

# The Sumpter Miner

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The genealogy of the Lode family is somewhat mixed. Mother Lode is well known and quite popular, but her children bear the family name of Splitoffs. And who ever heard of Father Lode. The Lode family tree needs fixing.

A man who has just reached Portland from the wilds reports that Mount St. Helens was in eruption September 15, the date on which the entire coast felt a slight earthquake shock. The mere fact that it required about twenty days for his information to leak out would indicate that St. Helens is a mere prospect in the volcano line.

A dispatch from Poplar Creek, B. C., states that a vein discovered there carries a yellow stuff which upon analysis has been identified as autunite, one of the very rare uranium ores, which is supposed to be one of the radio-active minerals, and one of the important sources of radium. A radium mine which would supply the rare metal in any quantities to speak of, would prove a bonanza to the owners.

In ten years, or from 1892 to 1902, says the Mining World, the United States has made vast strides in its metal output. The following figures explain the present extraordinary prosperity of this country: In 1892 there was produced in the United States 1,596,275 ounces troy of gold, and in 1902 4,243,232 ounces, more than doubling the output in the short period of ten years. In 1892 there was produced 353,000,000 pounds. There was melted from iron ores in 1892, 670,000,000 long tons of pig iron, and in 1902 17,821,307. The coal mines of this country mined in 1892 180,000,000 tons of coal, and in 1902 the enormous aggregate of 300,930,659 tons.

Speaking of the work of the American Mining Congress and the necessity of a national department of mines, the Daily Mining Record says: The all important movement for the establishment of a National Department of Mining should be agitated continually, and widely, and be kept prominently before the public all the time. President Richards has ably dealt with this subject, and his remarks should be studied with care. Let us, then, all put our shoulders to the wheel and help individually and collectively to push along the Mining Congress, which in turn will mean added prosperity to our mining industry and the indirect benefitting of everyone.

Nearly 1,300 tons of gold lie today in the vaults of the treasury of the

United States—the greatest hoard of the yellow metal ever gathered in the history of the world. Four hundred tons of this gold are piled like bags of salt, within the four walls of the subtreasury of Wall street, New York. Outside the treasury hoard there is in circulation through the country a nearly equal amount of gold coin, making more than 2,500 tons of gold in the United States bearing the imprint of the eagle. The value of this coin is more than \$1,260,000,000. One of the remarkable things about this gold is that, despite the fact of its forming one-half of the country's circulating money, it is rarely seen in the course of ordinary business in the east. One may live in New York or Chicago without seeing a single gold coin for a year, while out here on the Pacific coast, especially in California, gold coins are quite as common as paper money.

## FOUND PHONOILITE ON BURNT RIVER.

James Graham, an old Cripple Creek miner who has been prospecting on Lower Burnt River, below Unity, made what he confidently believes to be the greatest discovery ever made in the history of the Blue Mountain gold region of Oregon, says the Baker City Herald. He has traced deposits of phonolite for three miles along the hills of that section. Phonolite is the great mineral deposit found in the Cripple Creek district of Colorado and Mr. Graham emphasizes his remarks when he says the new section he has uncovered to view is greater in extent and value than that of the heretofore most famous gold section in the world. Phonolite formation does not carry great values itself, but is indicative of tellurides of gold. Mr. Graham has uncovered one ledge in the first three miles district and brought samples to Baker City. The assays run \$1000 to the ton. The samples brought were not selected, but taken at random.

Both sylvanite and graphic tellurium are known to have existed in the valley, but Mr. Graham's discovery of phonolite is entirely new.

In the report of Professor Waldemar Lindgren, in the United States Geological reports, there is mention of rhyolite, a kindred formation, in the Lower Burnt River country. The discovery of phonolite is a continuation of the laws of geological formation. These are the deposits of the Neocene age, and the surroundings show the kindred formation phonolite in plenty.

Near the railroad crossing at Unity cuts expose the contorted silicious separated from the Neocene tuffaceous sediments. Neocene conglomerations are also exposed at several points northwest of Durkee. The total thickness of the Neocene sediments and tufts is at least 600 feet. Small areas of rhyolite are found on the slopes high above the valley. The long ridge, a few miles northeast of Lookout mountain is covered by a series of basalt flows, headed after the manner of the Columbia River valley.

