

**DEVELOPMENT
PROGRESSING.**

**Eastern Oregon Gold Fields
Coming to the Front.**

The development of the eastern Oregon mining districts is progressing better in these days than ever before, and it does not take a man with great wisdom to discover that it will not be long before that locality will be over run with prospectors, with men of caliber and money, determined to know the extent of the territory and what there is in it. It will be well if those having interests there will realize the importance of giving a royal welcome to them.

Eastern Oregon is getting some good advertising in the eastern states and its effect is being felt by general inquiry among the banks as to the truth of things, and also by sending of capable and experienced men from that locality to cover the district thoroughly and ascertain the truth. We know of one such inquirer this week coming from New York City, a gentleman versed in all the intricacies of Wall street, having a good reputation there for probity and honor, and backed by well-known business men; who is accompanied by a thoroughly experienced prospector, with instructions to spend three months in the district if necessary. Such men should be given full opportunity, if known, and as in all probability he will not tell his business on the housetops, the best way is to give all strangers a welcome under the theory that thereby they may entertain angels unawares.

This business of discouraging new comers, of decrying localities and mines, of silence when your own property is being explored, of a general hoodoo of everything in a dog-in-the-manger spirit, should be relegated to the rear. Give the district a chance. You can't stop it entirely, however much you may try, and though you may delay the march of civilization for a time, those who have claims and prospects are not going to be wheedled out of their property for nothing, and the time will come when there will be more than one person looking for the same proposition, when competitive bids will work their work to the betterment of the district.—Portland Mining Review.

Mining a Business Proposition.

The time was when mining was considered among that class of accidents we call "luck." It seems left for our age to reduce it to regular business regulations and enroll it among one of the world's great industries. Luck—mining is only like luck—farming, or any other kind of so-called chance work. Men have had "wind-falls in almost all kinds of business, but for the mass of common mortals the safe way is by the way of common sense, and wisely adapted toil. We must "dig" for it. The "up-to-now" idea of the matter is briefly expressed in the following clipping from the Mining Record, says the Coeur D'Alene Mining Journal. "Indications are that this activity is but the beginning of a better day than the mining industry has ever seen. Since the days of the great gold mines of Ophir and the mysterious diggings whence came the ingots of the Incas of Peru, mining has had a hazy halo of romance around it. The cool-headed man of commerce has been too much inclined, in many ages past, to regard mining as a gamble, a venture, a wild speculation. That idea is fading. Business methods are transforming mining from the theme of the story teller to the subject matter of the figured statements of the business world. Mining is business. Therein lies the brightness of the future of the indus-

try. A weird tale of a lost and rediscovered mine is still attractive, but long lists of published dividends are better for the mining districts. Once get the idea firmly established in the business world that there is profit in legitimate, business-like mining, and the west will enter upon an era of wealth production which will surpass the dreams of avarice. That idea is growing in the commercial world."

Bristol Bay Placers a Rank Fake.

The United States fish commission steamer Albatross, Captain Jefferson T. Moses, has reached Sitka, Alaska, on her return from a summer's cruise of the canneries and fishing and sealing grounds of the Alaskan peninsula. For over a year the Albatross has been prosecuting researches in the interest of science in the South Seas and in Oriental and Alaskan waters for a good part of the time, with Prof. Lewis Aggasiz, the eminent scientist, aboard. Two members of the United States fish commission, A. B. Alexander and H. C. Fossett, have been aboard. According to The Sitka Alaskan, which reached here by the Queen, the Albatross, which put in at Bristol Bay, reports the alleged placer strike there a rank fake. The story told by The Alaskan, as gleaned from the Albatross' officers, if true, is one that should cause a good deal of shame to those who are engineering it. No names are mentioned, but it is said the story of the strike was started in order to create a stampede for the district next year. But three or four men are interested in the game. These men have a trading store at a village on the Nushagak river, 350 miles or so up from Bristol Bay. The game of the men in the plot is said to have been to exhibit in this city and elsewhere, \$10,000 in gold dust by the men in succession until excitement was caused sufficient for their purposes.—Seattle Times.

Machinery for the Gold Ridge.

A fine set of pumping machinery has just been purchased for the Gold Ridge mine and has been billed to arrive from Portland at Baker City within a few days, and on its arrival it will be immediately hauled by wagon to the mine, and installed by Manager Nichols. Under that gentleman's active management there is already a force of men at work engaged in the preparatory work which will pave the way for operations on a larger scale than at any time in the past. The Gold Ridge is one of the old-time properties of Lower Burnt river and in its day has yielded quite handsomely in gold. About a week ago, as stated in the columns of the Morning Democrat at the time, the property passed into the possession of Mr. Letson Balliet under a bond of \$60,000, he continuing Mr. Ira B. Nichols in the management, to carry out an elaborate scheme of exploitation. For that purpose an ample fund has been placed at the command of Mr. Nichols by Mr. Balliet, and while at present a moderate force is engaged at the mine, the same will be increased from time to time as room is made for the men. Heretofore Mr. Balliet has been known to Baker City people chiefly on paper, but it is very evident from the manner in which he takes hold of the Gold Ridge, that he means business straight from the shoulder. His friends that knew him elsewhere say that Mr. Balliet is a bold operator and they do not doubt that he will make his promise good of making the Gold Ridge one of the principal producers in the district.—Democrat.

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