

**MANY MILES OF COAL.**

**Wagon Load Brought Here from John Day Valley.**

Elmer E. Cleaver passed through town some days since on his way from Prairie City to Baker City, with a wagon load of coal, which he took from the surface of outcroppings on John Day river, six miles below Prairie.

This is no new discovery; its existence has been known for twenty or more years. No one has paid any attention to it for the simple reason that it was not needed for fuel, timber being plentiful, and there has been no transportation facilities. Now, however, that two or three railroads are headed that way, these coal deposits will become very valuable.

Mr. Cleaver says that the first outcroppings occur where this wagon load was secured, five or six miles below Prairie City, on the John Day river banks. From that point for a distance of about thirty miles, the "blossom" can be found almost anywhere in the valley. To secure this lot, he put on rubber boots, waded into the stream and knocked off the big obtruding chunks with a pick. One piece which he had with him was as large as a two-foot cube.

It is found in a sandstone formation, in layers five or six feet thick, tilted at an angle of about thirty-five degrees, with sandstone between. The formation is said to be almost identical with that of the great coal deposits at Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The quality of this surface coal is, of course, not the best. The transformation from vegetable to mineral matter is not yet complete. Samples now in THE MINER office show the grain of the wood very distinctly and on one piece the bark can be plainly distinguished. This, however, is generally the case with surface coal, the quality always improving with depth. But even these half formed specimens burn readily, give out much heat and leave but little ash.

Some of it was sent to Pendleton and tested in a blacksmith shop, with very satisfactory results, reports the East Oregonian, of that place. The coal has not yet been chemically analysed.

**Magnolia and Little Giant Creditors Paid.**

Charles Balmforth, a member of the English syndicate owning the Little Giant and having a bond on the rich Magnolia mines at Granite, accompanied by their attorney, C. A. Johns, of Baker City, and P. Basche have been in town several days for the purpose of effecting a settlement with the Magnolia and Little Giant creditors. We are pleased to state that they succeeded, and last night paid off the 80 or more creditors, in person or their agents the full amount of indebtedness—\$28,400 at the rate of 50c on the dollar, and secured receipts in full. This means the early resumption of work on both of these fine properties, and as both are directly tributary to Granite, it means a great deal to this camp, as several hundred men will be put to work at once at good wages.—Granite Gem.

**History of Mining in Siberia.**

The working of Siberia gold mines dates back only to the middle of the eighteenth century, at which period the first auriferous veins were discovered in the Urals and in the government of Archangel. Gold was discovered in the Ural mountains in 1744. Several veins situated on the banks of the river Beregovka were worked with varying success from 1880. In 1895 the output was 19.46 poods (703 pounds). In the southern Urals, the first gold reef was discovered in 1799. The Kothkar reef yielded in 1894 about 85 poods (3,609 pounds). Towards the close

of the period 1870-1879, reefs were discovered in the government of Yenisei and the province of Transbaikalia. In 1894-95, gold bearing strata were found in the district of Marunsk, in the government of Tomsk. In 1866, the Amur province was opened to private trade; two years later, mining was begun on the concessions belonging to the Upper Amur Mining company, in the basin of the Djalinda. At the same period, explorations were set on foot in the Maritime province, and in 1871 the first gold was taken from mines belonging to Mr. Yetukof, in the basin of the Amgoun. During the season of 1897, the Amgoun Mining company treated 10,834 cubic sagens of gravel, from which 55 poods of gold were extracted, giving an average of 7.825 grams to a cubic meter. On the other hand, the Amur Mining company took out of their placers 20 1/2 poods (734 pounds) showing an average of more than 17.06 grams to a cubic meter.—Exchange.

**BUNCH OF MINING ITEMS.**

**Unusual Activity in all Districts Surrounding Prairie City.**

While the town has been unusually quiet the past week, it is learned from what miners and prospectors who have come in from both sides of the valley that the mountains are a scene of constant activity.

Elmer Cleaver visited the Present Need this week and says that work is going on at that mine at a rapid rate. A 300 foot tunnel has been started directly above the arastra, and when the tunnel is driven that far it will tap the main ledge. It is contract work and has been let to three practical miners.

Other substantial improvements are being made at the Present Need camp, such as building bunk houses, sheds, eating house, etc., that gives employment to half a dozen or more men. The lumber for these improvements is being hauled from McKee & Troxel's mill.

Marsh Howell and Ed McIntyre were in town last Saturday and say that they are taking out as rich rock from the Cougar group as ever was taken out of any mine in the Quartzburg district, and that it is easy to abstract, only three shots being used during the week.

All the other camps in the Quartzburg district are employing from two to six men constantly, and each say that the ore gets richer with depth.

The tunnel on the Oregon Wonder is in over eighty feet, and a new character of ore has been struck. Instead of the sandstone formation that was first encountered a sort of porphyry is now in evidence. No assays have been made of the porphyry formation, but every one that has seen it that is familiar with mining says it is very rich rock—in fact much richer than the sandstone.

J. Feree and his brother Frank, who came from Sumpter yesterday morning, left this morning with pack-horses, grub and equipments, and will resume work on the Will Cleaver group.—Prairie City Miner.

**Great Labor Saving Machine.**

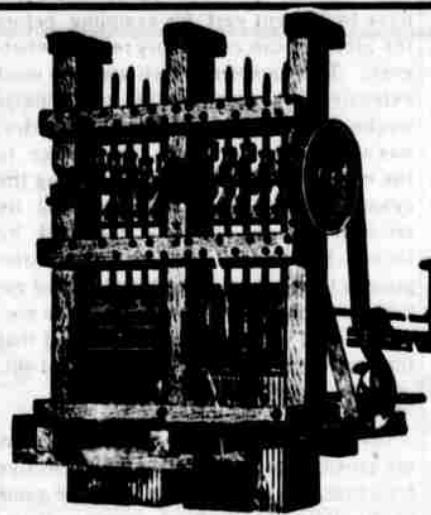
W. R. Johnson, agent for the Burgess improved steam washer, is working in the district with what is claimed to be the best and greatest labor saving machines for women ever invented. His testimonials are certainly of the very best and the machine is given a free, fair trial in every home where one can be appreciated.

**Six O'Clock Dinners.**

The Golden Eagle Hotel has inaugurated the plan of evening dinners and mid-day luncheons, which idea is an acceptable one to the majority of those living at hotels.

**Lost.**

A brown overcoat, near Hanover on the Bourne road. Finder please leave at MINER office and get reward.



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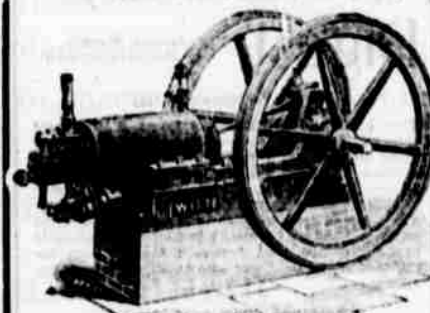
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