

QUARTSBURG ACTIVE.

All Miners in This District Unusually Hopeful.

J. S. Hughes, one of the owners of the Standard, over in the Quartzburg district, the property in which U. S. Marshal Houser is largely interested, passed through Sumpter Friday, on his way to Joplin, Missouri, to visit his brother and mother. The former was out here last summer. Mr. Hughes will spend some weeks in the East before returning to the Standard.

He is enthusiastic over the outlook in the Quartzburg district, especially of the Standard mine. Several weeks since it was stated in these columns that the ledge had been cut. Since then they have been drifting and Mr. Hughes says the vein is improving every day. Last week they took out two chunks of ore, one weighing over 200 and another 300 pounds, with not an ounce of rock in either. This ore assays gold and copper.

Every prospect that has been opened up in the district shows good values and most of the ore bodies are large. The recent sale of the Present Need to P. F. Morey, of Portland, for a large sum has encouraged claim owners to go to work and develop their properties, and more work will be done this winter than in any previous ten years.

F. J. Conroy Bonds More Claims.

F. J. Conroy, of the Standard Oil Co., has bonded the mining claims of Bob Carter, located on Sutton creek. These claims are in the same district as those owned by Letson Balliet, and the move made by Mr. Conroy has attracted some of the best mining men in this country, among them Al Geiser, W. L. Vinson and Letson Balliet. Those who know are free to confess that these bonded properties are making remarkably good showings in wide ledges and rich values of gold. That country will not be outranked in the race of paying mines, and this new move will lend zest to those who own properties in that district.—Republican.

DREDGING ON SNAKE RIVER.

Successful Process for Saving the Gold Has Been Devised.

The bars of the Snake river appear to be a very promising field for the gold dredge. A stream with a moderate current of three miles per hour and no dangerous floods; a climate permitting operation for nine or ten months in the year; oceans of gravel from which 'prospects' of 50c to \$5 per yard can be shown with a pan or shovel; boulders generally absent; pay dirt from the top down, apparently, so that deep dredging and cleaning bed-rock are unnecessary; all these seem to make the ideal ground for the gold dredge, and gold dredging the simplest matter imaginable. It has proved otherwise.

The causes of failure are found to be two—the distribution of values requiring large quantities of almost barren ground to be handled, and the fineness of the product, averaging about 1000 colors to the cent, making the separation difficult. Briefly, the success process herein referred to is known locally as the burlap system. This involves screening to one-eighth inch to remove the coarser portion in broad shallow sluices or tables covered with burlap or similar material. The sand is made to flow over these tables in a thin stream, and almost as much skill is required for good work as if they were copper plates. The process involves other intricate details not here relevant, the central fact being that this sand is now made to yield its values and that dredging is likely to take a new and effectual start along the whole line where pay prospects have been found and abandoned after un-

profitable operation.

Crude and local prospecting on these bars has always been attended with a certain amount of success, producing for individuals a modest living or as much as could usually be earned at manual labor, and many a needy man has saved himself from want by turning to them when no other relief was in sight. It is entirely likely that dredging on a large scale will become at no distant day one of the important and favorite industries of this country, and that Snake river will add material riches to its present indispensable economic value as an Oregon and Idaho resource.

Of course, in some sections where the deposits were exceedingly heavy and rich it has paid in the past, and the new plan will only increase the returns from those localities, while thousands of acres of ground that wouldn't pay heretofore will be forced to yield up its precious treasure.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

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