

THIS THE BANNER YEAR**In Eastern Oregon Mining
was Never so Active.**

When asked by a Portland Telegram reporter if there would be any new mines put on the dividend list this season, W. C. Cowgill, of Baker City, said:

"This will be the banner year in eastern Oregon mining circles. Notwithstanding that it is a presidential election year, with the usual accompaniment of the cry of hard times and slow business, there are fifty per cent more people in the hills of Baker than ever before, and representatives of large capital are already making exhaustive examinations of properties with a view to investments. Not only are such mines as the Golconda and Red Boy increasing their capacity for output, but eight or ten new properties will be added to the list of producers before snow flies. Today the new 10-stamp mill for the Golconda, including ten concentrators and other machinery, arrived from San Francisco and will be installed and in operation by August 1st. This will double the output of that mine.

"The Red Boy's deep sinking plant will all soon be on the ground; Al Geiser will in a few days order a 10-stamp mill for the Brazos, which will then soon be a producer; the Chloride will put on a mill or cyanide plant before fall; the Virginia will have its mill up in 60 days; it is more than likely that the Venus will put on a mill before winter; the South Cougar is rapidly getting ready for a mill; the Union Gold Mining company, near Cornucopia, is talking about a mill; the Copper Butte people will soon be ready for a mill and are figuring on a smelter. Frank Scheibe, superintendent of the Red Boy Hill mine, came into Baker yesterday and reported a big strike of rich ore in the lower workings, and says they must have a mill at once.

"Taking all in all, Baker camp is in a state of unprecedented prosperity, and there will be at least half a dozen new producers this year. Machinery men say that it will be the biggest year in their line of business in the history of eastern Oregon."

Speaking of development work, Mr. Cowgill said: "The swiftest work in the Golconda district is that just done by Vic Schilling and Ed. Cannon in the Free Coinage. They are down 315 feet, the result of their new machinery, and have commenced making a station on the lowest level. From there they will begin drifting this week and will cut the main ore chute in about forty-feet. There is every indication that they will strike it rich."

Colorado Man Favorably Impressed.

J. M. Allen has just returned from a week's trip to the mining districts of northeastern Oregon and reports that the country is rapidly progressing and making great strides towards becoming one of the best mining districts in the country. The production of this section already reaches the sum of about \$100,000 per month and is constantly increasing. The ores in most cases carry gold, although there is some silver. The average value of the ore in gold per ton, he stated, was about two to five ounces. The deepest shaft in the district is down about 400 feet, although at Sumpter greater depth has been attained and values accordingly higher. The veins are wide and well defined and like nearly all other sections, they need only to be opened at greater depth to show greater values. At the present time the snow has all disappeared except in isolated spots and in the high mountains, so that work is not hindered much by reason of too much snow. With the disappearance of the snow the trouble

with water, especially surface water, has all gone. Colorado Springs men are largely interested in the mining interests of Oregon, and are taking an active part in the development of the country. A new exchange has just been started in Portland and several prominent mining men from this city are members, the secretary of the exchange being F. J. Hard, of this city. Hon. Jos. H. Hutchinson, formerly caller of the "Old Exchange" in this city, is the caller.—Denver Daily Mining Record.

PLACER MINING REVIVAL.**Properties Being Actively Worked in the
Granite District.**

The North Fork of the John Day promises ere long to regain its old-time reputation of a producer of placer gold. The reason that but little gold has been taken out of its rich gravel banks during the past few years is that some of the best properties have been tied up, while others have been worked only in a desultory manner. This year the record will be different.

At the Thornburg Placers, Manager Wm. S. Duncan has a force of eight men at work, together with two giants, making preparations for more extensive operations a few weeks later. This property is already equipped with four four-inch giants and has a water fall of 150 feet from a mile ditch. Several derricks are being set up for moving large boulders, and as soon as they are in place all four of the giants on the ground will be set to work mowing down the rich gravel banks. Two more six-inch giants have been ordered, but they will probably not be used before next season, when the three-mile flume under construction will be completed. The new flume will give a fall of 100 feet. A 250-foot tunnel is also being dug through solid rock, through which will be minded a gravel bank that can not now be effectively handled with the 150-foot ditch.

Within the past few months extensive building improvement have also been made at the placers, and it is a question whether there is today a better equipped property in the state. The large bunk-house is furnished with spring beds and equipped with a bathroom, finely appointed lavatory and patent closets. Everything is built with a view of comfort for the men. Manager Duncan pays regular miner's wages of \$3 a day. Few other placer mines in the state pay the same wages. The Thornburg placers comprise 18 full claims, or 360 acres.

At the Klopp placers, about five miles above the Thornburg diggings, three men are at work and two giants in operation, and a good cleanup is expected here this fall.—Granite Gem.

Badger Will be Patented.

Superintendent Alfred Brile, of the Badger Mining company, of Susanville, is taking the necessary steps to secure a patent to the group of mineral claims known as the Badger group. The survey of the properties is being done preparatory to the accomplishment of the end desired. This group of claims, consisting of the Badger, Great Eastern, Steamboat, King of the Hills, Fern, McQuaid and Hughes were recently purchased of John Hughes, of this city. They have been the scene of considerable development work during the past year, and rank among the best properties in eastern Oregon.—Long Creek Eagle.

Rich Free Gold Ore From Susanville.

C. S. Van Duyne is displaying some exceptionally fine specimens of free milling rock, which he says comes from a new discovery near Susanville, on which he has a bond. It is very dark in color, resembling iron ore, and is studded with coarse gold, some of the particles being as large as wheat grains. He says these samples were knocked off the ledge from the surface outcroppings.

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