

**SUMPTER'S OUTLOOK.****District Destined to Attract Attention of the World.**

Professor Clayton predicted all that has taken place relative to this wonderful gold belt ten years ago, long before anything like the present stage of development had taken place, and every prediction has been more than verified and the end is not yet. The last year has been a remarkable one for the whole district, from the Baisley-Elkhorn on the east to the Gem of the Mountains on the west, which certainly bids fair to rival any of the big mines yet opened.

The whole Sumpter district, Granite included, is attracting the attention of the heaviest investors in the country. This is a peculiarly inviting field for large capital; it is not a poor man's country by any means, in the sense that Leadville or Creede was, for as yet, the per cent of shipping ore is small. There is not much encouragement here for the leaser, who has been such a powerful factor in building up the great gold and silver camps elsewhere.

In most of the old camps, poor men have been the chief force in exploring the ground and placing the mines on a fair basis of profit during the first stages by extracting small lots of ore and circulating the proceeds in the camp, in addition to the monthly pay roll.

Aside from all this, Sumpter is certainly destined to be one of the most permanent and heavy gold producing districts in America. Every foot gained in depth proves this, and the era of deep sinking is about to begin, for the present showing of ore in all the big mines will abundantly warrant it. There is no one feature so strongly tending to secure the confidence of investors in the great centers of capital as the reasonable certainty that the ores of a district attain depth and hold their values. This fact is so well established in the developed mines around Sumpter as to imbue all with confidence who have examined the situation, but it will take time and good management to expose the vast values that are everywhere apparent.

There is less risk in mining here for men of means than in any part of the great Inland Empire today. A prospector can do little more than make a discovery and sell to those who are able to develop and build a mill, as most of the ore in the slates are milling ores.

It is safe to assume that the average grade of the ores here is higher than those in any other gold camp outside of Cripple Creek and New Zealand, being close to \$10 per ton.

When the size of the ore bodies, the continuity and regularity of these great ore bearing dykes are considered, added to the fact that millions in dividends are being paid in the Treadwell, Black Hills and Grass Valley mines on ores running from \$3 to \$5 per ton, the future of the camp is at once removed from the realm of doubt. The ores of Gilpin county, Colorado, that once produced one-sixth of the gold in the whole west, runs on an average of \$7.

The Bonanza slate belt extends in a straight line west for at least forty miles on to Susanville. No less than six creeks head in this great dyke, and the placer gold found in them is fed by the numerous shoots of ore in this dyke; every one of these creeks run south into the middle fork of the John Day.

Evidence of great mines can be shown on all parts of this zone, from one end to the other. This gives but a faint idea of the possibilities of this land "where, but a few short years ago," rolled the Oregon and heard no sound save its own dashings. Such is the evolution of this section from a gold pan and sluice box to

hundreds of the latest improved stamps and one of the liveliest and most progressive towns in eastern Oregon in the center of all this wealth. J. F. L.

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