

## HILLS ALIVE WITH PROSPECTORS

### This Will be the Most Prolific Gold Camp on Earth

J. H. Brown, who prospected and mined and set type in Colorado for twenty years, has been with THE MINER for several months past. The fine weather of the last few weeks has lured him from the case to the hills. The prospecting habit is stronger than the gambling mania and more lasting than the opium appetite. Differing from both, instead of beclouding the mind, it brightens and sharpens and strengthens it.

Monday morning a week ago he started out afoot to inspect this district. He was in no hurry, stopped at miners cabins in preference to hotels, talked with prospectors as a brother, went into every hole in the ground that he chanced to pass, examined rock everywhere he went and missed no opportunity to acquire reliable information regarding mines. His route was from here to Granite; he took in the country around Alamo, Lawton, the Little Giant mine, Susanville, Quebec mountain, Bonanza and back to Sumpter, returning a day or two since.

He says the hill are literally alive with prospectors, experienced in the business, men who have looked for the elusive yellow stuff in every promising district on the continent, and if there is anything good not yet revealed, it will be found this season. He met a number of men whom he had known in Colorado, worked and eaten and slept with in the mountains around Leadville and Cripple Creek and last year at Buffalo Hump.

From such acquaintances as these he gathered his information. He says that the district is a puzzle to them. No where else have they found so many, such extensive, alluring and, at the same time, such perplexing ledges. There is no question but what surface values are discouragingly low. And yet, these men, in discussing this one single unfavorable condition, invariably mention the oft repeated declaration that there has never yet been a failure here where they have "gone down". The proof of this assertion is the dozen or fifteen paying mines in the district. Surface values on all of these were unsatisfactory. From this fact these men of experience draw encouragement and continue to look for ledges, sink shafts and drive tunnels, all laborious tasks when unaided by capital.

All of the mines are in operation and their owners are Fortune's favorites. One prospect of especial promise is the Quebec; now being explored by Captain Wood, under bond. In this property the highest values have been found anywhere in his tramp, considering the size of the ledge. On several claims fabulously rich ore has been found, but in small stringers. Everywhere men are holding claims by relocation, not even recording them, neglecting to do even the assessment work.

Any number of prospects have been opened this season, more than during the last ten years, and if the never-fail-when-you-go-down theory holds good in one half the number, this will in two years be the most prolific gold mining region on the globe. But it requires nerve and faith, tireless industry or ample money to "go down". And this is the opinion of one man, whose opinion is worth what it is worth. He doesn't place a cast iron valuation on it, himself.

#### Those Vale Cliff Rock Carvings

J. B. Pepon writes to the East Oregonian from Table Rock, Nebraska, an interesting letter regarding the names

carved on a rock cliff near Vale, regarding which much has been printed in eastern Oregon papers of late. He was a member of First Oregon Volunteers. He says: "Each summer for the three years we were in the service we went out to meet the emigrants and escort them back to Oregon. The winter of 1862-63 we spent at Fort Dalles, and the winter of 1863-64 we passed at Fort Walla Walla. It was either in the spring of 1864 as we were going out, or in the fall of that year as we were returning, that Lieut. Pepon carved his name on the face of the cliff, reference to which was made by the Vale Gazette. The name of A. A. Gray, 1864, is also mentioned. Gray was a corporal in our company and carved his name at the same time that my brother did."

#### Good Prospects in Sheep Gulch

The Sheep Gulch mines, owned by Messrs. Hachenev, Bayley, Robbins and Foster of John Day, are fast coming to the front. The owners recently located four more claims near the Great Southern, and at present are actively engaged in assessment work. Samples were sent to Baker City to be assayed and on return were found to go \$4.60 in gold on the surface. The Great Southern, which is owned by the John Day Mining and Milling company, already shows \$5 in gold and \$70 in gold and copper. A crew of men are working on this claim. They have opened up the ledge for a distance of 10 feet, and as depth is attained the values increase. The owners are gratified over the prospects.—Canyon City News.

#### Ore and Sheep Shipped From Shaniko

The first shipment of ore from Shaniko left here Friday morning for the Tacoma smelter. The consignment was from the Ashwood mines, and consisted of about 6000 pounds of as fine a gold ore as ever a mining man gazed upon. Sixteen cars of sheep left the Shaniko stock yards Friday, fourteen carloads Saturday, and nineteen Monday. The first shipment was consigned to James Wright of Spokane, the last two trains going to the Mallory Commission company, Chicago, and are part of the herds of J. E. Sherar & Co., of this county. We understand the next consignment will leave here June 8th and 10th, a total of seventy cars.—Shaniko Leader.

#### Mining Items From Geiser

A correspondent at Geiser writing to the Baker City Democrat says the mines of the Empire Mining company are looking fine and the company is planning for the erection of a mill. The White Elephant owners are going to build very soon. The Bonanza mine has plenty of good ore for its 40-stamp mill. A \$312 nugget was picked up in the placers of Austin, McMudre & Co., at Winterville, near here the other day. The owners of these claims expect to clean up \$25,000. They are working a full crew on the Black Bird and pushing development as fast as possible. With three or four mills in this camp we will begin to have a day.

#### Albert Geiser Buys Into the Brazos

It is understood that Albert Geiser yesterday purchased a half interest in the Brazos mine, from Edward and Ralph Blewett, the owners. About a thousand tons of ore have been brought to the sampling works in this city and the returns so far are said to exceed all expectations. From this it is believed that as soon as the work is completed, the Brazos will prove itself to be one of the greatest mines in eastern Oregon. It is also said that Mr. Geiser will put a stamp mill and other machinery on the property at once and begin development work on a large scale.—Baker City Democrat.

#### Notice to the Public.

All consumers of city water must make application to the office of the Sumpter Water company before the mains are tapped or any residence or business house supplied with water.  
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### Now is the Time to Build.

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We have a fine stock of lumber and we are equipped to get out detail work for the finest kind of finish. A superior quality of buildings are what we are looking for this season, now that the permanence of the town and country is assured. \* \* \* \* \*

J. B. STODDARD, Manager.

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## W. S. BOWERS ABSTRACTS

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained

Years of experience in Baker County Records.  
No. 2104 Court Street, Baker City, Oregon.

# Erwin & Co.

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