

The Oriole Gold Mining Company

An Oregon Corporation—Property in Josephine County, Oregon

B. F. Rowland, President, Salem, Or.
J. C. Mattison, Vice-Pres., Grants Pass.

CAPITAL STOCK, \$1,000,000.00

O. S. Blanchard, Sec., Grants Pass.
G. W. Donnell, Treas., Grants Pass.

OFFICE: 304 United States National Bank Building, SALEM, OREGON
Stock Now on Sale at the Office of the Company

HISTORY OF THE ORIOLE MINE

The Oriole group of mines is situated in Josephine county, in Southern Oregon, a county that has produced probably more gold than any county in the state. This group consists of nine full claims each 600 by 1500 feet, and containing in all 180 acres. It is in the famous Galice mining district, 27 miles from Grants Pass and 18 miles almost due west of the town of Merlin, a little town on the Southern Pacific road where it crosses Jump-Off Joe creek. Four of these claims lie parallel, though their ends are not exactly in line, while the fifth, the Gold Finch, is an extension of the Oriole, giving the company 3000 feet on the Oriole vein. This ledge was discovered in 1902 by J. C. Mattison, the others at later dates, and on February 24, 1909, Mr. Mattison having secured the entire group, in connection with some Salem and Grants Pass gentlemen, organized and incorporated the Oriole Gold Mining Company with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, divided into ten million shares of the par value of 10 cents a share, and the following substantial and conservative business men are officers: Dr. B. F. Rowland of Salem, President; J. C. Mattison of Galice, Vice President and Manager; O. S. Blanchard, Secretary, and G. W. Donnell, Treasurer; both the latter well known and prominent business men of Grants Pass. The company wasted no time, but began at once the development of their property, and up to December 1 had expended at least \$20,000 for this purpose.

The Galice District

This famous district is credited with the production of \$30,000,000 in gold, mostly from the placer deposits, and is still yielding fine returns from this source, though mined for nearly 50 years. It is part of the great mineralized section named by government geologists the Applegate region, that has an approximate area of 1000 square miles. The only smelter now in operation in the state, that at Makima, is in this area, as is the well-known Alameda mine, which is now erecting a smelter, and, by the way, only three or four miles from the Oriole group. This zone is highly mineralized, and is of the very best formation for carrying large ore bodies, the country rock being largely of a porphyritic character, with dacite, andesite and diorite, both massive and in intrusive dykes, a belt of carbonaceous slate, and a pseudo morphic serpentine and some mica schist.

A significant thing about the ores found in the rich streak in the Oriole, of which we will speak more fully hereafter, is that it is exactly like the pieces of quartz found so abundantly in the rich placers of Galice creek, a grayish to blue, very brittle quartz, built up in layers, much like carnelian, only of dull colors. These boulders found in the placers were not only similar in structure and character, but carried gold in practically the same quantities as the Oriole ores. It not only suggests, but in the writer's opinion, proves (and he placer mined on Galice creek for 15 months) that the millions of dollars worth of gold taken from that stream, were fed into it by the erosion of just such veins as the Oriole. In other words, nature for countless thousands of years worked the ores of this district, and deposited with infinite patience, the product of her labors in the creek beds, building up the wonderful placers. This indicates the wonderful richness of the surrounding hills.

Four Distinct Veins

While there are four distinct veins on the Oriole property, only one, the

Oriole, has been examined to any great extent, but the others have been prospected sufficiently to show that they are well defined, strong veins, and carry good values. Two of these veins are similar to the Oriole in the character of their ore, while the other carries considerable copper in the form of sulphide. That these veins may unite with the Oriole at great depth is possible, but the dip or pitch of the veins has not yet been determined with sufficient accuracy to make this more than a possibility. However, a cross-cut tunnel to be run next year, will cut all three veins, as well as the Oriole, on the latter at a depth of from 800 to 1000 feet. In other words, this will tap these ledges so that all their ores above that point can be dropped down to that level through chutes, which makes it the very cheapest to handle, and at the same time does away with the trouble of water, and the expense of pumps and hoisting machinery, until all the ores above that level are worked out, and that means for a goodly number of years.

