

About Black Sand Mining

(By R. M. HARRISON)

The recent beaches, as well as some inland deposits of black sand, along the Coos and Curry counties sea front have for many years been to some degree producers of gold as well as metals of the platinum group. While the miners, for all time up to date have never attached any value to the great quantities of the heavy irons that made up the mass in which the gold and other precious metals contained, they were yet throwing away values in every ton of the sands which they were handling. Not in the precious metals alone but in the irons themselves, and at this time the world events have put a greater value on these irons contained in these sands, which is reasonably sure to bring these black sand deposits well out to the fore.

In 1886-87 the writer worked as car boy in the Eagle mine situated about two miles north of Bullards, on the Seven Devils road. At that time the property was being operated by three Portland men, namely, Bridges, De Pew and Houghton. The operation consisted of drifting into the ancient sea beach, which is about 170 foot elevation and washing the sand down Cut creek in sluices over screens and blankets which method would recover about 30 per cent of the precious metal values. The sand from this operation was carried down cut creek to the lagoon where it was finally deposited and it still remains there. In a report of the U. S. geologist survey of 1931, Quote: "Most of the tailings from the Pioneer (Lane) mine were washed down Cut creek to a ponded area near the sea known as the Lagoons, where they have formed a deposit several acres in extent. A sample from a hole three feet deep at one place contained 4 per cent of Magnetite and 60 per cent Chromite and Ilmenite."

A sample of sand from the Eagle mine by J. D. Mercein in 1937 per ct. foot:
Chromite.....44.20
Magnetite.....18.90

Ilmenite.....15.00
Zirconium.....13.70

The Eagle mine adjoins the Pioneer mine on the north and the government report described by Horner gives it "a bed of black sand 200 to 250 feet wide and several hundred feet long that is lenticular in cross sections, and 6 to 8 foot thick in the middle."

These vast deposits of sand are only a concentrate from the eternal action of the surf, and like any other concentrate from grinding mill process. They are ready for farther reduction into the useful minerals that they contain."

The progress of the age has linked mankind more closely to the mineral kingdom and whether in war or industry our very existence depends on these essential minerals and it is high time that we as a nation should make some attempt to develop the mineral resources within our own borders. There is a vast domain in southwestern Oregon that is mineral in character and it is positively known that such minerals as hematite, ilmenite, manganese, chromite, magnetite, copper, molybdenum, cinnabar, gold, are found there in sufficient traces to warrant further exploration. It is hardly fair to expect an old prospector with a few weeks grubstake to deliver a fully developed quicksilver or iron mine—as he is only interested in the yellow metal as that is ready beans for him; and besides these essential minerals really belongs to the government, as they are the base of our defense and we shouldn't let a few dollars stand between us and knowing for sure what "Them Thar Hills" hold for us.

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Only 84 per cent of the registered democrats took the trouble to go out to the polls to vote in the recent primary election. The republicans did a little better, mustering approximately 60 per cent of their voting strength for active participation in the biennial battle of the ballots. Both of these percentages allow for a 10 per cent tolerance over and above the total vote cast for the most hotly contested office on the two tickets, so that they can be regarded as high rather than low.

Democratic interest in the primary contest centered largely in the presidential preference with a total of 126,098 votes cast out of the 254,749 registered. Of these Roosevelt received the endorsement of 109,913 Oregon democrats for a third term while 15,584 democrats expressed a preference for John Nance Garner.

In the republican camp greatest interest was evidenced in the race for the state treasuryship with 150,884 votes cast in this contest—75,231 for Leslie M. Scott; 51,499 for Earl Hill and 24,154 for Floyd Cook.

Voters of Oregon are going to have an opportunity to pass judgment on the Knox liquor control act next November. Commonwealth, Inc., an organization seeking repeal of the act has completed petitions for an initiative measure which would wipe the Knox act off the statute books. The repeal measure, if approved by the voters, would take the state entirely out of the liquor business and place the sale of all alcoholic drinks in the hands of privately licensed establishments. Sponsors of the repeal measure claim that their program would increase revenue for relief and old age pensions by \$750,000 a year.

Ralph Campbell, for the past ten years attached to the staff of the attorney general has resigned effective

September 1, to enter private practice. For the first five years of his service with the state Campbell was legal adviser to the Industrial Accident commission. Upon the creation of the Unemployment Compensation commission in 1938 he was transferred to that department as head of its legal staff. Attorney General Van Winkle has announced that Campbell will be succeeded by H. L. Lister, now attorney for the Accident commission, while C. L. Marsters, Newport attorney, will succeed Lister as attorney for the Accident commission.

The Oregon School Fund committee composed of representatives of some 20 Portland organizations interested in education, is vigorously opposing the recently announced program of the State Land Board for the administration of school lands.

The committee is particularly opposed to blocking of school lands around private holdings. Such a policy, its spokesmen claim, would enable the stockmen to dictate the lease prices. They are also opposed to long term leases on the ground that improvement in range conditions now under way will make these lands more valuable and insure a larger return to the school fund in a few years.

Instead the school fund committee is supporting a policy of blocking the school lands in 16 to 20 large areas of from 25,000 to 200,000 acres each for lease to associations of stockmen on a year-to-year basis. Such a policy, they insist, would insure a revenue of \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year to the school fund instead of the \$10,000 now being received from grazing leases or the \$20,000 which the Land Board hopes to get under its new policy.

Oregon will receive \$2,385,000 for highway improvements under the federal aid bill just passed by Congress, according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. This amount, Baldock said, does not include an additional \$1,250,000 to be spent on forest roads within the state.

Anticipating substantial price increases in many commodities as a result of new federal taxes, the Board

of Control has authorized the State Purchasing department to lay in extra supplies of items which can be stored without loss. As a result of the board order the department is contracting for a year's supply of many commodities ordinarily purchased on a six months basis.

The states of California, Washington and Idaho contribute 75 per cent of Oregon's summer tourists, according to statistics compiled by Secretary of State Snell. California alone accounts for more than 50 per cent of the visitors to this state.

Dr. Grover C. Bellinger, superintendent of the Oregon Tuberculosis hospital, has just been honored by election as vice-president of the National Tuberculosis association at its session in Cleveland, Ohio.

Oregon Automobile Registration Up 5.91 Percent in Six Months

There were enough motor vehicles registered in Oregon as of May 31, to supply one to every man, woman and child residing in Portland, Salem and Eugene, figures compiled at the

secretary of state's office disclosed today.

Registrations totaled 362,180 vehicles, an increase of 5.91 percent over the registration for the same period last year. Registration fees amounted to \$2,453,495.93.

Private cars numbered 298,139, an increase of 5.39 percent over the same period last year, the figures showed.

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