

**O. R. & N'S NEW BOOK.**

**Colonel Donan on Oregon,  
Washington and Idaho.**

The O. R. & N. passenger department, A. L. Craig, general passenger agent, has issued a new book descriptive of the resources of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It is a handsomely printed pamphlet of sixty-four pages, with a large map of the three states, in an artistically designed cover. The book is illustrated with excellent half tones of lumbering, farming, stockraising, horticultural, fishing, shipping and mining interests.

The whole is pleasing to the eye, but if you wish to "get on" to its real intrinsic merits, just read a page or two—then you will surely peruse it all. It is a literary gem of purest ray serene. English literature furnishes no better descriptive work. Then, too, it is a great pleasing, interesting mass of carefully compiled statistics, with not a "dry" line from cover to cover. Of course, Colonel Conan is its author—therefore nothing more commendatory can be said.

There is one chapter on mining, from which the following is taken:

None of the much advertised bonanza-lands of the country or the world offers greater and richer opportunities to enterprising prospectors and miners than the eastern Oregon gold fields, of which Baker City is the center and metropolis. Stretching from the northeastern part of Wallowa county down into the northern end of Harney and Malheur counties, or from the Shoshone or Great Snake river far over on the tributaries of the John Day, and including Baker county and a large part of Grant and Union counties, this vast mineral belt extends through two full degrees of latitude and longitude. That is, it is about 120 miles square, and has an area of 14,400 square miles, or within a trifle of as much as Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut all combined. It is traversed in every direction by spurs of the picturesque Blue mountains, from 6,000 to 10,000 feet high, and diversified by innumerable bold torrents like the Wallowa, Imnaha, Grande Ronde, Burnt and Powder rivers, and the tributaries of the John Day and Malheur. There are immense forests of valuable timber, the valleys are exhaustless in their fertility, the pasturage for live stock is abundant all the year, and the climate, equable and healthful enough for a perpetual sanitarium.

So far as limited exploration has done, all its peaks and foothills seem ribbed with royal ore, and all its gulches and creek beds exhaustless deposits of golden sands; while silver, copper, lead and iron abound, and opals and other precious stones are found in some localities. It has produced untold millions of gold, that, in earlier days, went to San Francisco to swell the reports of California's yield. Grant county has turned out over \$5,000,000 of placer gold alone, and Baker county's aggregate production of quartz and placer gold has certainly not been less than \$20,000,000. According to the report of the United States mint director, Baker, Union, Grant and Malheur counties in 1893, produced \$1,377,479, or about three-fourths of the entire output of the state at that time. Expert estimates credit these four counties with producing \$2,443,000 in 1897, and \$2,950,000 in 1898, of which Baker county alone was set down as turning out about \$1,600,000, and Union county, \$650,000. The product for 1899 ran at least \$500,000 above that of any previous year, or to a grand total of something near \$3,500,000.

An elaborate statement, prepared in October, 1897, by Fred R. Mellis, of Baker City, a well known statistical author-

ity, showed that there were then, in this unboomed and comparatively unknown Oregon Eldorado, 513 mines, and more or less developed claims in which ore had been found. Now there are over 2,000, and fully 8,000 more locations and prospects. Among them are a number of the wonders in recent mining annals.

More than \$3,500,000 has been washed out of the placer beds of Austin and Canyon City, by the crudest, old time processes, and they are still producing. About eighty miles northeast of Baker City, the Seven Devils district in Idaho promises to rival the world's richest and most famous copper regions, and from every direction come reports of new and glittering discoveries, and irrefutable assurances that there is, humanly speaking, no end to the possibilities of the region. But prospecting in it has hardly begun. Of all its more than 14,000 square miles of gold bearing territory, scarcely 500 have been really explored. The surface dirt is barely scratched. Hundreds, if not thousands of mines are yet to be found in it. The whole vast mineralized empire is rich beyond computation, and there is not in all the world today a field of more gloriously golden opportunities, for the intelligent and enterprising prospector and miner, than eastern Oregon. No need to go to the Klondike, or Alaska, or anywhere else. Fortunes, without danger or hardship, are here for thousands yet to come.

**Wonders of the Latest Ray.**

In 1895 a French chemist discovered rays emanating from the elements uranium which possessed properties similar to the Roentgen rays. They were called Becquerel rays, after the discoverer. But while the discoverer, Roentgen, aroused great interest in the whole civilized world, leading to radical changes in medical diagnosis, the Becquerel rays were only employed in physical laboratories, and an assertion by the French scientist, Demarcays, that they were not emitted from uranium, but from a new element, made no impression. Recent experiments by Berlin High School of Technology have proved this assertion—that a new element is responsible for the Becquerel rays—and the interesting fact has been observed that these rays rendered almost every transparent substance luminous in the darkness. These rays made it possible to tell genuine diamonds from artificial ones in the dark. This will prove of great practical importance in testing. The experiments have also resulted in obtaining for the first time large quantities of the new element, which has demonstrated that rays emanating from a larger quantity make the air such a conductor of electricity that it is hoped this property can be utilized in wireless telegraphy. Experiments for this purpose are being made in the Berlin institution, but the deepest secrecy is maintained concerning them. It is stated that the results will soon be laid before the emperor, which seems to indicate that the discovery is regarded as one of great importance.—Extract from report of Consul General Guenther, at Frankford, Germany.

**Patent Your Mining Claims.**

One of the oldest and most experienced mine owners gives this sensible advice: Push your mine to patent. What is the use of practically paying taxes of \$100 per year on it, in the form of regular annual assessment when, by patenting, the yearly cost will only be a few dollars. As soon as five assessments have been properly performed, an affidavit of \$500 improvement can be honestly made, and then a patent is obtainable. The order for survey will cost \$30; the survey \$30 to \$50; the land office fees \$10; attorney's fees for drawing papers, from \$25 to \$100; the advertising from \$25 to \$45; affidavits, etc., perhaps \$10, and final entry expense, if a 10 acre lode claim, \$50. Total \$170 to \$270. Then you have a property with a positive title, and can give a warranty deed for it if necessary.—Exchange.



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**HAY AND GRAIN FOR SALE**

**W. S. BOWERS  
ABSTRACTS**

**Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained**

Years of experience in Baker County Records. No. 2104 Court Street, Baker City; Oregon.

**SUMPTER BOTTLING WORKS**

Manufacturers of all kinds of Carbonated Drinks and Ciders. Operated in connection with the

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