

CABLE COVE DISTRICT.

PROMISING SECTION OF THE SUMPTER MINERAL BELT.

Situated Near This Camp, But the Roads Are Bad—Geological and Topographical Formation—Something About the Developed Mines There.

A short section of the boundary line between Baker and Grant counties follows a mountain ridge which divides North Powder, North Fork of John Day, Bull and Big Limber creeks from the headwaters of Cracker, Fruit and Silver creeks. From that dividing line the former flow in a northwesterly direction, while the latter flow southeasterly. The different ridges dividing Rock creek from Cracker, Cracker from Fruit, and Fruit from Silver creeks, all take a northwesterly course, until they unite with the county line ridge, which traverses almost an easterly and westerly course.

On the southerly side of this easterly and westerly ridge are found the Rock creek mines, the great ledges on which are located the E. & E., North Pole, Columbia, Golconda, Bunker Hill, the Ibex, and numerous other lodes, which constitute what is known as the Cracker Creek district.

On the north side of this easterly and westerly ridge commences what is known as Cable Cove district and, following over the ridge, it comes down into the Cove, surrounding the headwaters of Silver creek. The Cove proper is about ten or twelve miles from Sumpter, in a northwesterly direction, and about seven miles from Bourne. The road leading to it follows the Powder river up to Silver creek and follows that up to the Cove. It is practically a level road the whole distance.

The Cove district was opened in 1880 by the Cable brothers, after whom it was named, and it has been more or less worked ever since. There are in excess of a hundred locations, but most of them have only had assessment work done upon them. Something like twenty have been pretty well opened. Only one stamp mill has been erected and that was on the California mine. The ore there is rebellious; or rather it is not easily worked by amalgamation. The ore assays from six to a hundred and twenty dollars per ton. The ledge in the California is from one to three feet in width and is generally high grade, as most of the ores in the district are.

The most prominent mine in the district, because it has been most extensively opened, is what is known as the Eagle group, owned by J. C. Young and Salt Lake parties. The ore is composed of various metals—gold, silver and lead predominating. All that has been worked has been shipped to Everett, Tacoma and other places for reduction. It yields in gold from forty to one hundred dollars per ton, containing enough of the other metals to largely pay for extraction. Mr. Young and Ed Rawson own what is known as the Last Chance mine, it being the north extension of the Eagle group. It is also shipping ore and is high grade—that which has been shipped yielding very satisfactory returns.

The Herculaneum is another location on the same lead. It was owned by E. L. Manning and father, of San Francisco, but was bonded to other parties last fall. It bids fair to make a valuable mine. It is from eight to twelve feet in width.

On the claims known as the Black Dwarf and Sunset mines, it is intended to do important development work this season, including the erection of a power hoist.

Another group, known is the Crown

Point, is managed by Thomas F. Barbee, of Iowa, who has a strong company back of him. He worked several men last season and intends to erect a mill this spring.

There are two claims known as the Summit and Butterfly, owned by a Salt Lake company, upon which work was done this winter, which will be continued through the summer.

As said before, the above ledges are particularized because of their greater development. The country rock of the district is granite and gneiss. The ledges run almost north and south, trending a little to the east and west. They form a junction with the E. & E. and Ibex lodes somewhere in the vicinity of the Ibex mine.

The district has had but little said or written about it the past season, from the fact that prospectors were delayed getting in there last spring, on account of the roads, until they had become interested elsewhere. In fact, the roads are the worst drawback the district has. It could be made a splendid road for little money, so there would be a good opening to the railroad at Sumpter. In the English possessions that want would not be long delayed, for it is the policy of that government to build roads to any section promising a prosperous future. The example might be copied with profit by this country or by Baker county, even.

Briefly summing it up, it may with confidence be said that Cable Cove is a very promising section of the Sumpter mining belt, and ought to attract more attention than it has heretofore. It will at no distant day become an important factor in the prosperity of the city of Sumpter.

B. J. WATSON.

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