The Oriole Ledge.

This is an immense contact fissure vein, running northeast and southwest through the Oriole ground for 3000 feet. How wide it is has not yet been demonstrated, but cross-cuts made from the hanging wall where there is a four to five foot ledge of very high grade ore have cut through 40 feet of so-called low grade ore, of which the lowest assay showed \$23.40 per ton, and the highest \$27.60, and evenness of distribution of values unequalled in mining history.

Now, let us look briefly at another feature, and a very suggestive one: Tunnel No. 1 was run in on the ledge about 90 feet, getting about the same depth perpendicularly, and from this a small carload of ore from the high grade streak, six and one-half tons in all, was sent to the Tacoma smelter, and yielded a net return of \$184.85 per ton.

Tunnel No. 2 was run in on the ledge 71 feet below tunnel No. 1. This drift followed the hanging wall and is now in over 500 feet, and has about the same depth from the surface, the hill pitching about half. A carload of 15.5 tons from the high grade streak in this tunnel yielded at the Tacoma smelter \$224.58 net per ton. This shows an increase of \$40 in value in a depth of 71 feet. In this tunnel are the cross-cuts spoken of that penetrate 40 feet of \$25 ore, and the foot wall not yet reached. In it the high grade streak is from four to five feet wide. A winz was sunk 30 feet from this tunnel and a drift run for some distance along the ledge, exposing a fine body of the same high grade ores as is shown elsewhere in the mine and showing assay values of \$377.80 per ton, and with a width of about eight feet. A chute was cut connecting No. 1 and No. 2 tunnels.

A car of ore from this, 17.75 tons, netted \$203.64, or nearly \$20 per ton more than in the upper tunnel. No. 3 tunnel is 108 feet below No. 2 and is in about 400 feet. In this tunnel the high grade streak is 70 feet longer than in No. 2, the one directly above it, and showing values of \$785.80 per ton. The ledge in this tunnel has been cross-cutted for 40 feet, and foot wall not reached.

Now here is a practical test, not assays, but actual results obtained from working the ores by a reputable smelting company which sends its checks to pay for the ores. A total of \$8273.16 from 39.31 tons of ore, clean net returns, or a profit of \$210.42 per ton. No mine on the coast with even double the amount of development work can make any

where near so good a showing.

While as compared to the high grade streak of from three to eight feet, the other 40 and more feet of ore is classed as low grade, it is far from belonging to that class. It is really a high grade ore. The average ores of the Treadwell mine of Alaska hover around the \$3 mark, and are worked at a profit even as low as \$1.70, and it pays big dividends too. The immense mines at Ely, Nev., now attracting the world's attention, are below \$8 in value, and the great Rand Dykes, in South Africa, that have produced some hundreds of millions, average less than \$7. Now with every facility for working these ores, abundant water power for handling all machinery required, a hundred acres of fine timber for mining purposes, these ores can be worked as cheaply as anywhere. The cyanide process will probably be used in treating the lower grade ores, which is the cheapest and most thorough for that class of ores, being well below \$2 as a general proposition. There is, allowing a wide margin, easily \$30 a ton profit on every ton of ore in the mine. Tunnel No. 3 for the last 100 feet has left the hanging wall and is being run diagonally through the ledge and will be continued in this general direction until the foot wall is met with. It is entirely within the realms of possibility that another high grade streak will be found hugging this wall. All this work has been done simply to test the vein at different levels, and is all necessary to opening the mine on a scientific, practical working plan.

The increase in both the width and length of the high grade streak as it goes down, as well as the substantial increase in values has satisfied the owners of the magnitude and permanency of the mine and arrangements are now nearly completed for opening the mine on a working basis.

