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Mining Company

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## JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS.

Interesting Article by John C. Merriam in Harper's Magazine.
The March number of Harper's magazine gives an interesting and itstructive article by John" C. Metriam on the "John Day Fossil Beds," of castern Oregon. The John Day is a stream falling into the Columbia tiveratew miles east of The balles, and upon its eroded canyon walls the sclentist reads absotbing chapters of the story of the creation. No other sec. tion of this continent, perhaps none in the whole world, is richer in fossil rematis of prehistoric animals, Collections from these beds have been gatheted at much ex. pease by the gieat colleges of this country.
"In the erosion of their canyons," says this attide. "the John Day and its tribataties have uncovered about to,000 teet of strata, comprising eight of mote geotogical formations, whibh reptesent as many distinct periods in the history of the country."

The story which nature tas written with a great hand upon these rocky walls covers a period of millions of veats. Thete wasaday it the dom and distant past when the salt sea rolled over the entire basio of the Colambia tiver. Then the osean bed was lifted up and thete followed a long period of great lakes and dry phans. Next came an ocean of molten stone, thrown over the land and water by vokanoes in the Cascade range, and probably ftom other great vents fatther to the eastward. Thea came "a second series of altetnatiog laker and platios and finally the existing landscape, cut by persistent abtading of the streams out of the debris accumulated in preceding ages."

The life of man, when measured against the ages here recorded, is relatively more fleeting than the brief existence of a winged insect, born beneath the morning sun and doomed to death before the hush
of evening falis upon a sleeping world.
"The history of the ancient inhabitants of the country is furnished us by the remains entombed in the strata of successive periods at the time of their accumulation. The majority of the fossils found are single bones and teeth, or parts of skeletons which apoarently lay for a long time upon the land before the scattered and decayed tragments were carrisd into the lakes, a lew at a time, by stream or rain wash, and buried in the slowly accumulating deposits. Occasionally entire skeietons discovered are probably the remains of animals which were drowned or mired in the lake, or perhaps were overtaken and buried upon the land by ashes or mud from volcanic eruptions."
We are told by the scientist that com. pared with the existing fauna of this con. tinent, the mammalia from these beds are indeed a strange assembly of creatures. None of the spectes are living now, and even the majority of the subfamilies are extinct.
"At least thee fourths of all the ma* terial collected consists of remains of certaia peculiar hoofed animals known as reodons, curious forms which do not dosely resemble anything now living, though they are related to the deer and the hogs. The numerous species varied in size from that of a dog to the dimen. tous of a small cow.
"Not so common as the oreodon bones are those of a small horse, about as large as a sheep, which, from the absence of any visible means of defense, must have rusted to his slender, three toed limbs to keep him out of danger.
"The largest animals yet discovered in the J han Day beds are the giant elotheres, telatives to the living hog, ranking among the largest known mammals.
"Remains of near relatives of the thi. nocerous, the camel, the taper and the posits. Wolves are represented by mere
than a dozen species, and the at tripe by eight forms belonging to the fanily of sabretooths. Elotherium remains are unknown in these strata, but in their place we find another giant, the mastodon, the oldest representative of his race in this country."-Spokesman-Review.

Harney County Lands Need No Irrigation.
Somebody told a far-away reader of the Harney County News that the lands of this valley are no good without irrigation and not worth much with it. That kind of story is no good here without a notorial seal, and not worth much with it. Our lands are of good soil, and produce good cereals, vegetables and fruits. True it is that irrigation is a great aid to agriculture, but men who know the country well say that much of our soil has enough natural moistuae to produce good crops. Agriculture away from running streams is in the experimental stage, but will prove it seff all tight. Time was when Harney county produced nothing but hay and spotted stears that could outrun a hand-
car. Now it feeds the nation on shottcat. Now it feeds the nation on shottpruses, plums, beries and wheat that are good enough tor anybody.-Harney County news.

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 ALFRED MCCHESNEY

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descrites lands are relaiming adversely the above



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