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CASE FURNITURE C.

SUMPTER, OREGON.

GOLD STAMPEDE TO OREGON.

It Occurred in April, 1851, to Josephine Creek.

The history of the discovery of gold in Oregon is nearly parallel to the story of the mad rush to California in '49. Both seem with interest, and are wild narratives of excited men, nerved with but one ambition—finding the precious yellow metal.

If, during the year 1849, an eagle as he soared amongst the clouds, cast a glance over the vast territory lying between the Calapooia hills and the California line, he would have beheld a land as yet devoid of human habitation. Along the solitary trail that led into California from the interior of Oregon would have been, perhaps, a lonely traveler making his way either to or from Vancouver, in quest of furs. Bands of Indians, with their wigwam camps, would also have been seen, scattered here and there along the banks of the Rogue, the Illinois and the Umpqua. Great herds of deer and elk browsed and fed in the tall, rich grass of the valleys and sloping mountains. At night the gray wolf prowled and the ever-hungry coyote wailed loud and mournfully.

But the panorama suddenly changed. One day in April, 1851, it became noised about the many mining camps scattered along the northern California streams that rich diggings had been discovered in Oregon. Within 24 hours 600 men were on their way to Jackson county, which at that time comprised all southern Oregon. These excited goldseekers crossed the Siskiyou mountains near Ashland. Here the human stream broke and the miners scattered into all parts of the Rogue river valley. News had reached the Willamette valley, too, of the gold strike in southern Oregon, and the immigrants there let go their newly acquired farms and rushed south,

eager to share in the riches of the Oregon Bonanza.

The first discovery of gold in Oregon was made on Josephine creek, during the month of May, 1851. The next discovery was on Canyon creek, a tributary to the former stream. The first rush of miners was to these two creeks. A few weeks later gold was discovered in Scott's and Allen gulches, at what is now known as Waldo. The discovery was made by a number of sailors, who abandoned their ships, harbored at Crescent City, and joined the crowd of seekers in the Rogue river valley. The richest strikes were made on Jackson creek, the streams in that district producing an immense amount of gold.

The awful times of four years before in the Golden State were repeated in Oregon in 1853. During the winter of that year a continuous snow fell over Oregon. For six weeks the ground lay covered with four feet of the icy flakes. All travel was impeded. Packers from the Willamette valley, Scottsburg and Yreka were snowbound all along the trail. The "grub" kits of the many miners, trapped in the deep snows down in the valley of the Rogue, got low. Those were cold and hungry days for those pioneer seekers of gold. There was plenty of nuggets and gold dust, but no flour, bacon or salt. The last sack of flour sold for \$75. Salt became as valuable as gold, and was exchanged at the stores for an equal weight of the yellow metal.

By and by the warm sun of spring-time peeped through the clouds, and gladly was hailed the day when the last vestige of snow had melted and flowed away to the sea. Many miners had died of starvation, while scattered everywhere over the valleys of the Rogue and Illinois were the carcasses of hundreds of cattle, horses and mules.—Portland Telegram.

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New Map of the Cable Cove District.

Engineer W. H. W. Hamilton has just completed a new map of the Cable Cove mining district, 17x23 inches in size, showing the various properties there, the mountain ranges, water courses, wagon roads and trails. Blue prints of the same are for sale at THE MINER office at \$1.50 each, sent postpaid to any address on receipt of the price.

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