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GOLD FIELDS
of the
INLAND EMPIRE



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IN
OREGON MINES
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AND READ IT

FINE STRIKE AT VALLEY QUEEN

One of the most important strikes of the early winter was made last week at the Valley Queen mine, on Lake Creek, a sub-district of Cable Cove. A full face of two and a half feet of fine shipping ore shows in the drift on No. 4 vein. Samples of ore were brought to Sumpter Saturday night by General Manager Tom Gray.

In general appearance the ore very much resembles the product of the Le Roi mine at Roseland, B. C., and barring the Columbia mine, on Cracker Creek, is the only ore of this character so far encountered in any quantity in eastern Oregon. The Valley Queen product carries high values in gold and silver, and the character of the ore is such as to lead to a well grounded belief that as depth is attained on the vein a heavy percentage of lead will enter.

When seen by a reporter for the Miner, General Manager Gray explained that the strike was made in a short crosscut from the drift on No. 4 vein, which was started by the management in a belief that the main Valley Queen ledge, toward which a crosscut (of which No. 4 drift is an off shoot) is being driven, would be caught on its dip. Elaborate surveys and calculations revealed the fact that the main vein, which is opened in No. 1 tunnel, near the top of Goddess mountain, and again in a shaft on the other side of the hill, dips at an acute angle to the south-east and strikes south-north. During the progress of the crosscut tunnel toward this main vein 4 ledges were intersected, upon three of which drifting was done with flattering results. No. 4 Vein showed especially good, and it was while following this lead that Manager Gray, who was keeping close watch of the formation, concluded that the flat dip of the main Valley Queen vein was bringing that lode overhead, and that either an upraise from No. 4 drift, or a

crosscut to the north would enter the ore. As an evidence of good judgment and scientific mining, it might be mentioned that the short crosscut from the drift, which Manager Gray decided was better than an upraise, entered the ore within a distance of twenty-nine feet. When the vein was first entered it was characterized by a heavy sulphide ore, in which lime showed in remarkable quantities, an indication which, according to expert opinion, is very flattering in relation to the future richness of the main vein in lead. As the crosscut more fully entered the vein, the ore body widened to two and a half feet. The vein is encased in massive granite, the surest possible indication of permanency.

This opening of the main Valley Queen vein in No. 4 workings exploits the lode in three places—in Tunnel No. 1 and in a shaft on the Pentateuch claim of the group. It is therefore an easy matter to calculate the exact trend and dip of the ledge, and on account of the topography of the country other openings can economically be made at various other points at once. The outlined plans of the management have consequently under gone radical changes. Manager Gray announces that unless something unforeseen happens, No. 4 drift will be extended to an intersection with the main vein, which it will meet on the dip, an upraise will be put in and stoping begin. The ore is of such richness and extent that a heavy tonnage can be mined with ease for shipment to the Sumpter smelter.

This recent development of the Valley Queen makes absolutely imperative a continuance of operations. In the face of a great many difficulties work has heretofore been carried on by Manager Gray, whose perseverance, as well as his good judgment are to be commended, and the results of which show in the new strike.

EASTERN OREGON ITALIAN CLIMATE MAKES A HIT

C. D. Starr, W. D. Crompton, Dr. George R. Drew and Dr. Justin Boyce, the party of Providence, R. I., stockholders in the Blue Bird and Buckhorn mines, near the Red Boy, the Valley Queen, on Lake Creek, and the Black Butte, in Fox Valley,

in Grant county, who departed from Sumpter yesterday en route home from a trip of inspection of the properties named, carry with them the idea that this is the greatest country on earth, both from a mineral and climatic point of view. When

they left Rhode Island on this trip, they were given to understand that they were about to enter the wild and woolly west; a frontier mining camp, a region of steep mountains, deep snow, dizzy trails, and all those other things which go toward making up the popular eastern conception of a western mining state.

Particularly were they impressed by knowing Rhode Island friends that they would arrive in Sumpter in the dead of winter, when snowshoeing was the mode of travel, and when the mercury in the thermometer was out of sight, in the bottom of the tube.

