

## THE GENTLEMAN FROM COLORADO

### Discusses Portland as the Mining Center.

In THE MINER last week was published some interesting remarks made by a mining man from Colorado, anent prices charged for prospects in the Sumpter district. The gentleman returned a day or two since from a trip to Portland. He read the report of his after-cheese-and-crackers speech and didn't like it; said that on an auspicious occasion like that a man doesn't talk for public consumption, that under such circumstances one is too apt to say what he thinks, which is never the proper thing to do, when this talk is to be made public through the medium of the press.

"Besides," he said, "there is a sort of Free Masonry among miners, of a similar high order to that for which the plumbing fraternity has been made famous by the funny paragraphs, and we don't like to take the stock buying public into our confidence. No harm is done when you adroitly allow yourself to be run down and cornered by one of these very prevalent alfalfa reporters, who will take in any kind of a pipe dream and, after leading him on to making you confess that you are one of the world's great mining experts, possessing some sort of an occult power to penetrate and reveal the secrets of old Earth's bosom, give him an exclusive story about a wonderful mine you own. Do you know I love to read that kind of stuff? They are all built on the same general design. Of course, the property is one to attract the interest of the conservative investor; the ore is not rich, carrying only about \$2361.43 in gold with enough copper to pay for smelting charges, but there is a good sized ledge of it, 107 feet in the face of the tunnel, which is easily mined, with plenty of timber and water handy.

"And speaking of stock buying, that reminds me that I have just returned from Portland, where I went some days since to 'sorter' size up the camp—though, as a matter of fact, Portland wouldn't remind any one of a transaction in stock in a thousand years. I had been reading the Evening Telegram since my arrival here and saw much in its columns about the town being the mining center of the Northwest. That interested me, because if I do any business here, I will perhaps have occasion to turn a trick or two in the mining center of the Northwest. So I went down to investigate; to look over the ground in the day time to see what I could pick up at night, as it were.

"Well, I haven't before in all my experience been so much disappointed. It is no mining center and the people now there will never make it such. They are a lot of street corner suspender merchants and truck wagon vegetable vendors. They have been noisily endeavoring for months to raise \$5000 for the purpose of establishing a mining exchange and have failed. In the first place, that amount of money would float only a toy exchange, and if they had ten times the amount, the enterprise would be a failure, because what supports a mining exchange is a population that trades in stocks. The trend of the Portland mind is narrowly commercial; what he wants to buy is a bankrupt stock of 'clodgers'. If he has a sporty strain in his blood, he is satisfied with an investment in a Chinese lottery ticket.

"There is no question but what its location and transportation facilities favor the establishment there of a smelter, but if one is ever built and operated, it will be by men from other sections. Aside from the cost of the plant, large working capital is necessary for the successful running

of a smelter. Do you think one of those mortgage dealers or mackintosh and umbrella merchants would subscribe money to pay \$10,000 for a carload of concentrates that looks like building sand; or one-tenth of that sum for a carload of ore in which he can't see thirty cents worth of gold? Now, if I wanted to organize a stock company creamery, or build a customs hay pree, I would go to Portland to float the proposition.

"I have heard of a device, a gaudy bait, that would catch a Portland sucker on a kindergarten mining deal; but will not divulge the scheme, for fear that some of these scalpers here from the northern camps might succeed in raising the price necessary for its successful operation, and that would injure this district, which I don't want to aid in doing. Several years ago some of the boys at Cripple Creek tried in on Sioux City, Iowa—which is a running mate for Portland—and all of their ladies wore sealskin sacques.

### TO BUILD EMBANKMENTS.

#### Materials Carried in Flumes at a Cent a Cubic Yard.

State Engineer Ross stopped at Glen's Ferry on his way back to inspect some reservoirs being constructed there for I. A. Herron, the wide awake merchant of that place. He found that Mr. Herron was not only a live business man, but something of an engineer also, having devised a method of constructing embankments that may be very advantageously adopted whenever conditions are such as to make it feasible. Mr. Herron has a ditch carrying some 200 inches of water. This comes around on top of a hill near the reservoir sites. He turns the water down the hill, catches it in a flume near the bottom and carries it to the point where the embankment is to be constructed.

The flume is built at such a grade that it carries along all the sand and clay torn from the hillside by the water in its descent. The flume is constructed across the site of the proposed embankment. At the far end the water, with all its sedimentary accumulations, is permitted to escape. By throwing up little dykes on the ground the sediment is easily settled, while the water flows away.

In this way a perfect embankment is built up. When one section has been raised to the proper height a section is knocked out of the flume and thus the embankment is constructed backward over the line that had been occupied by the flume.

At the discharge, a section of the flume is kept so that it can be pointed in any desired direction and the bank is thus protected. The sand and clay and gravel settle in a compact mass where they are wanted and the water flows on.

This bank has a natural slope and, moreover, is perfectly solid. Mr. Herron drives wagons loaded with rock over sections of the bank on the day after the water has been turned off.

A very important feature of this device for building embankments is its cheapness. Mr. Herron having reported to Mr. Ross that it costs him less than a cent a yard to put the dirt in its place.—Boise Statesman.

#### No Market for Ore at Baker City.

Some parties from Rye Valley brought to this city a few days ago a wagon load of ore weighing one and a half tons, for the purpose of selling it if possible. The ore was worth \$200 per ton, but it seems that the parties were unable to sell. Rye Valley ore is very valuable, and many claims are being located there daily. The veins are shallow but bring out very rich ore. This country is located about thirty miles south of this city.—Baker City Republican.

"The Portland," conducted by Woodward & Hammond on Mill street, is a representation of its name. A visit will convince any skeptics.

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