

THE GOLD HILL MINE

Facts and Figures From the Company's Books

EDITOR MINER:—A promise made you long since to say something, when I had something to say, impels me to address you at this time.

I have for the past two months been sojourning at this little town on the O. R. & N., thirty miles east of Baker City, which is the metropolis of the Burnt River mining district. It is an embryo city, known to postal authorities as Express, but to the railroad world as Durkee station.

Although yet in its swaddling clothes, it is growing and bids fair, in time, to become of considerable importance. Along the banks of the Burnt river, or creek, there is a belt of low land, varying in width from a few hundred feet to a quarter of a mile, which is adapted to agriculture and is mostly utilized as meadow and hay ranches. As the adjacent hills and mountains afford good grazing in summer, the section is naturally a stock country. Alfalfa hay is principally grown and sells in the stack for four dollars per ton. In addition, placer mining in many of the gulches coming down at intervals into the river proper, has for many years been carried on; while the mountains have numerous quartz lodes which have been developed just enough to prove that rock exists in paying quantities. In two or three instances mills for reduction have been erected, but it can be safely asserted that no systematic and extensive quartz mining has been carried on here.

I today made a visit to one of these partially developed properties which is known as the Burnt River Gold Mining and Milling company, but usually called the Gold Hill mine, Colonel James A. Panting being the general manager.

It is located on Gold Hill mountain four miles east of Durkee. The company is composed of Cincinnati and New York capitalists, who have been in possession about four years. During that time extensive development work has been made and the indications today point with certainty to its being a very valuable property.

Composing the property are twenty-five claims, altogether, and they cover an area of over six hundred acres, for which a patent has been granted. There has been run 1870 feet of tunnels and twice as many of crosscuts, prospect tunnels, upraises, etc. The company has a ten stamp mill completely equipped with 1000 pound stamps, ore crusher, four concentrators and a capacity of thirty tons a day, located on a creek one quarter of a mile from the mouth of the tunnel. There is a comfortable two story house occupied as a residence and office by the superintendent, a boarding and bunk house, assay office, barns and other outhouses.

The greatest depth attained by the tunnel is 700 feet, and at the end a new ledge was struck day before yesterday, ore from which came out today while I was present, of the most promising character. It is highly mineralized, and while no assay has, as yet, been made from it, the foreman assured me it would show values very high, judging from the character of the ore and a comparison with other bodies in the mine, of known value. The new find is four feet wide, with a streak over a foot wide carrying the promising ore mentioned.

To show the general character of the ore I was, upon request, given access to the books in the assay office, in which were found the values obtained from samples before the mine was purchased by the company, and upon which they bought the mine. I found them as fol-

lows, from the different claims sampled at the time: Spring Gulch, \$16; Lookout, \$10.30; Bonanza, \$26.40; Senator Jones, \$5.60; Auzinger, \$10.40; Gone Goose, \$4.20. From the Spring Gulch ledge there has come shipping ore yielding \$124 per ton; from the Gem vein, \$104. From iron pyrites, taken from the top of the hill, where the ledge is from four to two hundred feet in width, four dollars per ton has been taken. There has been some ore worked at the mill which yielded from \$540 to \$1360 per ton.

Hitherto none of these figures have been given to the public and it was with reluctance they were given me.

As the mine is not for sale, and as I obtained the data from the books of the company, reliance can be placed upon the statements. During a period of thirty days, when the mill was last run, two years ago, the battery samples ran from \$10.40 to \$37.20. At that time crushing was suspended, awaiting more extensive developments in the mine. It is estimated there is 12,000 tons of ore on the dump, which if it yields what is considered a low estimate, \$8 per ton, it will go a long way toward paying the cost of the mine up to date, which, including the purchase price, amounts in round numbers to \$150,000. The mill is to be started up again as soon as new machinery, which is now on the road, arrives.

Steam power is used to run the mill, and a gasoline engine to run the air compressor at the mine. Coal is used for fuel, costing \$5.75 at the station, which makes it cheaper fuel than wood.

The company has secured water rights on Eagle creek, thirty miles distant, for an electric plant, sufficient to give four thousand horse power. It is expected to furnish power and light to other companies along the line, when it is completed.

It is a pleasure to commend the management on the systematic work that has been done at the mine, both inside and outside. If all signs do not fail, the Gold Hill will be added to the dividend paying list in the near future.

B. J. WATSON.

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