

ABOUT SUMPTER PLACER MINES.

Below "Webfoot" Bedrock The Treasure is Buried.

Although eastern Oregon has been the scene of almost uninterrupted placer operations for forty years, those who believe that its auriferous deposits are exhausted are woefully mistaken. In some of the old diggings, perhaps, the gold is scarcer and harder to get than in the old days, but even in these, rich discoveries are sometimes made.

New golden spots are being found nearly every day and the problem of going deeper than "Webfoot bedrock" is beginning to attract the attention of practical men, so that even the so-called "played out" diggings are now being forced to yield new returns.

Among these claims are the Ellis and Downie placers, located almost in Sumpter. So close are these properties that the sound of the water forced through the giants is plainly heard by the citizens on the street, and they are still proving a source of wealth to their owners.

Buck gulch is another placer section not far removed from the ones mentioned above. The bed of the stream has given up more gold than any mentioned, if the reports handed down by old-time prospectors are to be given credence. Today mining operations are being carried on there and the output is such as to encourage the most expensive outlay in placer mining equipments for further work. Many stories are told of the wonderful riches of this gulch in the past. Years ago white men and Chinese worked side by side there, and strange to say, it was the Celestials who were the most fortunate, one of them having been successful to the extent of \$80,000, which he took home with him.

Many of the small streams flowing into Burnt river, not far from here, are being worked and in some instances as high as \$30 per day to the man is being taken out. Over in the Winterville district, not far distant from the famous Bonanza mine, are many valuable placer claims. Among these is one owned by Minot Austin. It is stated that \$10,000 was produced last season from one cleanup at this property. Another cleanup will be made this month, when it is thought better results will be obtained than last year. There are many other valuable placer beds being operated quite extensively in this locality. Minersville, about six miles southeast of Sumpter, is the name of a placer mining section that is adding considerably to the wealth that is being produced in the upper camp.—American Mining News.

Hydrographic Officers in Eastern Oregon.

A press dispatch from The Dalles says that F. H. Newell, chief of the division of hydrography of the interior department, and Gifford Pinchot, chief of the division of forestry of the department of agriculture, arrived yesterday from Washington, via Utah and Idaho, and leave tomorrow with Representative Moody by private conveyance for a trip through Wasco, Crook, Harney, Malheur and Baker counties. Representative Moody's object in planning this trip was with a view of having Mr. Newell personally inspect the arid lands of this district, together with the main mountain streams tributary, for the purpose of conserving their waters for the reclamation of these barren tracts, should the government finally enter upon this project; also to furnish scientific information to settlers and companies of citizens who, on their own account, may

undertake the reclamation of such lands. Mr. Pinchot goes with the party as far as Prineville for the purpose of meeting and conferring with the stockmen interested in pasturing on forest reserves. The itinerary now planned is to arrive at Shearer's Bridge, Tuesday, August 6; at Antelope, Wednesday; at Prineville, via Trout Lake and Agency Plains, Thursday; at Bend, or Lava, on the Upper Deschutes, Friday; thence to Burns, arriving there probably on Monday, August 12; thence to Drewsey, Tuesday; at Westfall, Wednesday; at Ontario, Thursday or Friday, August 15 or 16; from there by rail to Baker City; thence to Portland, Monday, August 19, where Mr. Moody will arrange a meeting for Mr. Newell with the attorneys representing the companies that have organized for the purpose of reclaiming arid lands in eastern Oregon. Meetings have been arranged along this route with stockgrowers and projectors of ditch, canal and improvement companies, and it is hoped that all interested in these matters who have not already been notified will arrange to meet the party at stations convenient to their homes or ranges.

Union County Well Now Throwing up Oil

The artesian well that is being sunk by W. J. Townley on his farm four miles from Union, from which is flowing a stream of water 176 degrees in temperature under great pressure, is still bringing forth surprises as greater depth is attained. At a depth of fifty feet indications of gas and coal had been found, as well as water. During the week boring has been continued with the one and one-half inch pipe, until the well has reached a depth of eighty feet. The pressure remains about the same and the water maintains its temperature, but during the past few days a crude oil has been coming up with the water. The water is so hot the oil cannot be seen in the water as it comes out of the well, but by letting the water cool the oil rises to the surface. It appears in patches or masses on the surface of the water and is of a dark, brownish color and of a thick, oily consistency. From the best information obtainable here this substance is nothing more nor less than petroleum.—Union Republican.

Prairie Diggings' July Cleanup.

There was deposited in the Grant County bank last Friday by Messrs. Hines & Helmer, the proprietors of the Prairie Diggings mine, the cleanup from their five-stamp mill for an eighteen days' run in July. While the exact value of the gold brick was not divulged by the owners, the Eagle would judge that it was considerably over \$2500. The bullion was shipped on Saturday by the bank to the assay office at Boise to be refined. Messrs. Hines & Helmer are to be congratulated upon the splendid showing made by their valuable property during this trial run. Only five men were employed at the mine and mill, and the result of their labors have yielded rich returns. When this property is fully developed and extensive machinery used to work the ores, the monthly output will be equal to that of any other Grant county mine.—Canyon City Eagle.

Six Hundred Successful Tests.

L. D. DeMars, of Minneapolis, has come to Helena to make a practical test at some mine of a new process he has invented for the treatment of refractory ores, says the Record. After the ore has been pulverized, he separates the gold and other metals from the calcareous refractory substances, rubs the gold free and clean with a shoe which revolves in a tub, and then brings it in contact with the mercury. He claims to have made six hundred tests on ores from all parts of the country and to have been successful with all of them.



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