The new strike is on the route of the Bonta railway, and will benefit the mining industry in that section just that much more when the railway is built.

Mr. Graham is making preparations to have the prospect developed

and the strength and length of his discovery positively ascertained.

Two prospecting syndicates with capital of \$40,000 each have been organized and have representatives in the field looking over the new strike.

Some great discoveries have been made in the Burnt River district. Besides being famous for rich placer mines, the discovery of fire opals in that section led to quite an excitement at one time. A few miles below Durkee a small creek joins the river from the slopes of Lookout mountain and cuts through the bedded series of tufts. A few hundred feet from the Gold Hill mine fire opals were found in the yellowish-grey rhyolite tufts and a quarry opened. A pit fifty feet square by thirty feet deep has been opened. The opals are abundant, filling the cavities in the rocks. In connection with the opal find occurs a peculiar mineral in the form of white fibres resembling wool. It is the new scollite, which is closely related to sibilite.

Mr. Graham was in the city today and when asked concerning the truthfulness of the report, he was rather reticent in replying. However he finally consented to give the facts.

"Yes, I discovered the Cripple Creek phonolite below alluvial deposits for three miles near Unity on Burnt River. I have traced the deposit, and being familiar with the Cripple Creek formations, I am fully convinced that there is no error. The assays have been made and fully sustain my views. The facts have been suppressed for some time to enable us to form prospecting companies."

Any more than the above Mr. Graham did not care to say. However, from his enthusiastic frame of mind and the pleasant way in which he regarded the strike the assurance is given that another wonderful discovery adding to the already great mineral wealth of the region, has been made.

## COAL AND IRON FOUND IN DEAD MULE GULCH.

Colonel E. S. Topping and business associates have purchased 160 acres of placer ground in the Dead Mule Gulch country. Colonel Topping and A. D. Whittier returned yesterday from making an examination of the diggings. Colonel Topping states that the ground, he thinks, is exceedingly rich. He and Mr. Whittier panned out \$6 in less than half a day. It is the intention to start operations in the spring.

In the vicinity of these placers they discovered an iron bearing vein between porphyry and syenite, and within thirty feet of this a two and a half foot vein of coal between sandstone. The coal appears to be a good quality of lignite, samples of which were brought back. The quality of the iron ore is not known, but tests of it are to be made at once.

## TO DEVELOP JOHN DAY COAL DEPOSITS.

Anthony Mohr returned this morning from a business trip to Seattle and other Sound points. His mission was in regard to a pending mining deal in that section, and he states that it was successful.

Mr. Mohr is also interested in the development of the coal deposits in the John Day valley, and he states that certain Seattle people will be

here about the middle of the month with a view of investment in the property.

The coal in the John Day which Mr. Mohr and business associates control, exists in paying quantities and of a good quality. It is only a question of getting action in the matter. This, it is thought, will be done before snow flies.

Speaking of the Sound country and Portland generally, Mr. Mohr says:

"Seattle is good, Portland is good and the whole country is flourishing from a business standpoint. There is more building, more business than I ever saw before there."

## DAVIS IS NOW REGISTER OF THE U. S. LAND OFFICE.

E. W. Davis, of Union, is now in charge of the United States Land Office at La Grande. He received telegraphic instructions from Washington Wednesday, stating that his bond had been approved by the Interior department and instructing him to immediately take charge of the office and enter upon the discharge of his duties.

A similar message was sent from Washington to E. W. Bartlett, notifying him in effect that he was no longer on the salary list and instructing him to turn over the office to his successor. Register Davis went up from his home at Union yesterday morning and took charge of the office.

Thus ends the La Grande Land office fight, which threatened for a time to disrupt the republican party in the state.

The Miner received today the first notice for publication signed by the new register.

## OPEN ALL NIGHT.

From now on Gant's restaurant on Mill street will furnish an all night service for patrons. Short orders and full supper menus will be provided patrons.

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DR. L. T. BROCK

Physician and Surgeon.

Sumpter, Oregon.

I am now prepared to receive and treat patients both medical and surgical, in the best equipped private sanitarium in the country. Nice quiet home, with trained and experienced nurse always in attendance. Up-to-date surgical work a specialty.