

SNAKE RIVER BASIN.

David Wilson Says the Find Is all Right.

The Spokesman-Review of recent date publishes the following interesting interview with David Wilson: The dispute as to the find of gold in the basin of the Snake river, above Ontario, is settled beyond dispute, in the opinion of David Wilson, a well known mining man who is back direct from the scene of the big strike, and confirms all that has been said of the riches of the new Eldorado.

"I have been operating on these low bars on the snake river for fine gold for many years," he said. "Mr. Singer, on whose property the recent rich discovery was made, has been working there for the past six years or more. He has undertaken to sink a shaft to bedrock, but it is almost like patting a well in the bed of the river. He is now down 87 feet.

"I saw Mr. Singer in Spokane on the Fourth. He told me that they struck values, partially in free gold, at a depth of between 40 and 50 feet, and that they found practically continuous values until a depth of 87 feet was reached, and that the values were greater at the lower depths than higher up. The assays of the ore went from \$4 to \$13 per ton, which would be \$7 to \$23 per cubic yard. These values were obtained in a conglomerate rock or cement formation that is so hard that it requires to be blasted and there is every reason to suppose that the same formation practically underlies that entire basin or territory. Mr. Singer's idea was that the whole basin was a lake bed at one time.

"I saw J. S. Camp, an engineer who has located about 3500 acres, and has done his work very thoroughly and systematically. He is evidently the agent of some large syndicate that has plenty of money to put up. He told me that he found some conglomerate rock taken from the bottom of a well 42 feet deep, located near Roswell, and got an assay from it of \$60.50 in gold and \$3 in silver to the ton. It was the same kind of rock found by Singer.

"There are no towns or improvements in the territory. I should say that at least a thousand locations have been made in the basin.

"Mr. Singer stated that the larger portion of the gold is shot gold, coarser than the ordinary Snake river fine gold, and averages \$17 to the ounce, while the other gold runs only from \$12 to \$14.

"About a month ago I visited Mr. Baxter, assayer at Boise, who told me that when Robert Wilson sunk a well at the Boise natatorium for hot water, and also when a well was sunk at the penitentiary, he struck at a depth of 400 feet a strata of material 100 feet deep which gave gold values running from \$4 to \$20 per ton. This would be about the same level as the strata struck by Mr. Singer at a depth of 40 feet below the surface.

"There is a lot of fine gold in the Snake river valley, and I believe that it is of local origin, by a system of oxidation which liberated the gold in this underlying strata.

"From present indications many wells will be sunk there soon. I expect to sink a shaft within the town limits of Ontario within the next 30 days.

"The description of this deposit corresponds exactly with the description which I secured of the celebrated Johannesburg deposit in South Africa, which, before the Boer war, was turning out \$40,000,000 per year. The African deposit is about 12 by 60 miles in extent, lies deep below the surface in the same formation and averages \$10 to \$15 to the ton. London invested millions there

before a pick was put in the ground, because it was known that only the mechanical operation of extracting and treating the gold was required. There is every reason to believe that the eastern Oregon and Idaho deposit is richer and much more extensive than the African deposit."

MINING AN EXACT SCIENCE.

Modern Progress Has Made the Industry a Legitimate Enterprise.

The mining industry of today enjoys an entirely different status from what it did twenty years ago. In the early history of mining in this western country, when the industry was in its infancy, when methods were crude, when but little was known concerning mining operations and less known about processes for the reduction of ores, many failures were chronicled, the result being that the eastern investor, the capitalist and the business man began to look upon mining as a mere venture and every mining proposition as a "wild-cat;" and they had good reason to look upon mining in this light, as it was easy then to impose upon those who were prevailed upon to become interested in any mining enterprise, and the "bilk" and the confidence man were "abroad in the land."

Of late years, however, a different phase has been given to the mining industry and mining is now reduced to an exact science and is looked upon at home and in foreign countries as a strictly legitimate proposition—a safe and profitable investment or speculation. Many are not aware of the conditions which have transformed the industry from a disreputable and risky speculation into a business venture that is now perfectly safe, legitimate and exceedingly profitable. One of the contributing factors is ascribed to the fact that in these days a mining proposition is submitted to an examination by a mining expert before passing into the hands of the investor.

New inventions and modern machinery have enabled the miner to operate his properties to better advantage and at a less cost than was formerly the case, while the discovery of many new processes for the treatment of ores has enabled the operator to handle ores at a profit, which, years ago, were practically valueless. Ripe experience in mining matters also has something to do with the present gratifying condition of mining affairs, the sum total of all these advantages being that mining is now looked upon as perfectly legitimate and safe, so that the rawest "tenderfoot" can safely engage in the business profitably.—Exchange.

Found a Tunnel, Shaft and Rich Ledge.

James Winger spent Thursday in Pendleton on his way to his home at Colfax. He was returning from his mining properties in the Susanville district and gives a glowing account of conditions in that thriving camp. He recently purchased a supposed-to-be undeveloped claim adjoining the famous Badger mine. Upon investigation he found that some former owner had sunk a shaft and drove a tunnel 145 feet, striking the shaft at a depth of 60 feet. The tunnel had been well timbered, but fire had destroyed the timbers for about 70 feet from the point of beginning. Mr. Winger at once put several men to work sinking and in a few feet struck an eight foot ledge, samples from which assayed over \$200 per ton. He is much elated at the strike and is now making arrangements to put in a 10-stamp mill.—Pendleton Tribune.

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