

BURNT RIVER PLACERS.

Good Work Being Done by Pomeroy Dredging Co.

EDITOR MINER: The Burnt River mining district covers a good deal of territory; that is, the mines and prospects are widely scattered. There are indications of its becoming of considerable importance in the future. As yet there are few producing mines, but there are innumerable prospects that with capital may become mines.

As yet the district relies upon the Gold Hill and Gold Ridge mines to bring it out as they are in a better developed state than any others, and promise well.

The placer mines are numerous along the line of the river and on small tributaries emptying into it. I visited the Weatherby section the other day and hastily inspected the plant of the Pomeroy company which is dredging the river at that point. It is thirty-five miles east of Baker City.

The enterprise was started in 1899 by a company of capitalists from Portland, J. H. Pomeroy, formerly for fifteen years with the Oregon Iron and Steel company, being the promoter and general manager, and his son, T. H. Pomeroy, acts as superintendent. The company has 200 acres of land on the river, and has claims bonded for several miles up and down the stream.

The width of the channel, or ground worked, varies from one-fourth to one-half mile in width. The depth to bed rock varies from twenty-four to thirty feet. The material washed is fine ordinary placer gravel, containing some boulders, but all are dug up and sluiced by means of the dredger.

The dredger was manufactured by the Bucyrus company, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and cost \$60,000. It has two 75-horse power boilers, supplied with a centrifugal pump, having an 18-inch discharge and a capacity of 7,000 gallons per minute, used for sluicing. It requires 11 men to run the machine and it costs from 5 to 6 cents per yard to handle the material. The dredger has a capacity of from 1800 to 2000 yards per day.

There have been fifteen acres dredged thus far, most of it having been worked the past year. The output, though unknown, is declared to be eminently satisfactory to the owners.

The gold in the claim is supposed to be largely from Chicken creek, a small tributary which empties into Burnt river just at Weatherby, and on which in the mountains above, there have been rich placers mined for years; though there is gold in the gravel of Burnt river from there to its source.

There is another company preparing to start a dredger down the river towards Huntington, and it is believed more companies will be organized to work unoccupied ground on Burnt river above, as the bottom the whole distance up will prospect.

It is thought there will be considerable development work done in both quartz and gravel in this district this season.

B. J. WATSON.

Express, Or., March 12.

HARNEY COUNTY MINES.

Vast Mineral Wealth Recently Discovered Far to the South.

The Harney County News of March 7, the last issue of the paper to reach this office, publishes an exhaustive story on the dormant mineral wealth of that county. Of the new copper find, in which a number of Sumpter mining men have become interested, it says:

There is in the unorganized Pueblo district, in the extreme southern portion of

Harney county, a field that is of late coming rapidly into prominence as a probable future producer of gold, silver, copper and nickel ore, rich in mineral properties and of equal magnitude with the other blessings with which nature has favored this isolated realm.

The existence of rich mineral bodies in that section has been known for years, but the first venturesome prospectors there shared the consequences that befell so many of the first white men to brave the resistance of the native Indian, and the Pueblo mines have been left for many years to the speculations of fancy and to a little desultory prospecting that has not, until recently, resulted in anything like permanent venture in the way of developing their resources.

Of the present holders of claims in that region, ex County Judge C. P. Rutherford and Maurice Fitzgerald, of Burns, are the pioneer active workers. Their interests lie in two distinct portions of the district, and are separated by a distance of some ten miles. The former owns as the nucleus of his possessions there, the Rattler, a claim which has prospected in a manner satisfactory to the owner. Mr. Fitzgerald's first location was given the name Daniel O'Connell, and its owner modestly hopes that it may prove a worthy and enduring namesake of the illustrious Irish orator and patriot.

There has been nothing done to attract the attention of capital to this region. It is not regularly defined as a mining district, and for the present claims there may be divided in Rutherford and Fitzgerald groups.

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