

COVERS  
THOROUGHLY  
THE  
GOLD FIELDS  
of the  
INLAND EMPIRE



EASTERN  
INVESTORS  
IN  
OREGON MINES  
Pay for  
AND READ IT

## MILE-LONG TUNNEL TO TAP BAISLEY-ELKHORN

One of the most important pieces of mining engineering work in Oregon is under way at the famous old Baisley Elkhorn mine, ten miles east of Sumpter, owned by the Beaver Gold Mining company, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and controlled by Frederick P. Hayes, ex-president of the Bonanza mine, at Geiser. Mr. Hayes is credited with having cleaned up a cool million from his operation and sale of the Bonanza. He acquired the Baisley-Elkhorn through the payment of about \$150,000, representing the assumption of a large indebtedness and the purchase at a heavy discount of innumerable labor lines against the old property, which had been wrecked by incompetent management. Mr. Hayes immediately perfected plans to re-open the Baisley on a gigantic scale, and as one means to that end ordered the boring of a mile-long crosscut tunnel to reach the main vein of the Elkhorn at a depth of 2,100 feet and to tap other veins in the same system at still lower levels.

Dick Eackman, formerly of Sumpter, is superintendent and the mine is under the management of Edwin W. Fields, a heavy stockholder in the Beaver company. Electric power, transmitted from the plant of the Rock Creek Power company, three miles distant, is used in the operation of machine drills in driving the tunnel, which is wide enough for a double track, and which is now in 200 feet. Thirty men are employed at the mine and mill, and this force will be increased as soon as new electrical equipment arrives.

The Baisley mill, an antiquated contraption of the roller pattern, has been overhauled and repaired and is running night and day on good ore from two levels in a shaft on the hill. The product of the mill in the way of concentrates is shipped to the Sumpter smelter.

The Baisley-Elkhorn mine has enjoyed a checkered history. It was discovered in 1882 by "Lucky Jim" Baisley of Baker City, who until 1889 worked the ore himself in arrastre; in that year the property passed into the hands of a syndicate and the present mill was erected.

In 1897 the Eastern Gold Mining company bought the mine for \$60,000. United States mint reports give only isolated figures relating to the Baisley-Elkhorn's output, as follows: In 1889, \$3,741; in 1891, \$89,373; in 1892, \$16,500. This, of course, was merely gold bullion. The larger returns were received from sorted ore shipments and sale to smelters of high-grade concentrates. The total yield, up to 1896, as given by the gold superintendent, Charles Whittaker, was \$535,000, and during 1897 and '98 the production was very large, attaining, from January 1 to August 1, 1900, the unprecedented figures of \$94,000 in bullion alone. The Robbins-Elkhorn, also owned by the Beaver company, has produced \$300,000 in the aggregate, being developed by a 300-foot crosscut and 1,100 feet of drift.

During the operation of the Baisley-Elkhorn by the Eastern Gold Mining company, exorbitant prices for fuel, incompetent superintendence, inefficient ore treatment, entailing heavy loss of values, and general all round bad management, resulted in wrecking the company and closing the mine. It is related that old and leaky boilers, upon which repairs were never made, were used in the hoisting works, being fed by wood costing \$6 per cord. When the hoist was being operated it was necessary to shut down the pumps, owing to steam shortage; and when the pumps were started it was necessary to suspend hoisting operations.

The present owner of the mine announces that when the mile-long crosscut tunnel is completed, a new mill, of about a 100-stamp capacity, will be erected near the portal, and the torch applied to the rickety old contraption now in use.

"Lucky Jim" Baisley, discoverer of the Elkhorn mine, acquired his title by reason of such discovery and furnished further proof of his right thereto by going broke and later taking \$30,000 in gold from one pocket in the Mabel mine. Recently he again struck it rich by finding tellurium ore on Snake river.

## MINING BUREAUS AND LOCAL PAPERS

The formation of local mining bureaus all over the West would unquestionably result in much good if they could be properly maintained. Theoretically no exception can be taken to this. However, misfortune seems to be the lot of most mining

bureaus formed for the dissemination of information appertaining to the mines of a district. Why should this be so?

