

OUR VAST GOLD FIELDS.

In Eastern Oregon There Are 8000 Square Miles.

Some one signing himself "Z," has written a very exhaustive report on the gold fields of eastern Oregon, which was published in a recent issue of the Boise Statesman, filling more than two columns. The following are extracts from the article:

The territory known as the eastern Oregon gold fields comprises about 8000 square miles. It commences at Ballard's Landing, 80 miles northeast of Baker City, and extends to Canyon City, 80 miles southwest of Baker City, and averages over 50 miles in width. In this vast domain there are over 6000 mines and prospects that are being worked or on which the annual assessment work is being done.

While this territory is referred to as the eastern Oregon gold fields, it is also noted for its agricultural products, fruit, hay, grain, cattle and sheep. Lumbering is also one of the chief industries and the music of the ax and the saw are heard in every valley of the Blue mountains.

The most important mining camps of the entire territory are found west of the Elkhorn range in the Blue mountains. The main range of these mountains runs nearly north and south and rise from an elevation of from 5000 to 10,000 feet. Powder and Burnt rivers drain the east slope and the John Day river, with its numerous tributaries conveys, the waters of the western slope to the great Columbia, 200 miles away.

This section is divided into five large mining districts. The Cracker creek district includes all the mines on the headwaters of the Powder river. There are about 25 mining companies operating in this district and some of the mines are regular producers and dividend payers. The North Pole mine has a 10-stamp mill and cyanide plant with a pay roll of 50 men. The Gokonda has a 20-stamp mill, with a pay roll of 75 men. The Columbia mine has a 10-stamp mill with a pay roll of 50 men. These three mines produce a large amount of free gold which is saved on the plates and the concentrates are shipped to the smelter. Their output is from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per month each and the mines all get better as depth is gained. The Ilex is a new mine located on the same ledge as the above named mines and has a pay roll of 25 men. No machinery for the reduction of the ores has yet been put on this mine, but it is well developed and is to have machinery soon. The Bald Mountain, the Mammoth, the Bunker Hill, the Mountain Belle, the Free Coinage, the Annalulu, the Baker City, the Amazon, the Eagle group on Cable Cove, the Ohio, the E. & E. and the Evening Star are all well developed properties and several of them have hoisting plants and are shipping ore.

West of this district on the western slope of the Blue mountains, on the headwaters of the north and middle forks of the John Day river, is located what is known as the Granite district. This district includes a very large territory and some of the best producers of free gold. The Red Boy mine, located on Clear creek, is the best developed and oldest producer. It is equipped with a 20-stamp mill and cyanide plant. It is operated by water power, lighted by electricity, heated by steam, and its reduction plant treats the ore complete, having no concentrates to ship. It is considered the queen of the eastern Oregon gold fields for simplicity and durability as a reduction plant. The mine is well developed and has two well defined ledges averaging about 16 feet

thick. A shaft is now being sunk which is to have a depth of 1500 feet, and if the same values are found there that are now being taken out at a depth of 400 feet, the Red Boy will be the largest free gold producer in the Northwest. The output of the mine is about \$25,000 per month with a pay roll of 75 men.

The Cougar is the next best developed mine in this district and has a cyanide plant with a capacity of 250 tons per day. They have no free gold but have large ledges of ore that runs from \$25 to \$40 per ton in good subject to the cyanide process. This property was a prospect two years ago but is now valued at \$2,000,000. The pay roll numbers 60 men. Near the Cougar is the Magnolia mine and a ten-stamp mill, which is also a new property, having been developed within the last two years. The May Queen, which is also located on Clear creek, near the Red Boy, is another new property, the mill being just completed with 10 stamps. The Little Giant mine and a 20-stamp mill is located a few miles further up Clear creek and has not yet started up the mill. The Magnolia, the May Queen and the Little Giant are all good properties which will soon commence turning out large monthly dividends into the channel of trade. There are several good prospects in this district which the present season's work will doubtless bring to the front—the Vananda, the Success, the South Cougar, the Mastiff, the Quebec and the Buffalo. It is a safe estimate to say that there are 500 mines and prospects being developed in this district.

Crossing the main range of the Blue mountains to the southward we enter upon the headwaters of the Burnt river, in what is commonly called the Bonanza district, named after its famous mine which was recently sold for \$750,000 to Pittsburg parties. The Bonanza mine has been the only producer up to this date in this district. Several placer mines have paid well, but development of quartz ledges has been slow. The Bonanza has been a paying mine since 1891 and has been the star of hope for many miners who labored hard and long for a pay chute that would equal the Bonanza. This mine is equipped with a 40-stamp mill and concentrators, has a pay roll of 100 men and is said to get better as work progresses.

About 30 miles west of the Bonanza district is the Susanville district. The Badger mine being the chief producer, it is sometimes called the Badger district. The ore is partly free gold with concentrates. The Badger mine has a 10-stamp mill and has been a steady producer for several years. There are a large number of partially developed mines and prospects in this district.

South of the Susanville district are the mines of Dixie Butte, Prairie City and the strawberry mountains. These mines are but prospects as yet but have such fine showings that they are regarded as beyond the prospective stages. Copper, as well as gold and silver, predominates, and the owners claim a great future for this section as a wealth producer.

The entire country, commencing a few miles west of Baker City and extending almost to Burns, a distance of 160 miles, is covered with timber. Yellow pine, tamarack, fir and spruce are the most valuable kinds of timber to be found. There is also a large amount of black or bull pine high up on the ranges.

One of the peculiar features of the eastern Oregon gold fields is that upon the same quarter section of land the owner may find mining, farming, fruit growing, lumbering, stock raising. The altitude ranges from 2500 to 4500 feet and the climate about the same as in Colorado and other mountain states of the same altitude.

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