

**GO PROSPECT FOR OIL.**

**Every Indication on John Day and Stein Mountains.**

Everywhere in the Pacific coast states, in Arizona, Texas and Colorado, people are becoming more and more excited over oil prospecting. Fortunes have been made in southern California and interest is rapidly spreading north. Dozens of companies are boring for oil in the northern part of that state, in western Oregon, on Puget Sound and eastern Washington, but thus far no producing well has been reported. Some gaudy reports regarding oil signs and indications are published, but these reports are inspired very largely by the wildcaters who have stock for sale.

Just to the east of us, across Snake river in Idaho, it is said that oil has been found at a depth of 600 feet. This report was put on the wires at Boise City last week but has not been confirmed. A company is sinking a well over there, but if oil had been struck ten days since, full confirmatory reports would undoubtedly have been received before now.

The story published in THE MINER last week regarding the good fortune of some Sumpter citizens in getting in on what looks like an oil bonanza in Colorado, has been the topic of much discussion here since then, and a number of men know just where they can go and find oil in eastern Oregon, not a thousand miles from Sumpter.

For months past the general impression has prevailed in this vicinity that oil would sooner or later be found in the John Day valley. During the past week two gentlemen have informed the writer that they have seen oil seepage, about thirty miles east of Canyon City. There are no oil experts hereabouts, but every body here have, of course, been reading during recent months about the necessary geological formations and the surface indications of the presence of oil below, and many of these conditions are found on the John Day. There are coal and shale and mineral springs and sand stone and a lot more of the regulation requirements.

As a matter of fact, one of the men who stated to a MINER man recently that he had seen oil seepage in that locality, is now on the ground, accompanied by an oil expert who was introduced here as "a mining man from Portland"—as if there were any mining men in that jay camp; it would be no less absurd to speak to a Denver sea captain.

According to another story, related by an old prospector who has followed float clues to hidden treasures, from California to British Columbia, for the past quarter of a century, oil can also be found south of Stein mountains, very near the Nevada line. He has seen the seepage there, and even a still better sign, a veritable oil "blossom;" the "pitch stone." This is a substance as hard as granite, which burns as readily as rosin. It is supposed to be petrified petroleum. It is not known by the writer whether or not this is a theory of the professors, but it is just as good for the purpose as if it bore the Harvard or Yale brand. It is thought to be an "old" rock, not oil seepage hardened by exposure to the atmosphere, but the product of Nature's laboratory down in the inside of the earth, and of the vintage of a few million years since.

"Show me," the skeptic will say. "Go out and see for yourselves," is the advice THE MINER offers. It is not at all improbable that petroleum exists in eastern Oregon, and it ought to be discovered this summer.

**Prejudice Against Pocket Mines.**

There is no good foundation for prejudice against "pocket" mines. Nearly all

mines are more or less pockety or spotted. A real pocket mine is one where an exceedingly rich bunch of ore occurs occasionally, while the rest of the vein is comparatively barren. Sometimes it takes all the money found in one pocket to carry on the work to reach the next. Occasionally six months or a year's work is spent before a good pocket is found. Some of the pocket mines have been worked for a number of years in a sort of intermittent way, but have been found to pay in the end. The ledges of these mines are usually small. But even in the chimneys of good, well defined ledges there are poor and rich spots—not so marked, of course, as in the true pocket mine, but occurring nevertheless. Possibly the pocket mine will not hold out as long or warrant expensive plants, but much less ore is mined. Sometimes a vein is pockety and extremely rich on the surface, which, with depth attained, settles down into a steadily paying proposition.—Mining and Scientific Press.

**THAT MINING CONGRESS.**

**Boise Preparing for the International Meeting There in June.**


The forthcoming meeting of the International Mining congress in this city is engrossing the attention of the chamber of commerce, which some time since appointed a special committee of 11 on ways and means, with power to appoint such sub-committees as might be necessary to carry on the work. It is expected a meeting of the special committee will be held in a day or so and that active steps will at once be taken to perfect arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors.

Secretary Mahon, of the congress, has opened up headquarters in the mayor's office in the city hall. In conversation with a representative of the Statesman yesterday he expressed his belief that the people here would rise to the importance of the occasion and entertain the delegates to the congress in a fitting manner.

"This congress is an international affair and the most prominent mining men and investors of this and other countries have always attended the meetings. There will beyond question be many of them here. The meeting, therefore, presents Idaho's great opportunity to show investors what she has. It is a matter of great importance to the state. Colorado experienced wonderful benefits from the session held within her borders, and Idaho, I am sure, will do the same."

Last year's session of the congress was held in Milwaukee. At that time Idaho was represented by but one or two men. In fact, it was not known here, excepting, perhaps to a few, that this state had any representation there until a message was received by Mayor Richards asking whether Boise would be in a position to take care of the congress should it decide to come here in 1901. The mayor answered in the affirmative. The little Idaho delegation beat Colorado and all other aspirants. Some time afterwards Los Angeles sent word to Secretary Mahon that in case Boise had changed her mind about the congress, the California city would be pleased to have the congress come there. It was stated that \$20,000 would be raised for entertainment purposes, and more if necessary. However, if Idaho's capital was going on with the matter, Los Angeles would do all in its power to make the meeting there a success and would be a candidate for the 1902 session. Secretary Mahon wrote back that Boise was going ahead, the state having also become interested in the congress.—Boise Statesman.

Miss Richardson, the milliner, announces that from the latter part of this week she will be constantly receiving new pattern hats every few days throughout the season.



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