

WORDS OF PRAISE FOR OUR MINES

Eastern Oregon One of The Richest Fields in The En- tire Northwest.

Ralph Royer, now in Portland, after a trip through Idaho, Utah and sections of Oregon, has given the Telegram the following interview concerning his opinion of the mining wealth of this state as compared with others:

"It would take a whole issue of any paper in the Northwest to write up the mining interests of the eastern section of this great state and do the job thoroughly and well.

"We owe a larger proportion of our success in business to the mineral resources of this state than to any other resource, business or industry, and it is now time to come to the front in support of any and all legitimate measures and means which are now being inaugurated for the purpose of fostering Oregon's mineral interests, encouraging our home investors and inviting eastern capital into our country. It is nothing more than a statistical fact that over \$5,500,000 is spent by prospectors, miners and managers and owners in this state every year, and that over 90 per cent of this immense sum is expended in the purchase of goods which are shipped from Portland, the business and supply center. In exchange for this the cash returns to his city. In view of the magnitude of these figures and the truth of these statements, I do not believe that there is a merchant in any line of business in the city who will disagree with me when I say that were every mine in the state to close down tonight for an indefinite period, within three months every merchant would suffer and some would go out of business.

"How about Sumpter and Bourne, and the Greenhorns and Cableville, and Cornucopia and Rastus, and the Mormon Basin, etc., etc.

"Well, as you know, when I was there it was under great difficulties. Of course in jumping around over the country I want to get a look at the lay of the land and then go underground and pass upon the formation, development, etc., but up in that country a month ago there was no land lay, at least I could not see any. There was nothing but snow, and snow, and on top of that was more snow. But I got around pretty well, enough to get a good start for my trip next July, and I can say that eastern Oregon is one of the richest fields for mining in the entire Northwest country.

"I cannot now enumerate all of the mines, operating or developing, and prospects in that vast territory, about which you ask, but I may say briefly and approximately that here are probably ten properties and plants in the several counties east of meridian 119 and south of Snake river which are producing annually an average of \$300,000. Without a thorough investigation I would not attempt to enumerate the prospects and the mines under development. You must understand that it is well-nigh impossible to get data on the output of the mines of Oregon, because we have no assay office and our

ores are shipped to Boise, Helena, and San Francisco. We are entitled to an assay office and we should, must and will have one soon.

VAGARIES OF FORTUNE AMONG MINING MEN

A Short time ago some parties sent out a prospecting outfit into Sonora, Mexico, searching for gold and nothing else. One of the prospectors, in particular, was a gold bug, and anything but gold was so much country rock in his estimation.

After knocking around the country for a few days these gold hunters struck a country that was particularly promising in copper and silver. A good ledge of silver bearing rock was struck and the two prospectors chipped off a few pieces with their prospector's picks, just enough to see that the rock carried silver, but was not very promising as a gold proposition. They turned this down and left for parts where the yellow metal might be found. In their hunt for the gold they ran across an old prospector and mining man named Magarell, to whom the prospectors told the story of the silver ledge which they had turned down, because it carried no gold. Magarell went to the place and located and prospected it thoroughly and proved to his own satisfaction that the discovery was a valuable one. After doing a little work on it he met parties who were looking for a silver proposition. He had just what they wanted. Thirty-five thousand dollars was offered. Magarell accepted the offer and a bond deal was made. Five thousand dollars was paid down to Magarell in Douglas, Arizona, within the last few days and the buyers will begin opening up the silver ledge at once. The two prospectors, who had turned down this silver mine have returned to Douglass. Their search for gold had proved fruitless. In the meantime the silver ledge that they had not thought worth taking had been bonded for \$35,000 and a poor prospector made a fortune.—Mining and Engineering Journal.

Queer Things in Concentrates.

J. L. Safford, has for some time been working a Cornish jig on Milo creek, Idaho, with excellent results, having recovered a large quantity of concentrates from the creek. Before the Empire State-Idaho Mining company built its new mill at Sweeney the old concentrator, which was situated in the upper part of the town, dumped its slime and tailings into Milo creek. Mr. Safford conceived the idea of sluicing the creek and treating the tailings with the Cornish jig. A flume was constructed along the creek through the center of town and the jig erected near the American house. The tailings are then sluiced down to the jig and there treated. Silver and lead concentrates are not the only valuables saved from the bottom of the creek. Thus far Mr. Safford has taken out three watches, two of them gold, four revolvers, axes, hatchets, chisels, hammers and hypodermic needles.

Timber and Homestead Filings.

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