

NEW MINING DISTRICT.

Worked Forty Years But Just Now Attracting Attention.

The low range of mountains forming the divide between Burnt river and Powder river is drained on the Burnt river side by many streams that in early days were profitably worked for placer gold. In most instances they have been worked out, and for the past two years the miners and prospectors have been at work in an endeavor to locate the source of the gold. Up to the present they have not been successful to any extent, but the thorough investigation of the formations and conditions has enabled a few to uncover veins which give much promise of richness and permanency.

On Continental Gulch, some 25 miles south of east from Sumpter, the Keyton Bros. discovered, some two years ago, a ledge in a contact of porphyry and limestone that they have been working successfully. At first the quartz was hauled to Auburn creek and washed through an old arastra and gave good returns. It was found that while the best values were in the quartz, the whole hillside, consisting of talc and porphyry, carried values. A Huntington mill and vanner were installed, and for the past 60 days they have been busy extracting gold in paying quantities from what was considered the waste dump. The extent of the deposit is not known, but has been opened up about 75 feet in width and no walls or barren places found. The ledge is easily traceable for several miles, and has also been opened up on Auburn creek, where the Gold Bub Mining company is operating an arastra, the ledge being similar to where opened by the Keyton Bros. in the Juniper Hill group. This ledge carries a seam of asbestos of good quality, the fiber being long and fine, and tons of it can be seen on the dumps at the different prospects and mines. It is found in all stages of development, lying in a soft slate rock. With transportation facilities this would add to the present value of the mine product, but at present it is thrown aside as valueless.

On Auburn creek, about two miles from Bridgeport, some good ledges are being opened up. This gulch has been mined for placer and quartz for the past 38 years, the gravel banks and sluice boxes of the placer miner and the old arastra of the quartz miner being still in evidence. In April of this year R. D. Chumley discovered two parallel ledges crossing the gulch, both of which are wide and have been uncovered for over a mile. The ore is almost an iron rock, and the gold is very rusty, requiring considerable scouring before it can be gathered in a gold pan.

On the Hillhouse group a shaft is down 35 feet, and a 12-foot drift from the bottom of the shaft cuts but one wall. The surface shows 25 feet of a ledge. The lowest value obtained thus far was \$10 to the ton, and it has run up to \$60, Mr. Chumley says. Within 1000 feet is a parallel ledge 40 feet wide, which has not been opened up to any extent. Prospectors can be seen on all the hillsides, and corner stakes are getting thick. This camp has plenty of good timber and water for ordinary mining purposes. The arastra is run by water power. Some very fine specimens are obtained here. One was exhibited weighing about an ounce, consisting of a piece of porphyry, on one side of which was an opal and the other was literally studded with gold.

Some two miles below Bridgeport, Clark's Fork empties into Burnt river. This stream has been placered since the early '60s, and is being worked now by the Chinese, who are operating on the high benches or bars with apparent success, and have a regulation Chinatown established. This stream has been worked up to a few feet of the summit of the range and within 100 yards of the diggings at the head of the gulches emptying into Mormon Basin.

Mormon Basin has been a steady producer of gold since 1862, and is today being placer mined, by Chinese mostly, but also by men who worked it in 1863, when it was good for \$10 to \$50 a day. One of these old miners is today taking out barely enough to keep him in grub, but is kept at work by the hope that springs eternal, daily expecting a nugget or pocket that will furnish wages for a season. The Chinese control the ditches and waters, while the poor white man must be content with surface water.

Of late years some attention has been paid to quartz. The whole country around carries plenty of float and string-

ers of quartz, and occasionally good ledges are encountered. The section is on the edge of the granite belt, the general formation being lime, porphyry and quartzite. The values are carried principally in the decomposed matter found in the seams and in the talc. The ore is mostly granite, and slacks when exposed to the air and rain for a short time.

S. P. Colts is operating a Crawford mill and opening up several prospects on Sunday hill and Spiritual, to the west of the basin. To the east of the basin on California gulch, Huntington men are opening up some claims, while to the northeast, E. H. Head, M. S. Head, J. D. Voss, E. Roberts, W. D. Newbury and others are developing prospects. Mr. Head has been here over two years and made many locations. The principal work has been done on the Morning Star, where a 40-foot ledge is exposed in an open cut and also by a 100-foot tunnel. This whole ledge is said by E. H. Head to assay \$7 to the ton. The ground is easily worked, little powder being necessary. There is also a 40-foot shaft on the Star. On the Puget Sound claim some rich quartz is exposed by open cuts. The Golden Eagle, at the head of the south fork of Pedro creek, has been opened by a 70-foot shaft, and a small vein of rich quartz is exposed. This is in granite, and the main ledge is thought to be in contact with slate some 30 feet from the present workings.

