprooting of a tree. The work has been started with an open cut, and an eight foot vein is shown. No. 1 and No. 9 are now receiving the most attention by the company and these veins will be opened up to a depth to show the extent of the measures.

PROSPECT NO. 2.

Work on No. 2 has just been commenced with an open cut. Coal is being taken out from the surface, and while not much development work has been accomplished, a strong vein is shown.

TUNNEL NO. 3.

The principal amount of coal taken out has been taken from this tunnel which shows the greatest amount of development work of any of the company's property. This mine is located about 300 feet from the first drill hole and is near a prong of the headwaters of Willow creek. The tunnel proper penetrates the mountain side for a distance of about 25 feet. There is a seven foot vein of very fine coal. Water is coming into this tunnel which has stopped work for the present.

PROSPECT NO. 4.

Very little work has been done on No. 4, however, the indications are very favorable for a good strong vein.

PROSPECT NO. 5.

This is one of the most promising measures. There is a nine foot vein, and the fact that about three feet of the lower portion of this measure borders close onto anthracite right at the surface, will make it very valuable. This vein contains a 10 inch bone.

TUNNEL NO. 6.

Tunnel No. 6, like No. 3, is very near the waters of Willow creek, and next to No. 3, shows the most development work. A four foot vein is in sight and the quality of coal is extra.

PROSPECT NO. 7.

Indications at No. 7 are that there is a six foot vein. Not much

development work is shown at this prospect.

PROSPECT NO. 8.

No. 8 is located farther down a fork of Willow creek and the prospects for the amount of development work are very flattering.

PROSPECT NO. 9.

No. 9 has the appearance of being the most valuable of any of the coal discoveries in the field. Coal starts from the grass roots and a 12 foot vein of very high grade bituminous coal is in sight.

This mine is located about 3 1/2 miles from the first drill hole, where the main headquarters of the company are located, and is in a beautiful canyon on a slope of about 20 degrees to the south-west, surrounded with excellent timber. On the south appears Bald mountain, piercing the clouds at an altitude of 6100 feet. On the northwest is Black mountain. This country is covered with a big growth of fine saw timber.

From No. 9 the company expects to furnish coal for Morrow county. A wagon road from this mine will be made to connect with the new Willow creek road, and coal will be freighted to Heppner within a few weeks.

EXTENT OF COAL FIELDS.

The extent of the fields in which coal is found is great. Coal has been discovered for a distance of 12 miles north and south, the other way, east and west. The length of the bed is unknown, some claiming that coal has been found for a distance of 40 miles. For the outlet and the successful handling of the choice portion of this field, and in fact the most of it the Heppner Railroad and Coal Co. holds the key.

The company now controls about 5000 acres of coal and timber lands.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

The natural advantages in connection with this immense coal field are about all that could be desired.

Expert Geo. Wells says that in all his experience in examining coal fields he has never found natural conditions to compare with the advantages that are presented in this newly discovered field. He says that he never saw a place where so many men could be worked and the products of the mines could be so easily taken to a common center.

There is plenty of water. The slopes are such that from every mine cars can be run with very little trouble to the terminal point of a railway which has already been established.

There is an immense amount of fine timber which surrounds the mouth of every tunnel and this timber is easy access. The coal measures are so located that there will be almost natural drainage for a long time to come, which will do away with the expense of a pumping proposition.

EXPERT OPINION.

Thos. L. Brophy, the geologist and mining expert, says there is no more doubt as to the quantity and quality of coal in the Morrow county coal fields.

The measures are quite conformable with the pitch and strike of the country rock which is 20 degrees to the south-west.

GOOD COOKING COAL.

Some of this coal has been tested as to cooking and makes a first class steel coke.

Mr. Brophy says that these coal measures have never been disturbed by volcanic action, as they have been protected on one side by a deep cut ravine which was filled with water, and on the other side by the John Day river.

The fact that the John Day river is

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