

SOME IDEA OF THE VALUE OF MINES

Compared With Farming, Timber Lands and the Like.

Representatives of the three Portland daily papers have been in Sumpter during the past week or ten days. Of course they all called on Mayor Robbins for business and information. They secured both, but much of the information will not be used to enlighten their readers. It was a favorable opportunity to present a protest against the policy pursued by those publications, in subordinating the state's greatest and most important industry, gold mining in eastern Oregon, to other comparatively insignificant industries. He started out by telling them that if some enterprising farmer down in the Willamette valley should plant forty acres to hops, the fact would be given a page, with numerous illustrations, in those papers, while a million dollar mining deal would be disposed of in ten lines—and he had the proof filed away in his desk.

But this is not a reiteration of Mayor Robbins' protest. It is, rather, a presentation of some interesting facts and figures which he then produced to demonstrate the magnitude and vast importance of Oregon's mining interests, which center here in Sumpter. These **THE MINER** has verified, added to and herewith submits.

Mr. Robbins' first strategic move was to show from the Oregonian's handbook the relative value of mines and their products and several of the state's other industries. This authority (?), which gives everything in the state, from truck gardening to stock raising, more prominence than it does mining, credits the gold fields of eastern Oregon with an output of the yellow metal alone in 1901 of between four and five millions. That is low enough, all will admit. The fruit crop of the entire state was placed at "over" \$2,000,000, hops at \$2,000,000, dairy products \$5,000,000, lumber something over \$8,000,000, and so on down the line. No further argument is necessary to convince the most skeptical that gold is an important item in the state's invoice of industries; but these figures give no conception of how important, relatively, it really is, as it is still in the swaddling clothes of early infancy, while the others are hoary with age.

But here is a statement of fact that will surprise some people and convey some idea of what mining really amounts to, after a few years of labor and some capital have been expended on a prospect. The Oregonian handbook says: "The 1362 firms of Portland worthy of a definite rating represent a financial strength aggregating \$22,472,000."

From six to eight miles from Sumpter, in Cracker Creek district, there is a strip of ground 600 feet in width and about three miles in length, that couldn't be bought today for \$20,000,000 cash. Through it runs what is doubtless the greatest, richest gold bearing ledge on earth. It is owned by a half dozen mining companies, the capitalization of which approaches nowhere near the real value of the properties, but these six companies are worth fully as much as all the 1362 corporations, firms and individuals doing business in Portland. In five years the mines will be worth double their present value. This group is taken as an example, because four of them are developed properties, one partially so and the other sufficiently so to demonstrate the existence there of a mine.

Take them as they come: General

Manager Robbins, of the Golconda, modestly places the Golconda at only two millions. It couldn't be bought for that, because it is worth more. The Columbia's owners have refused a bona fide offer of three millions. It is reported that they offered to sell for five millions. Do as the horse traders do, split the difference and call it four millions. The E. & E., not in operation for several years, on account of litigation and other annoyances that the rich are heir to, has produced \$1,000,000, and stoping had scarcely commenced, with a depth of only 400 feet. Though it might be bought for less, the man who would buy it for a million and a half would double his money in six years. The North Pole is valued at ten million dollars and is not for sale at any price. It is, at the present stage of development, the richest mine in the world, though either of its neighbors may, and doubtless will, prove to be equally as valuable. With its little dinkey ten-stamp mill, and shipments handled by one wagon, the monthly output amounts to \$150,000 not quite two millions annually. It is authoritatively stated that the mine stoped and sacked a million and a half dollars worth of ore in four months last spring and summer, which is now stored in the workings. The South Pole, with its comparatively limited amount of development, is worth one million, while the Monte Cristo is valued at from a half to three-quarters. The last two will be dividend payers within a year, when their worth can be more intelligently estimated.

The three producing mines are now turning out probably \$250,000 a month, though this is largely a matter of guess

work. None are being worked to anywhere near their full capacity. The possibilities of the six properties are practically limitless.

Another Smelter Revolutionist.

Concerning the new method of electrolytic smelting, which will be tested in the near future, the Daily Mining Gazette, of Houghton, Michigan, says: "Mining men will watch with interest the outcome of an experimental smelting plant to be erected at Sault Ste. Marie, for if the claims of Frank E. Hatch, of Iron Mountain, the inventor, are true, the tremendous iron ore tonnage of Lake Superior will not be sent to Lake Erie for treatment, but will be converted into iron and steel by the power of Lake Superior's waters. The Hatch Electro-Smelting company, formed by a combination of Detroit men, to push the Hatch processes, has contracted for 200-horse power from the Clergue canal, and a site has been selected for the plant, in which the electric smelting project will be tested. Inventor Hatch, during a long series of laboratory tests, has reduced many kinds of ore by electrolysis. He claims that all ores will submit to the process and at a saving over present methods of nearly half. If his claims justify the Detroit capitalists' investments in the new company, capitalized at \$500,000, a revolution in smelting will result."

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