The Bonanza, an extension of the Golden Eagle, has a 40-foot shaft. Of all the prospects in the camp, the Rising Sun is the most peculiar, seeming to be a network of small ledges, all of which pans freely, as does the surface dirt.

Rye valley is another section associated with the memories of the early pioneer days, and it still produces the yellow metal in small quantities. Here are also found evidence of early quartz mining in the Monumental Green's Discovery and others, where hundreds of feet of tunnel and shaft are found and the remains of old mills. These claims all produced high grade ore, but with depth they run to silver and were abandoned for lack of a cheap method to save the values. The dumps are there and the ore shows sulphurets of silver in paying quantities. The shafts are round, and, although not timbered, are still in a good state of preservation. The tunnels in many places have caved in. The old workings show that the ledges are small, typical of the granite formation. H. B. France, who has been in the section for 35 years, says that in early days much of the ore was packed to Boise for treatment and paid handsomely.

Last fall a small stamp mill was erected on the south fork of Pedro creek, but was run for a short time only, the builder finding he had made a bad bargain in bonding a group of claims. E. E. Savage is arranging to start the mill as a custom mill and says he will add a concentrator and other necessary machinery. At present he is contracting with the different mines for ore and is meeting with such success that an additional five-stamp battery will be necessary to handle the business.

The old Alm property has been purchased recently by Salt Lake and Huntington men, who have let a contract for an additional 50 feet on the shaft and arranged for cleaning out the old tunnels. There is some 1500 feet of work done on this property, showing up three ledges that are expected to come together with a little more depth.

Farther up on the south slope of Pedro mountain, W. O. Reynolds, a mining man of the Sumpter district, is opening up the Lelia and Granite claims. A shaft is down forty feet, where water was encountered, and a tunnel is now being run to drain the shaft. There is considerable milling ore on the dump, and a force will be put to work stoping as soon as the shaft is drained.

The Gordon Reef claim, a quarter of a mile from the Reynolds property, shows up well, considering the limited amount of work done. The ore is high grade, much running over \$100 to the ton. The Silver Blue, owned by H. B. Franz, has had some \$5000 worth of work done on it, but has not much ore stoped out, as it is a silver and gold property, and Mr. Franz is hoping for the election of Mr. Bryan and the restoration of the price of silver. This ore has been shipped to Boise, worked in an arastra and stamp mill and always paid, although much of the value was lost in the concentrates.

This field is out of the mineral belt, and has been almost entirely overlooked by mining men of modern ideas in search of properties. The territory is an excellent field for the prospector and mining man of means.

To the west of Mormon Basin some 12 miles is situated Malheur, where the Eagle mine is being worked. The property is equipped with a Crawford mill.—M. E. Baine in Oregonian.

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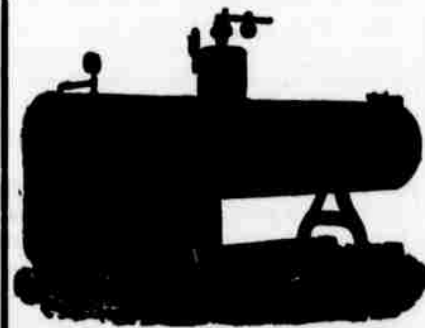
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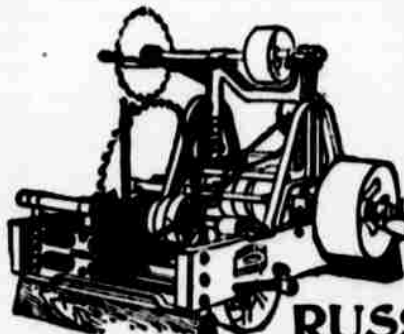
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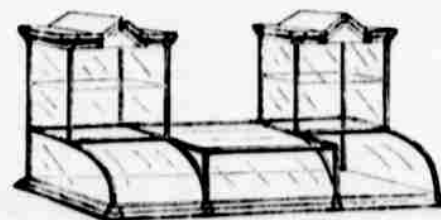
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