

## GOLD FIELDS OF EASTERN OREGON

### Writer of Long Experience Sizes Up the Situation.

In the last issue of Mining, published at Spokane, is printed an interesting, well written article on the eastern Oregon gold fields, written by Randal H. Kemp, who is still in the district, preparing other articles for that periodical. He makes the following general comments, as introductory remarks:

A newcomer to the eastern Oregon gold fields, who has spent many years in the mining camps of the west, meets with peculiarities to which he has not been accustomed elsewhere.

The lack of enthusiasm, the absence of hospitality so prodigal among the mining fraternity, and many other features, serve in a measure to impress the stranger with the belief that perhaps eastern Oregon is not a mining country after all.

But, if the late arrival will only be patient and adapt himself as much as possible to the ways of the country, his feeling of repulsion will soon pass away.

It is, however, when he gets out among the mines and sizes up some of the wonderful bodies of ore exposed, that he fully realizes that this is really one of the great gold fields of the world. It is not difficult to satisfy an experienced person that there are immense deposits of the longed for yellow metal here and, consequently, the apparent indifference of the old timer is overlooked.

These facts are mentioned in this article for the reason that the writer has understood that many persons have visited this section and after remaining a few days, and not being made aware of the customs of the country compared with other mining localities, have gone away with a bad feeling against the district which nothing could eradicate.

Another fact: Many come here like the writer, with no real knowledge of the vastness of the country and the distance apart of many of the famous producers.

The writer was of the opinion that he could cover the country and write up his notes in two weeks. After one week's hard trip and but a fraction of the mining possibilities were sized up, a calculation was made and it was found that it would require at least seven or eight weeks continuous traveling to inspect what is in sight in a portion of Baker and Grant counties, which are in what is known as the Sumpter district.

When one considers that the placer mines have been turning out millions of dollars worth of dust and nuggets for forty years, and twenty stamp mills and numerous cyanide plants have been producing gold bricks for a score or more of years, there is little wonder that the residents do not get excited when a new strike is made or enthuse over a new comer if he wishes to invest a hundred thousand or so in a budding bonanza, for himself or his backers.

To one who contemplates a trip of inspection to eastern Oregon, the writer would say, do not expect to find the spirit and enthusiasm you have met with in other mining localities, but if you are looking for mines of merit and mines that contain gold, have patience, look around, and you will come in contact with what you are seeking.

As intimated above, the writer has not covered all the country, and as the time for going to press is short, he can only give a description of the few properties visited.

The trip west from Sumpter to the town of Alamo, through the Ibez, Granite and Red Bay mining districts, is in-

deed an interesting one, not only to the experienced miner, but likewise to those who for the first time visit a mining camp. This district in its entirety is well styled "The Eastern Oregon Gold Fields;" fields of gold they surely are, beginning immediately after leaving the town of Sumpter are vast acres of placer ground under extensive operation; streams run heavy with the wash from many hydraulic placer works, while higher up on the mountains quartz mining is engaged in, and at intervals extensive mills in operation lend their aid to the wealth of the nation.

### ANOTHER IRON DYKE DEAL.

#### Ten Million Dollar Company Organized to Work the Property.

Charles M. Warner, of Erie, Pennsylvania, has transferred a 9-10 interest in the Shey, Schley, Shafter, Sampson, Copper Giant, Madie and Violet claims, Lime No. 1 and Lime No. 1, and the Iron Dyke tunnel site, all in and about the property of the Iron Dyke mine, to Charles M. Reed, also of Erie, the consideration being \$194,152.71.

Deeds were filed this morning with County Recorder Robert Henry of the transfer and with it will undoubtedly go to fill another chapter in the somewhat checkered history of the famous Iron Dyke mine and Northwest railroad. Several transfers of considerable magnitude affecting the property of both concerns have been made of late and undercurrent rumors have it that the deals being consummated mean much for the future of both property and road.

With the deed of the transfer of the Warner interests to Mr. Reed is another showing the relinquishment of title by Mr. Reed and several other stockholders to the Iron Dyke Copper Mining company, of the Iron Dyke, located three and a half miles north of the mouth of Pine creek and the same distance south of Ballard's Landing and a mile from the Snake river, the Sley, Schley, Shafter, known as the Vaughan group, the Sampson and Copper Giant, Madie, Violet, Lime No. 1 and No. 2 and the Iron Dyke tunnel site, and the stock, right of way, all tools and property belonging to the Northwest railroad. The consideration is given as \$4,000,000, this to be in fully paid, non-assessable stock of the corporation.

It is learned that the Erie people who purchased the Iron Dyke property and the Northwest railroad last year at sheriff's sale have incorporated a ten million dollar company to handle it, and that sufficient stock has already been subscribed to carry out the plans of the promoters, which is to complete the railway along the Snake river and open up the Iron Dyke mine on a huge scale. Judging from the consideration named in the deed of transfer filed yesterday, from Reed to the Iron Dyke company, the control of the new corporation will remain in the hands of the Erie syndicate.

This is perhaps one of the most important moves made this year, as affecting the future of the mines of Snake river and the Panhandle. As the Herald has heretofore pointed out, the Alger syndicate, which is negotiating for a purchase of the Searles mines at Cornucopia, are interested in the extension of a railway to a point as close to the Eagle range as possible, and it is believed that Alger will subscribe liberally to the Iron Dyke Copper Mining company, which is the title of the merger corporation controlling old interests of the Northwest Copper company, the Snake river mines and the Northwest railway.

Nothing definite can be learned in this city as to the immediate plans of the new company, but the course as above outlined is accepted by the knowing ones as the one that is to be pursued.—Herald.

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

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