

QUIT PULPIT FOR PICK AND SHOVEL

Forsaking the pulpit for the pick and shovel of the prospector, Rev. W. J. Hughes, formerly Presbyterian Sunday school missionary for eastern Oregon, has become one of the leading mining promoters of the Sumpter district.

Six years ago Mr. Hughes, whose home is in Baker City, decided to quit the pulpit temporarily, for the excitement and more remunerative employment of mining.

He was eminently successful, and while he had had but little experience in prospecting, he located several valuable claims, one in Lost Basin, five miles from Durkee, in Baker county, known as the Oregon Free Gold mine, from which 3,800 pounds of quartz recently sent to the smelter yielded \$298.78.

He also located the Equity group to nineteen claims in the Quartzburg district, adjoining the Standard Consolidated mines, of which Zoeth Houser, of Echo, is principal owner.

Ore taken from these claims has assayed as much as \$1,000 per ton in gold, silver, copper, iron and zinc.

Mr. Hughes is an indefatigable worker and performs all kinds of labor, from handling a drill to selling stock. His mining discoveries have been among the most important events in the history of the districts in which he operates. In speaking of his leaving the work of the ministry, Mr. Hughes said to the *East Oregonian* today:

"For the greater portion of my life I have earnestly followed the ministerial calling and naturally desired a change of occupation for a time.

"Prospecting being a healthful, intensely interesting and very often a profitable calling, peculiarly free from the intense pressure of business and professional life, I was strongly attracted to it. Being fairly successful in my first prospecting ventures, the resulting business has grown so large that it requires all my time to manage it.

"I have the highest regard for the work of the ministry. My life is linked to it, and I cannot say that I have forsaken it."

Mr. Hughes was in Pendleton yesterday, selling stock in his mining propositions and visiting the family of James Crawford, old acquaintances and co-workers of Mr. Hughes in the Presbyterian church.

As Sunday school missionary for eastern Oregon, Mr. Hughes' work called him to every remote corner of the country, and he has traveled every stage road and pony trail in the mountain district, in the discharge of the duties of a missionary. He was once pastor of the Presbyterian church at Union and later at La Grande.—*East Oregonian*.

Overland to Tonopah.

The personnel of the Kitchen expedition overland to Tonopah will consist of the following gentlemen: William Kitchen, C. H. Bernard, Charles S. Warren, Jr., John Barns, J. P. Bidwell and John Hoglin.

The party will leave Monday morning, with outfit consisting of six rigs and twenty horses. The trip will require twenty or twenty-five days, via Burns and Winnemucca.

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