

NEVADA'S MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAIN OF URANIUM.

The presence of uranium and tungsten ores in the vicinity of Osceola, this county, has been known for several years, and the reports of the United States geographical survey contained lengthy descriptive articles on the big deposits of those strange metals in this locality.

In this connection Nevada's highest mountain, known locally as Jeff Davis peak, is again destined to play an important part. In the shadows of this mountain, which lifts its head 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, nestles the mining camp of Osceola, which has produced \$1,000,000 or more in placer gold, but although many theories have been advanced to account for these deposits, the source from whence they came is still a mystery.

Jeff Davis peak itself is a mysterious mountain. In its bowels is Leehman's cave, which rivals Kentucky's natural wonder, both in extent and in the weird beauty of its scenery, while on its summit one becomes impressed with the idea that the huge mass is imbued with life and is in constant motion.

Prospectors who have spent brief periods on the peak were always ready to seek new fields after witnessing one storm on this grand old mountain, and they describe the scenes on those occasions as being weirdly awful in their grandeur. The freaks played there by electric disturbances are well calculated to bring terror to the stoutest hearts, and if 10,000,000imps of darkness were to be banded together in a midnight revel, their efforts would pale into littleness when compared with the fiery scenes produced by the elements on such occasions on top of Jeff Davis peak.

Now, this mountain appears to possess in a remarkable degree the distinguishing attribute of radium—that of casting off fragments of itself and hurling them into space. It is only about two years since the people within a radius of fifty miles of Jeff Davis peak, really thought an earthquake had rent the earth asunder in that vicinity, but the disturbance was later traced to that uneasy mountain. That this conflict of unknown agencies has been going on for ages has been proven by the presence of fragments and boulders from this mountain scattered over a wide extent of country, and they even underly the vast gravel deposits in which the placer gold is found.

Now, there is nothing remarkable in the fact that boulders roll down a mountain side, but in this instance the conditions are so remarkable that they would seem to call for careful investigation. The action of radium on other minerals, it has been claimed, will produce gold; uranium is known to be there in large quantities, and with it the associate metals, tungsten, molybdenite, wolfram, scheelite, etc., and it is not impossible that nature's powder magazine, wherein is stored the material which may some day destroy the world, is located here in White Pine county. As radium is valued at the present time at from \$10,000 to \$20,000 an ounce, however, the people of this locality will assume all risks and will hope to be able to supply the demands of the world for

the new metal.—Ely (Nevada) Mining Review.

UNCLE BILL STINSON TELLS OF NEVADA PEAK

The story about Jeff Davis peak reproduced in yesterday's Miner from the Ely, Nevada, Mining Review, recalled to Uncle Bill Stinson his experience with this mysterious mountain. He says:

"I do not know anything about the peak's being full of radium and other rare metals, but I do know about its being a storm breeder and its behavior in this respect. This was no dream. I recall an incident that happened about fifteen or twenty years ago. I had finished installing a stamp mill at Cherry Valley, and in company with three prospectors I set out in the direction of Jeff Davis peak to look up some claims. The peak is a part of Mount Moriah, and fully 14,000 feet high. We were at Mc Culloch's spring about fourteen miles from the mountain and about four miles from camp; when one afternoon, we noticed a little cloud which looked like a Scotch cap hovering on top of the peak. One of the boys, who was familiar with the country and the tricks of Jeff Davis, noticing the cloud cap, became very much excited and advised us to pull for camp at once.

"Jeff means business," said he, "whenever you see him look like that. That's his signal for a gully washer, and we'd better hit the trail in less than no time."

"We thought it wise to act on his advice, though to the casual observer there appeared to be nothing to warrant such haste, as, with the exception of the cloud cap, the sky was perfectly clear. But we hiked, nevertheless, and before we had gone far in the direction of camp, the sky became overcast and we were overtaken by one of the most terrific thunderstorms I have ever in all my life witnessed. The lightning played around old Jeff, as of Olympian Jove had his court there in full session, and the rain fell in torrents.

"I learned from this experience that when Jeff donned his Scotch cap it was time to hit the trail in the direction of shelter at the best lick that was in me. The mountain seems to be the storm center for a radius of many miles. Whenever the cloud cap appears the surrounding circle of country is sure to be disturbed by an electrical storm.

"I have never ascended the rocky and barren heights of the peak, but I have been reliably informed that there is a crack clean through the mountain, caused perhaps by some old earthquake. It's a peculiar old wart on the surface of the planet, and I do not doubt but that it will be found to contain minerals that have never been heard of before. It's just like it."

W. E. Hurd Back to The Hills.

W. E. Hurd came in this forenoon from Portland, where he has been for several weeks past, and drove out to Aalmo this afternoon, where he will make his headquarters until the snow drives him into town. Mr. Hurd is largely interested in mining properties in that vicinity and keeps things going at all of them all of the time.

10,880 ACRES OF MALHEUR COUNTY LAND TO BE SOLD.

At a meeting of the state land board it was decided and an order was accordingly made to sell seventeen sections of state land in Malheur county, aggregating 10,880 acres, to the highest bidder, and the board will advertise for bids to be opened on January 26, 1904. No bids will be considered at less than \$2.50 per acre, the price fixed by the act of 1903, and by the board at the July meeting.

All of the land is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of Malheur county, and on the dividing line between Oregon and Nevada. All or nearly all of the country is rough and mountainous, but it is mostly well watered by numerous creeks which course through it in all directions. The upland soil is described as being rugged and stoney, while in the lowland there is considerable arable and tillable lands. In all of the sections to be sold along the creek bottoms, there are long stretches of rich, sandy and black loams soils, which are capable of producing all kinds of crops with proper irrigation. Some of the townships are covered with a thick undergrowth of sagebrush and greasewood, which grow rank and dense, and this land when cleared, cultivated and irrigated, is capable of producing prolific crops.

There is also a great amount of timber in this region, such as the aspen, willow, mahogany, (inferior grades) cotton, etc., and in most parts there is ample growth of grasses which make it valuable for grazing purposes. It is expected that some good bids will be received.

Balliet's Mail Held Up Again.

An Associated Press dispatch dated at San Francisco yesterday, says that Postmaster Monague has received an order from Postmaster General Payne to withhold from the mails letters to the Pacific Security and Trust company, San Francisco, the White Swan Mines company, limited, and Letson Balliet, San Francisco and Baker City, Oregon.

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