

## OUT PUT OF NOBLE METALS.

OREGON CREDITED WITH IN-  
CREASE OF \$652,365 GOLD IN 1902.

Some Comparisons Between Mining, Farming, Stockraising and Lumbering—Mining has the Worst of it—Either Establish a U. S. Assay Office or Levy Tax on Net Proceeds of Mines.

Director of the mint Roberts, in his preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States during the calendar year of 1902, credits Oregon with a total output of \$1,860,465 gold and \$63,600 in silver. This is an increase over the figures given for 1901 of \$652,365 in gold and a decrease of \$32,460 in silver.

How does this compare with an article taken from the Mining and Engineering Review, of San Francisco, which was published in this paper on December 17th last.

The article cited states, after going into all details, that eastern Oregon is entitled to credit of a production of from twelve to fifteen millions of dollars per year.

It has been pointed out so often, the reason for this state not receiving proper credit for its production, that it would be wearisome to repeat it. One remedy has been suggested, that is the establishing of a United States assay office in the state.

There is still another method by which the correct returns could be obtained, and that is by the taxation of the mines based on their net output. This law has been in force in Montana for a number of years and a bill for a similar enactment is about to be introduced in the Idaho legislature.

For several years this method has been in force in British Columbia, and although it did not give the utmost satisfaction to everyone, yet among the many, it is considered the most equitable manner by which to levy taxes on a mining property.

If those interested in mining will only analyze this subject, there is no doubt but that they will be heartily in favor of such a law.

Under the present system the land comprising a mineral claim as well as all machinery and improvements are taxed. It matters not whether the mine is producing or paying, the assessor and tax collector are in evidence annually.

On the other hand, the miner only pays when he can well afford to, when he has a producing and a paying mine. No one who has had experience in the business doubts but that the mining industry is one that needs fostering. The miner is a missionary in a way. He is compelled to go into the mountain to find his mine. It is often absolutely necessary to build roads and bridges which are quite expensive, so as to reach his property. He is compelled to pay for his own surveying and for many other things which other pioneers do not.

His possessions generally lie remote from markets and he is put to great expense and often exasperating delay in securing necessary supplies.

With the farmer, the stockman, the lumberman and others, it is entirely different. The United States government pays for the surveying of their land. The farmer selects his ranch in a suitable place, if he cannot sell all he produces, he can consume a great quantity of it.

Nature provides the stock raiser with

sustenance for his animals and he can take them to market on their own feet, thus saving the expense of transportation.

With the lumberman, he only follows in the wake of other branches of industry as a rule, and is sure of his market before he begins business. Often the natural waterways of a country furnish him the means of getting his product cheaply to where he has sale for it.

By these few comparisons it can readily be seen that the miner has the worst of it, and if he can secure any reasonable concessions from the federal or the state government, he is surely entitled to them.

If a law were enacted that a miner pays his tax according to the net proceeds of his mine, he need have no fear that the general public will have knowledge of his business. Far from it, the returns are usually given into a properly qualified official under oath. Each individual statement is kept secret and is only used in making up the total.

No doubt the representatives of the mining sections in the state legislature of Oregon will have more difficulty in introducing and having enacted such a measure, than those of any other state. The interest of Oregon are so diversified that those representing mining are greatly in the minority.

Yet the mining interests have progressed with such leaps and bounds in the past few years, and the future outlook is so rosy, it would not be out of place to anticipate that more interest would be taken in any legislation which would tend toward advancing its welfare.

One thing is certain, Oregon, under the present system, does not secure credit for her precious metal production. There are two methods by which she can, and those methods have been outlined above.

### ABSOLUTELY SAFE SECURITY.

#### Gold Mining as Safe as Any Investment.

In one day last month the value of a very prominent industrial concern in Philadelphia shrunk \$18,974,534, one of the reasons given being that the company could not borrow money wherewith to pay the dividend. In the last three months the values of great industrial and "standard" railway stocks have dwindled away so that they represent hundreds of millions loss.

And yet people gravely shake their heads over "uncertainties" of mining. How long before they will realize that the only absolutely safe security on earth is a solid gold mining security. Many of the rich and "conservative" interests of this country have already realized it and are investing their money in gold mining as rapidly as possible.—North American Miner.

#### The Man Who Bought the Sunrise.

G. A. Pounder, the man who made a producing mine out of the Ethel in spite of hard times, ridicule of knockers, and many other obstacles, has purchased a controlling interest in the Sunrise Mining company, which own a valuable mine in the Greenhorn district of eastern Oregon. The ore carries high values in gold, copper and silver.—Everett Times.

#### Timber and Homestead Filings.

Timber and homestead filings, as well as final proofs, can be made before Charles H. Chance, United States commissioner, office in First Bank of Sumpter building, Sumpter, thus saving applicants expense of a trip to La Grande.

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T. G. Harrison, agent for Giant powder company.

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