

THE GENTLEMAN FROM COLORADO.

Local Mining Men Not Very Easy Spenders.

"Say, while I have been loafing around town for the past week, waiting for that thousand from my brother down in Indiana, who teaches school for sixty dollars a month, I have had time to do a whole lot of thinking," said the gentleman from Colorado. "It has often been remarked that in many respects this mining country is different from any other on the globe, and that is a fact, too. It is also true that if this mineral deposit were anywhere else on earth, except here in Oregon, there wouldn't be so many peculiarities about it. For one thing—and the most important, too, it would have been developed twenty years ago to a point that five years of hard work from this date will be required to attain.

"Of course, this is all in line with the world wide reputation of the state, relative to its back number, behind time proclivities. But what I was thinking of when I started in to deliver this discourse, is the fact that there is not a mining magnate in the district who spends his money like a thoroughbred; not one who is willing to separate himself from enough gold bullion to enjoy the luxury of buying political preferment. No, none of them are investing in worldly honors. When you begin to figure on a seat in the senate, or even a step in that direction, a congressional election, the first thing to be done is to get possession of an opinion moulder. If you boys can only hang on until some of our owners of producing mines takes a notion that he has income enough to support the position of a statesman, then you can make that longed for clean-up. But until then you will have to hustle for meal tickets and figure on reducing your laundry bills, just like your poverty stricken brethren in eastern agricultural communities.

"I have been told that there has been a case or two, on a kindergarten scale, of mining men putting money into newspapers, but they don't count, and I am not going to make a single comment on these two or three unimportant, rather ridiculous cases.

"In this connection, let me whisper a secret to you. Don't you calculate on unloading on any of the very excellent gentlemen who already own good things, developed and producing. They are not built that way. Some who have cashed in were content to go to Baker City to reside—a dead giveaway, to start with. I won't say just how, because I am not making unpleasant remarks at this writing. Their idea of rolling 'em high is to buy wine when a crowd is looking, and pay for having their pictures 'put in the papers.' Others have allowed their vaulting ambition to lure them to far off Portland as a place of residence, where they can indulge their dream of luxury by going to some kind show every night and eating fried oysters on the Fourth of July.

"Most of them, however, are as much enamored with the individual dollar as if it were earned pulling sugar beets over La Grande way. These think their public duty has been performed when they buy their canned fruit from a local dealer, instead of having it shipped in by the case from Portland.

"If that man Vinson had won out—or let's say when he does make a killing—he'll set a pace that will take the breath away from some people in this neighborhood and state. In the first place, he will own a daily paper in Sumpter, with full Associated press dispatches; will have a yacht, if he has to put it in Powder

river and dam up a pond for it to float on; will run a string of racers; travel on special trains only, and go down to Salem and raise those Portland mortgage dealers out of their boots, when the honest farmers in the legislature put up a seat in the United States senate for sale to the highest bidder.

"I do wish some thoroughbred—General Warren, for instance—of course, I couldn't name myself—would make a big winning here and give that Portland push a taste of high life. If I were guessing who will possibly turn such a trick, and could name five men, A. W. Ellis would be one of them.

What the Mine Owners Club is Doing.

The Mine Owners' Club, in connection with the Oregon Mining Stock exchange, has done considerable to advertise Oregon's mineral resources. The sumptuous quarters of the club in the Chamber of Commerce building, are always at the disposal of visiting mineowners, investors and others interested in mining. Writing material is kept handy, and all the latest mining journals and dailies kept on file. In the center of the spacious rooms is a creditable mineral display that includes ores from representative mines all over the northwest. Some of the specimens from the Helena, Golconda and Great Northern, are rich enough to make strangers' eyes bulge out in surprise. Gold sticks out all over them in little yellow chunks, showing that it is not necessary to go to Nome to secure riches. An Oregonian who returned from Nome made the wise observation, that if the Oregon people who went to Nome had spent the same amount of money in developing Oregon properties, their returns would have been a hundred fold over that of Nome. Through the combined efforts of the club and the exchange many of these lost opportunities are being recovered, and mining in this state is reaching a high position among the industries. A good many Portland people have awakened to a realization of the benefits to be reaped in this direction, and are not so slow as they were in furnishing money for the development of promising prospects. There is a regular revenue now flowing into this city from the mining interests, which, with proper encouragement, those well posted assert, can be increased into a large, steady stream of wealth. Every day more active inquiries are received from the East from men anxious to invest in the Northwest. Of course, it is realized that every mine will not turn out a dividend payer. But it is claimed with judicious care in studying the conditions through well-posted and reliable brokers, there is more chances for big returns on the investment of capital in mines than in any other branch of business.—Portland Telegram.

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