

**MINING IN THE WEST.**

**How the Human Tides Have Ebbed and Flowed.**

The opening up and development of the western half of the United States can be entirely credited to the discovery of gold; though now that it is opened, many other resources have become of almost as great importance. It will be of interest to note briefly how the Pioneers made their invasion and conquest of the Great West. It began, of course, with the finding of the yellow metal in 1848, in California, and the stampede to the coast. There were three routes by which the locality was reached, viz. The all-water route via Cape Horn, the water and land route via the Isthmus of Panama, and the all-land route across the continent. By one and the other of these, fifty thousand people in one year reached the central California valleys, far too many to find occupation in even their wonderful rich and extensive gold fields. The stream of pioneers and prospectors at once began to spread over the land in all directions.

Those going south and east quickly encountered the deserts of southern California, Arizona and Nevada, and those going northeast found their path barred by the lava-strewn regions of southeastern Oregon and northwestern Nevada; and while a few of the hardier and more persistent slowly penetrated even into those inhospitable lands and made discoveries of note—the great majority went northward up the coast. This resulted first in the opening of the great placer region in northern California and southwestern Oregon.

From there the human tide swept on down the Willamette valley to the Columbia, and up the Columbia to northeastern Oregon, where the next halt was made at the marvelous rich diggings on the slopes of the Blue Mountains, on the headwaters of the John Day, Powder, Malheur, Burnt and Grande Ronde rivers. This was in 1858 and 1859, and in these years came the news of the first discoveries in Colorado, which caused a great stampede across the plains from the Missouri valley. Thus the mountains were attacked simultaneously from both sides. In the early sixties, when the surplus population that had been attracted to the Blue Mountains placers began to work eastward up the Columbia and its tributaries, the Salmon and Snake, it was but a few months until the Idaho mines at Oro Fino, Florence, Warrens, Pierce, Boise Basin and the Salmon river districts were discovered.

The human tide then swept across the continental divide into Montana, resulting in the opening of the extraordinary diggings in Grasshopper creek, Alder Gulch, Confederate Gulch and Last Chance, at the mouth of which now stands the city of Helena.

At each step in the journey of the pioneers many settled down as ranchmen and merchants. Everywhere along the route were beautiful valleys capable of producing superb crops, which always sold at good prices to the advance guard of miners. Thus when the two streams of explorers from the east and west met, as they did in southern Montana and eastern Idaho, an empire had been won from savagery, which since that day has proven to be the most remarkable mineral region yet known on the globe, not only in extent but in variety of resources.

Certain parts of it like Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and much of Utah did not attract the miner at first, because of the natural aridity of the land—water in abundance being a necessity in the operation of placers. But in 1859 came the discovery of the Comstock lode in Nevada, and with a versatility and vigor never be-

fore displayed by any race of explorers, the American miner turned from gravel digging to quartz mining, from surface work to underground labor, with the result that in a decade every part of the upland region of the west had been explored, and wherever there was a railroad within reasonable distance or a river which could float a freight boat, the miner had business for it in the way of transportation for ores out and of machinery and supplies in.—Theo. F. Van Waymen, E. M., of Denver, in American Metal Mining.

**THOSE DIAMOND MEDALS.**

**Ladies Make a Great Success Socially and Financially.**

The ladies in charge of the work of raising the money with which to buy the diamond medals for the winning team in the rock drilling contest today, report that they realized a sufficient sum for the purpose from the ice cream festival. Minot Austin gave them a ten dollar nugget from his Winterville placers, which increased the fund very materially. C. H. Fenner now owns the nugget.

From a social stand point, the festival was one of the pleasantest affairs ever given in Sumpter. The booth was beautifully decorated with evergreens, potted plants and bunting, and was hung with many Chinese lanterns. Refreshments were served in the afternoons and evenings, the tables being attended by Miss Worswick, Miss Walder, Miss Jackson, Misses Gertrude and Kate Moore, all dressed attractively, wearing pretty white aprons and caps. Mrs. Griffith acted as cashier. It was the intention to have the festival continue only three days, but the ladies of Sumpter took so much interest in the affair and contributed so generously that the supply of cakes and other delicacies were not disposed of in that time, and it was decided to keep open house another day. During the entire time the booth was thronged with people and the occasion was one of uninterrupted social enjoyment.

But the most gratifying feature in connection with this event is the fact that every day reports are received here that drilling teams from every camp in eastern Oregon will come to Sumpter to compete for these handsome trophies offered by the ladies. After having fixed the purse at \$200 for this contest, Baker City raised it to \$325, after Sumpter offered \$250, in the hope of drawing the miners to the celebration there. But the ladies of Sumpter have offered a reward that they evidently value more highly than Baker's few extra dollars.

The thanks of this community are surely due to Mrs. Brock, Mrs. Robbins, Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Wallace, the committee in charge, and all the other ladies who worked so hard in making this enterprise the success it undoubtedly is.

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