

FIGHT FOR TERRITORY

Columbia Southern Seems to Have Inside Track.

The work of blocking out railroad territory in central Oregon goes merrily on. It would seem that the Columbia Southern holds the winning hand, as it has filed articles of incorporation and run preliminary surveys from Prineville east to Canyon City and from Prineville south to Lakeview, while on the other hand, the rival party of surveyors, supposed to be working in the interest of a transcontinental line, have scarcely made any headway. The latter party is somewhere in the vicinity of Warm Springs reservation.

In the minds of those who closely follow railroad matters, there seems reason to believe the Columbia Southern, which will be known as the pioneer road of central Oregon, has recently made a new departure. Its policy heretofore has been to extend its line a few miles each year. It started south from Biggs on very little capital, and by turning its earnings into construction work, has succeeded in reaching Shaniko, very near the heart of Oregon. During the last month, however, the road has departed from its conservative policy, and at one fell swoop scooped in the whole of central Oregon. It has been alive to the advantages of this large Inland Empire for some time, and it looks as if it has made others interested in the matter. The "others," it seems, have advanced the necessary cash and told the company to "go ahead and make things hum."

It appears that the company has been working to get the "inside track" in the new Inland Empire, and that its plans were precipitated by the arrival on the scene of a rival party of surveyors.

By getting into Prineville and filing its articles of incorporation the Columbia Southern has captured the base of supplies for central Oregon. That is the strategic point, and, in fact, the key that unlocks the trade of central Oregon. An opposition line could not hope to do business with the Inland Empire unless it were in on the ground floor at Prineville.

However, because the company has filed articles of incorporation and run preliminary surveys, it does not follow that the roads are to be built right away.

A large number of the stockmen of the interior are bitterly opposed to railroad building across their grazing area, and will oppose all encroachments, but the business for a railroad is there and this prejudice may possibly be overcome so that work will not be delayed too long.—Portland Telegram.

DON'T NEGLECT PLACERS.

Millions Have Been and Will Be Taken Out in This District.

C. R. Barnhart is the name of a pioneer prospector and miner of the Granite district, who believes that there is still untold wealth in the creek bottoms of this section. "Don't overlook the placers" is his injunction to mining men.

In speaking of the possibilities of the creek bottoms of this camp the other day, Mr. Barnhart said:

"While the quartz of this district is now occupying the attention of mining men, we should not overlook the possibilities of the rich placers that yet lie untouched. We worked miles and miles of creek bottom in early days and obtained wonderful results. The exact amount of gold taken out of this section with primitive methods of operating cannot be approximated, but no doubt it ran into the millions. In many places we worked only the most favorable patches, for whenever we found the ground too deep or the boulders too large,

we abandoned operations to search for more favorable ground. Even when we had good ground we worked it in a very careless manner, and left a large percentage of values. What we left then would today prove profitable ground if worked with up-to-date ideas and modern machinery.

"The conglomerate, or 'webfoot' bedrock is, no doubt, a false bedrock, and the probabilities are that the diamond drill will yet disclose even richer ground beneath than we found above. There is no question in my mind that the volcanic overflow buried most of our placers more or less deeply. In other parts of the country, and notably California, they are cutting through hundreds of feet of lava and finding pay channels that are sometimes wonderful in richness. The same conditions, no doubt, exist here.

"Again, in early days we left thousands of acres of ground because it was too flat or too deep. Much of this would today give handsome returns on dredging. Our quartz veins are large, and most of them carry free gold. The formation being soft, there has been a wonderful denudation or wearing away of the surface, resulting in the deposit of large quantities of the precious metal in the creek and gulch bottoms. This accounts for the extensive scope of our placer diggings.

"Go where you please, in any part of this section, and you will find large deposits of auriferous gravel. This you will find even on top of the highest mountains, and in most places it carries considerable gold. Except in a few instances these gravel deposits are as yet but little exploited.

"Quartz mining is the most important industry in this section just now, but the time is not far distant, in my mind, when placer mining in this section will be carried on, perhaps on as extensive a scale as it was 30 years ago. Modern mining methods will yet take millions of dollars of gold out of our creek bottoms."—Granite correspondent in Portland Telegram.

Going Deep on the Gem.

The developments at the old Gem mine, near Sparta, recently purchased by Portland people through their representative, Mr. F. J. Perkins, are of such a character as to warrant the belief that the long abandoned property will prove to be a big producer before many moons. Mr. Perkins was in the city yesterday and gave a reporter the information that at the bottom of the 175-foot shaft there was a 4-foot ledge of high grade ore and in other portions of the mine there were ore bodies of good width and indicating permanency. Mr. Perkins intends continuing deep sinking for a time, run levels and block out ore in sufficient quantity to justify the erection of a mill plant in the near future. The new owners of the Gem are certainly fortunate in coming into possession of this property and will soon find themselves reaping big dividends from a very small investment.—Baker City Democrat.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

Notice is hereby given, that the real estate firm heretofore existing under the name of the Lawton and Sumpter Real Estate & Mining company, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

T. R. NEEDHAM,
E. M. WARD,
C. H. CROMWELL,
W. M. ROBINSON.

April 17, 1900.

H. K. Wheeler having resigned his position as city engineer, in order that his exclusive time can be given to civil engineering and surveying, hereby solicits a portion of the public patronage in this line.

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Ask for the Columbia beer, brewed in Sumpter.

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W. S. BOWERS ABSTRACTS

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