

**TO ISSUE PORT ORFORD FOLIO.**

**Concerning the Gold and Coal Deposits of Curry County, Oregon.**

The United States Geological Survey is just about to issue the Port Orford (Oregon) Folio, No. 98, prepared by J. S. Diller, who surveyed the region several years ago.

The folio contains four maps, all representing the same region but each showing special features. The first is a topographic map showing all the streams, hills, and section lines, as well as roads, trails, and houses. The second, using the first as a base, shows the distribution of the various rock formations. The third calls special attention to those formations which are of economic importance; and the fourth illustrates by sections how these formations lie in the earth. These maps are accompanied by a text which describes the topography and geology of the region.

Port Orford is the only port in the quadrangle, and as it opens to the south, landing during the stormy winter months is uncertain. The quadrangle contains about 870 square miles, and is inhabited by about 2000 people, engaged chiefly in agriculture, dairying, stock-raising, and mining.

Much of the country is well timbered, but large tracks have been devastated by forest fires. The large precipitation renders the underbrush dense and in many places almost impenetrable.

The topographic features of the region—the coastal and river plains, the ancient marine terraces, the earlier and later valleys of the principal streams, as well as the flat-topped and even-crested hills (the remnants of a dissected plateau)—are described in detail, and their origin is explained as the result of natural processes long continued in the course of the erosion of the land by streams and waves.

The geologic story recorded in the rocks is of great interest. It involves not only long periods during which the ocean covered the district and deposited mud and sand containing shells of the animals then living in the sea, but also epochs of vigorous volcanic activity. Then came a period during which the region was finally raised above the sea and deeply sculptured by wind, rain, and streams. Silver Butte, Satooth Mountain, and other similar stack-shaped masses of rocks are the necks of ancient volcanoes.

The principal mineral resource is gold. Platinum and coal are found, but as yet can not properly be counted among the resources. The coast has long been noted for its beach mining, and there is yet considerable activity in a small way. The principal mines are the Blanco and the Sixes, near Denmark. Both are on the elevated beach at the eastern border of the coastal plain, nearly 200 feet above sea level, and have yielded nearly one-twentieth as much platinum as gold.

In the early days rich placers were found along Sixes River and Johnson Creek. Search for the source of the gold has led to the discovery of numerous small pockets, especially about Rusty Butte and Poverty Gulch, but no working mines have yet been developed. There is clearly a

mineralized belt running east and west near the streams named, and the source of the gold is to be found chiefly in the quartz veins and pockets of the region.

The whole quadrangle was once covered by the Arago formation, consisting of conglomerate, sandstone, and shale, which locally contains beds of coal that have attracted considerable attention. The most important of these is in the Eckley basin; but when the quality and extent of the coal are considered in relation to transportation, it becomes evident that the field is of small economic value.

**Copper Mining on a Paying Basis.**

Reports of the several mining companies producing copper in the Lake Superior region show that, during the year 1902, they were operating on a very narrow margin, the price of the metal at about eleven to twelve cents affording relatively small profit; but with the increase in price to the present figures—14.75 to 15 cents—handsome profits are assured to most of the companies operating there. The reports indicate that some of the companies cannot work at a profit with copper below twelve cents while others can produce copper at a still lower price. The history of copper mining in that region is interesting, in consideration of the constantly improving methods and the larger scale of operations, together with the wide and sometimes rapid fluctuation in the price of copper.—Mining and Scientific Press.

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