A site for Tunnel No. 4 has been selected. It will start on Blue Bird ground, the company's easternmost ground. At this point, or near it, are located the power house, the electric light plant, and the boarding house. The sawmill being located near the entrance to No. 3 tunnel, the waters of Rocky gulch piped through a pipe line of steel pipe, which has a fine fall and furnishes abundant power for the bunk house and other buildings which are being erected. A Pelton wheel has been installed which, besides furnishing power for the sawmill, will have plenty left for the three big power drills which are now on the ground, and which will soon be tearing their way into the heart of the mountain. Tunnel No. 4 is to be the main opening into the mine. It will be a cross-cut, running at right angles to the ledge, and it will cut three of the company's ledges. It is estimated the Oriole vein will be tapped 1000 feet in and will be about 800 or 1000 feet deep. Incidentally it will cut the ore on the Humming Bird even deeper than the Oriole, though it will take 500 feet of extra tunnel to tap it. This will give 1000 feet of "backs," or stopping ground above the tunnel level on the Oriole, probably 500 feet on the Canary, and considerably more on the Humming Bird.

Bunk and boarding houses are being built at the mouth of the proposed tunnel and about the first of the year active work begins on it. Two of the power drills will be used in running the tunnel, and it is expected that it will be completed to the Oriole ledge (1000 feet) in six months. The other power drill will be used in alternate shifts in tunnels No. 2 and No. 3, and thus the ore will be steadily exposed, while

the long cross-cut tunnel is being run and at the same time many tons of high grade ore will be taken out, and stored. It is one of the remarkable things among mines when one is found that "pays from the grass roots," but this the Oriole does, and if necessary high grade ore enough can be taken from the stopes now to develop the mine, pay for machinery and practically open itself, and at the same time declare dividends.

In addition to the other conveniences, an electric plant large enough to supply 125 16-candlepower lights is in place. The property is in the forest reserve and the title, the possessory right by which all mines are held under the law—by doing annually \$100 worth of labor or assessment work, until such time as the land is patented, from the general government. The waterpower is a splendid one, sufficient for all the wants of the company for some years at least, and the company's title to it is perfect.

Besides the work on the mine, much outside work has necessarily been done. Bunk and boarding houses, a blacksmith shop, sawmill, store house, pipe line laid, and two miles of fine wagon road graded from Rogue river to the mine.

Mr. Mattison, who is manager and general superintendent of the mines, gives the work his entire time. He has had years of experience in mining, and his work shows that it has been done wisely and with keen judgment. Not a dollar has been wasted, and not a piece of work done that was not absolutely necessary to get a knowledge of the ore bodies. No machinery for working the ores will be purchased until No. 4 tunnel is completed—say by July—and the character of the ore at the depth of that tunnel and the processes necessary to work it are demonstrated. As soon as this is done, the plant for working the ores will be ordered and will be on the ground, ready for putting together, before the rainy season sets in.

\$4,000,000 in Values Uncovered.

The ore uncovered now with the drills along the ledge shows a width of about 50 feet, for 40 feet has not found the foot wall. It is cut in nearly 400 feet below the apex of the ledge and is in 500 feet. This would be equal to a square body 400 by 250 feet, 40 feet wide, or 400,000 tons. Now cut this in two to allow for pinching at the top, and there are 200,000 tons of ore valued at \$20 per ton, or \$4,000,000, and this is now in sight and does not take into consideration the high grade ore either. But while it is idle to speculate on probabilities, for the showing already made is sufficient in itself, still the following figures will be interesting. If the big body of low grade ore alone holds to this depth (tunnel No. 4) and no mining man who knows the geological formation or who has ever been in the districts doubts it, there will be a body of stopping ground to make one sit up and take notice. Take your pencil and follow this: An ore body known to be 1000 feet long (and it is undoubtedly much longer, 1000 feet deep and 50 feet wide would show 50,000,000 cubic feet of ore. Eleven cubic feet make a ton—therefore there would be 4,545,000 tons, and at a net profit of \$20 per ton a yield of \$90,000,000. But this is only speculative, let us not overlook the fact that a vein of one foot wide of \$250 ore is equal to a vein ten feet wide of \$25 ore; now with a four-foot vein of high grade ore it is the same as if the ledge was 40 feet wide; in other words, your actual value is nearly double the amount first estimated.