

ON EASTERN OREGON.

Colorado Newspaper Man Writes Entertainingly.

To a Colorado man coming into this section it is to him almost like coming into a foreign country. The ways of the people and their institutions seem, somehow or another, to be different from those in Colorado. It is hard to tell in what respect the difference lies, but every one with whom I have come in contact that has come from Colorado tells me that his impressions are similar to mine. Baker City impresses one with being a bucolic community with a strong strain of commercialism. It has a population of about 6000 permanent. In the winter there is more or less of a floating population derived from the tributary camps, and along about Christmas time there are probably a total of eight or ten thousand people hibernating in the city, and at this time the main street exhibits some activity. The business portion of the town seems to be changing from that of a rural character to something of a metropolitan phase. There are some of the modern improvements in vogue, the street car line, however, not being quite up to date. It connects the main business part of the town with the depot. The motive power of the car is the old-fashioned horse, but at present it answers the purpose for transportation, always making the trains in time. Yet there is a pretty generous diffusion of electricity throughout the community, and there is quite a bit of building going on throughout the entire city.

Very little is seen of active mining here, though there are mines within three miles of town; yet it is the mining center of an extensive region, and it is in Baker City that you can meet the principal mining men from all over the country. Cabinets of specimens are to be found in numbers of business houses, hotels, offices and the saloons. Every other man that I have met coming down from the hills has a pocket full of specimens or a lump of gold, the nuggets taken from the placers. "Gold dust bought here" is a familiar sign. The expressions or terms in mining seem to be considerably different from what are in vogue in Colorado. We hardly ever hear the term "vein" used. Ledges are mostly spoken of. A man will say he has a ledge ten feet wide or one hundred feet or even a thousand feet wide. He speaks of free milling or a base ore. The lode claims in this country are 1500 feet long by 600 feet wide. The ledges are traced on their apex for many miles, and it frequently happens that locations are made on these ledges to the number of from thirty to sixty, end line for end line. Owing to the width of the ledges the claims may lay three, four, five or even six deep, side against side line.

A great deal of the surface ores of this country are free mining gold, and the output of many of the mines has been saved by the old-fashioned Mexican arastra. Within the last year however, there has been an inclination to more universally put modern stamp mills, and the reduction of ores is being accomplished with more rapidity. Some of the old mines have built up big records as producers, but it took a good many years for them to make the showing which even in Colorado would be considered phenomenal. With the modern appliances, however, the mines are now beginning to accomplish in a month what it used to take them a whole season or a year to do. There is a constant stream of new machinery coming into the country from all over the United States, and I am pleased to see some fine pieces from Colorado foundries and machine shops.

Oregon is not slow. There is a little camp thirty-one miles away from here called Sumpter. I am told that it has a permanent population of 2,500, whereas two and one-half years ago it could hardly muster 100 people. This eastern Oregon is doing its share in growing a new crop of bonanza kings. Every now and then some person is pointed out to me as having made considerable money in the mines. Albert Geiser, president of the Citizens' bank, is reputed to be worth a million dollars, which he made out of the Bonanza mine. His original investment was \$1,000. I understand that the mine made a total output of about a million, and it is currently reported, or at least so stated in local print, that the mine then was sold to the Standard Oil people for \$750,000.

Another mine, called the Red Boy, is also reported to be making its owners rich. It must be a rich mine, for the present and contemplated improvements, including auxiliaries, must stand them in at least \$300,000. Considerable machinery is being hauled to the mine now. There is now at the mine a stack of 15,000 tons of concentrates. These concentrates are of too low grade to ship and stand the cost of transportation to the smelters, which are a long way off. A plant for local reduction will be erected for these concentrates. The Red Boy, to all appearances, is a great mine. Reports come that a depth of 500 feet a chute of ore within the ledge was encountered just the other day, the ore being a composition of pure gold and pure quartz. A chunk as big as a man's head that was exhibited as a specimen of the new strike carried a pound of gold for a pound of quartz. That means about \$250,000 worth of gold to the ton of ore. It is well known just how big this ore chute is—it may be only a pocket—but it could be even a small one and at that rate it would be an immense wealth-producer. From all that I can hear another Red Boy or two would pay the national debt. At any rate the owners of the Red Boy—Clark Tabor and E. J. Godfrey—are making all kinds of money and have gold to throw at the birds. They are old time working miners and everybody is glad to see the good luck they are playing in. Were this mine located in Colorado, it would long ere this have created a mighty boom.

Another individual that is coming rapidly into prominence is Leston Balliet, a young mining man who is making a phenomenal success in his mining actions. In his enterprising spirit he is to Baker City what Sam Nicholson was to Leadville. He has about a dozen mines going in different districts on the Pacific coast. He is quite young, but is making all kinds of money and has under way a large number of enterprises auxiliary to his mines. He is a regular Colorado man in energy and boldness of operations. It is he who is the moving spirit for a smelter at Burkemont, and for the construction of a railroad between Baker City and Burkemont.

Water Notice.

The lawn sprinkling hours are from 6 to 9 o'clock p. m. Consumers are restricted to their own grounds, and will not be permitted to sprinkle the public streets. Running water through an open hose at any other hour than those mentioned, cannot be allowed. The water will be "shut off" whenever these rules are violated. SUMPTER WATER CO.

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