Mr. Starr laughingly told The Miner reporter of his conceived ideas of this camp yesterday, and concluded by saying:

"We came in a well appointed railway train to Sumpter, put up at a hotel which will compare favorably with the best in many eastern cities of ten times Sumpter's population. The ground was bare of snow and only far off peaks showed a white covering. The temperature was higher than in Providence when we left. We were driven in bright sunshiny weather over a fine road 20 miles to the Blue Bird. The trip was a perfect picnic.

"On our return from the Blue Bird we went by rail to Tipton and drove from that point to the Black Butte mine—a long, but by no means unpleasant journey. And now behold the wonder of this climate. In the John Day country the roads were dusty—this on the 7th day December, in the heart of the winter solstice. It is true that up on Dixie Butte we ran against an incipient blizzard, but it lasted less than ten minutes, and was hardly more than a snow flurry.

"Of course, when we get home and tell our Rhode Island friends about our trip, they will vote us prevaricators of considerable note. But in our memories will ever remain recollections of a mighty enjoyable journey in the Blue Mountains of Oregon."

NOTES OF THE MINES.

Bobsleds hauling ore from the upper camps to the Sumpter smelter, are arriving daily.

Tipton now has plenty of water, a heavy flow having been struck in a well near the depot.

John McCluskey, the Weatherby placer miner, last week cleaned up \$1300 in a 37-day run with one giant.

W. J. Patterson, of Baker City, one of the owners of the North Fork placers, has gone to California for his health.

L. J. Sims, of Greenhorn, has started a new stage line between that place and Tipton, making daily trips over snow roads.

Word comes from Greenhorn that sufficient snow has fallen in that region to warrant a change in stages and freight wagons from wheels to runners.

Repairs and improvements are being made by the Ladd Metals com-

pany on the Mineral, Idaho, smelter, preparatory to a resumption of operations in the spring.

During the coming week the United-Elkhorn mines will commence regular shipments of concentrates and crude ore to the Sumpter smelter. The output will be 15 tons per day.

Al Geiser, who was in Sumpter Tuesday from the Gem mine at Sparta, says that the mill is running only eight hours per day, owing to a water shortage. Arrangements are being made to remedy this defect.

Prof. H. H. Nicholson, consulting engineer for the Killen, Warner, Setwart company, who accompanied Superintendent Tom Moffit to the Oregon Monarch Saturday, returned yesterday. They also inspected the Black Jack, where a crew of men are driving a crosscut, now in 960 feet.

C. J. Allen, of the Monumental, passed through town yesterday, navigating on crutches. Some days since he received a bad axe inflicted wound in one of his feet. He will be unable to give operations at the mine his personal attention for some weeks and will put in the time at his home in Portland.

N. E. Imhaus, of Baker City, representative of the Paris syndicate which owns the Flagstaff mine near Baker and the Flick Bar placers on Snake river, is advertising the latter property for sale to the highest bidder on and after December 14. The ground consists of 305 acres patented and 560 acres of farm land, including all buildings, flumes and ditches.

A telephone message from Foreman Cusick, at the I. X. L. mine, to Manager Fred T. Kelly, at Baker City, yesterday, told of the striking of an entirely new formation, in the main adit, coming in from the east. The belief is expressed that it is the mother lode. Manager Kelly passed through Sumpter this forenoon on his way to the mine to look into the geological question.

Word comes from the Standard that Superintendent Heath has not yet completed the upraise from the Standard drift, but that the country rock through which progress is being made is highly mineralized. The face of the Standard drift shows the prettiest body of ore in Grant county—28 inches of the cobalt shoot, in which gold values appear as high as ten ounces.

W. H. (Billy) Reeves, the well known mining superintendent, who recently had charge of the Midway for the Geiser-Hendryx company, returned last evening from the Red Boy mine. The rumor has gained currency that Mr. Reeves will be the next superintendent of the Red Boy. The reorganized company has made a most excellent choice. Mr. Reeves began his mining career in Montana when a boy, and has followed the profession ever since with flattering success.

Dr. Ogle arrived yesterday afternoon from Canyon City, transacted some business here, gathered together some of his personal belongings and returned on the morning train.