

MONTE CRISTO AND GOLD BUG

Rapid Development of Rich Properties on Greatest Ledge Ever Found.

J. A. Hilliker passed through town Friday en route to his mines on Rock creek, the Monte Cristo and Gold Bug groups, owned by the Western Union Mining company, of Minneapolis, of which he is general manager. These properties consist of five full claims, or 7500 feet of the direct extension of the famous North Pole ledge, joining end to end with the South Pole company's ground.

Mr. Hilliker had just finished hauling in his supplies for the winter, consisting of fifteen tons of groceries, hardware and powder. He bought the groceries at Haines and the other supplies from P. Busche at Baker City. From the former place to the mine it is twelve or fourteen miles, up hill every foot of the way; from the latter, it is twenty miles, up grade fully half the distance. By constructing three miles of road this rich district could be reached from Sumpter in nine miles. The profit on the trade which would thus be secured for two months would pay for the work.

Under the superintendency of O. F. Lindley, a mining man of varied experience and exceptionally good judgment, both of these groups are being opened up, by tunnel. The Monte Cristo group lies on the opposite side of the hill from the North Pole ground, and at about the same elevation. It abuts on the South Pole property, as stated above. The Hansen mill, recently bought by the South Pole company, along with the three claims owned by Andrew Hansen, is situated only about 100 feet from the Monte Cristo's side line. The Gold Bug is a continuation of this same ledge, Rock creek being the dividing line, and is situated on the opposite hillside, reaching the summit.

Two shifts of miners are at work on each property, driving tunnels for the ledge, both of which are now in over 100 feet, and the ledge may be cut any day on either. They could have been driven in on the ledge, but Superintendent Lindley thought best to run these short crosscuts, in order to get good dumping facilities and also more depth in a shorter distance.

This is unquestionably one of the greatest gold bearing ledges on the globe. Regarding it, Professor Lindgren, of the United States Geological Survey, says it is the most clearly defined, strongest and persistent in eastern Oregon—and that is saying a whole lot, much more than the unformed can conceive of. Last week J. W. Cowden was over in that district taking pictures of the scenery, buildings, mills, etc., one of which is a panoramic view of North Pole hill. The camera was on the opposite divide, fully two miles distant, and even in the photograph the ledge can be distinctly seen and traced down the mountain side through the South Pole claims, into the Monte Cristo, where it is lost sight of as it descends below the timber line.

The columns of THE MINER have been filled in recent weeks with accounts of the vast quantity of gold that has been taken from the vein during the past few months, the North Pole alone having a record of a million and a half in four months, to say nothing of the big clean-ups from the Columbia and Golconda, on its westerly extension. Readers of this paper will also recall the contest royal between Alexander Baring, the London millionaire owner of the North

Pole, and Mayor Robbins, of Sumpter, to buy the ground between that mine and the Monte Cristo group. The latter succeeded, after bidding over \$200,000, planking down the money, has organized the South Pole company and has already begun work on a gigantic scale.

Mr. Hilliker, therefore, has a license to be enthusiastic over the probability of making two great mines of his properties, aside from the showing already made there—which enthusiasm is shared by his superintendent. So far as the topography of the ground is concerned, he has a better layout than either of the other big companies; with an excellent water right and millsite situated between the two, rendering cheap and convenient delivery of ore; and last, but not least, an inexhaustible supply of timber.

As good buildings as are to be found at any mine in eastern Oregon, bunk and boarding houses, blacksmith and timber framing shops, have been completed, and the men employed there will be comfortable all winter.

A civil engineer is now at work there, surveying the ground for patent, which will be pushed through to perfection of title as rapidly as official red tape will permit.

There is scarcely a doubt but what in one year from date both these groups will be big, prolific producers. Superintendent Lindley says he will have enough ore blocked out in six months to justify the erection of a mill. There is every probability that this ore will be equally as rich as that now being taken from the North Pole, which mills many thousands of dollars to the ton, for the situation of the two properties is very similar.

Mining Offers Greatest Inducements.

D. F. Lewis, Salt Lake City, speaking to a representative of the Inter Mountain at the Thornton hotel last evening, said: "No industry at the present day offers so many inducements to investors as does that associated with mining. Nor is there a business enterprise extant which provides anything like as heavy dividends as mining. A man can work along all his lifetime on a salary and never accumulate very much; but there have been instances in which a little attention to mining has made a man rich. Where is the business that on the investment of a few dollars will yield big returns like mining? A few dollars put into some properties have been known to make men independently wealthy. The late W. S. Stratton testifies to this fact. The stand is well taken that it requires a mine to make a mine, yet once the profit stage is reached, dividends come quickly and on a large scale. Money derived from mining is clean and not burdened with hardships and strictures on the toilers, as is the general rule with other industries, and money so earned affords pleasure alike to employer and employe. The miner glories in developing a rich pay chute of ore and the higher the returns extracted from the mineral the more pride he feels in his work. There are few kinds of labor in which the men take as much satisfaction as the miner does. The element of chance in mining is just sufficient to make the work interesting, and while driving a tunnel or sinking a shaft there is always the glorious uncertainty of opening up a rich vein."—Butte Inter Mountain.

"Now is the Appointed Time."

The O. R. & N. Co. has just issued a handsomely illustrated pamphlet entitled, "Oregon, Washington and Idaho and their resources." People in the east are anxious for information about the Pacific northwest. If you will give the O. R. & N. company agent at Baker City a list of names of eastern people, who are likely to be interested, the booklet will be mailed free to such persons. Yours truly, A. L. Craig, General Passenger Agent.

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