It would seem to us that there are two prime causes for most of the failures. In the first place, the organization starts out well; it does good work and then, too often, it falls into the hands of men who use it for purely personal ends. The other members will not tolerate this, and either internal dissensions arise, or interest in the organization wanes. In either case the bureau dis-

other cases the affairs of the bureau are conducted in such a manner as to fail to inspire confidence among possible investors. Cases are by no means unknown in which almost every inquiry received by the bureau is answered in an enthusiastic manner endorsing the property asked about. A bureau which has not the confidence of the outside public is worse than useless.

Another fruitful cause of failure is local jealousy. It not infrequently happens that one district feels that it is "getting the worst of it," sometimes justifiably, sometimes not. The managers of a local mining bureau have by no means an easy task to satisfy demands, or to refuse them without creating troublesome critics.

The central ideas which cause the formation of mining bureaus are no doubt sound. How can they be carried into effect? It seems to us that it can only be done by the state. Most of the mining states have the nucleus of such a bureau and but slight additional expenditure would be needed to bring such an organization into highly efficient condition, so as to foster the mining industry in its every phase. As a rule the heads of the state bureaus are men of integrity, ability and some experience.

It has been urged that even in state bureaus any information given might be colored by political exigencies. That is not our experience. We have found uniformly that information we have asked for has been frankly given, or where politics has interfered we received non-committal answers of ignorance on the part of the official. This has, however, been but rarely. And for very good reason. The officers of the state mining bureaus are men of some reputation and who are ambitious to go yet higher in their profession, and they are not willing to jeopardize their future prospects by disseminating inaccurate statements.

While on this question of publicity it might be well to point out that the most practical plan for spreading abroad the mineral wealth of mining districts is to support clean, honest and well edited local newspapers. Supporting a local paper does not mean simply paying a subscription, but by also giving the reporters the news. In less than a month items which originally emanated from the local paper will have appeared in scores of other papers, and reaching the eyes of many thousands of readers all over the United States. Let such information be reliable and good must eventually be derived by the locality to which reference is made. —Mining Reporter.

A letter from C. H. Fenner at Goldfield, says in part: "I have been having considerable trouble getting your paper, owing to the postoffice here handling only first-class mail matter, and papers being destroyed two days after their arrival at the Tonopah postoffice. People are flocking in here by the hundreds and the boom is still on. The climate is disagreeable, but the gold is here, which makes up for that in a measure. Quite a number of eastern Oregon boys are here and Beckwith arrived yesterday."

## MINING NOTES.

Henry Wolking in developing his White Point group, in Dark Canyon.

The Ladd Metals company smelter at Landore is again running after a bad freeze.

The Columbia is installing the new five-foot Huntington mill recently received.

Sam Carpenter has purchased the Dead Thing mine in Grant county from L. M. Bartlett.

A steam hoist and pumps will be installed at the Golden Chariot, on the east edge of town.

The Pomeroy dredge on the John Day river has started up after a short shut down for repairs. Prospecting continues with a diamond drill.

A crew under Grant Thornburg is developing the Morris mine, near the summit of the Greenhorns.

George Marzlin, of Canyon City, has been installed as keeper of the Gold Coin mine, in the Greenhorns.

The first shipment of concentrates from the E. and E. mill to the Sumpter smelter was received last week.

A wagon road to the Porcupine has been completed and resumption of work on a long crosscut tunnel is announced.

Jim Gilkinson has bonded his Copper Butte mines. A rich streak of silver ore was recently struck in these properties.

Thirty men are employed at the Mountain View. The new mill is under cover. Large ore reserves are being blocked out.

"Uncle Dan" Cochrane, of Baker City, owner of the Uncle Dan mine near the Virtue, has been awarded a prize at the Baker City fair for a free gold ore display.

Ore and concentrates will be hauled from the Badger mine at Susanville to Tipton for shipment to the Tacoma smelter as long as the roads will permit.

A deed has been filed with the recorder of Grant county, showing the sale by A. Arlington Hibbs to the Oregon & Idaho Gold Mining company of the Sheeney No. 2, Japan, Snow Flake, Gold Wedge, Combination and Mormon quartz claims, for \$1,500.

## ASSIGNEE NOTICE.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Baker county.

In the matter of the assignment of S. L. Campbell and J. R. Landreth, insolvent debtors.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assignee of the above named estate has filed his final account as such assignee in the above entitled court and will on the 4th Monday of November, 1904, or as soon thereafter as he can be heard, call the same up for hearing and for an order of final discharge as such assignee.

C. H. McCOLLOCH, Assignee.