

# IGNORE OREGON'S MINING INDUSTRY

"The mining men of Oregon, and particularly eastern Oregon, have a big kick coming," said F. O. Bucknum, the well known Sumpter mining man, to a Miner man last night.

"Here we are, putting in the best licks in our repertoire to the end that the mining industry of this state may advance to a place compelling recognition as one of the foremost, if not the foremost resource of the webfoot country. And yet all our work counts for little when the paternal state government and the fraternal western Oregon press ignores our efforts like a white chip.

"It was my proud privilege the other day to see a copy of the New Year's edition of the Portland Oregonian, an issue devoted to a presentment in a statistical and photographic way of the manifold and varied resources of this state. Much space was devoted to showing that the sock-eye salmon industry of Oregon is a world-beater; that the timber business on the west slope has Puget Sound backed off the dump; that the growing of hops in the Willamette valley is a high card in the industrial deck; that the fortunes made from quarter sections in the Umatilla county wheat belt make the hoarded wealth of Midas look like a plugged dime; that the cheese industry of Yamhill stands unparalleled and unapproachable as a money-getter; that wool growing in the sagebrush region is hot stuff, and that the bank rolls of truck gardeners along the classic banks of the grandly-moving Willamette are large enough to choke a cow. Every notable industry, including the raising of rosy-cheeked apples and rosy-cheeked girls down in Polk county—was accorded its due and proper place in the Oregonian—EXCEPT MINING!

"Now, what do you think of that! "Not even a passing mention of the North Pole mine, which, during the last seven years has produced over three millions of dollars in gold bullion; or of the Columbia, which is enriching the world at a like rate!

"Not even a paragraph devoted to the fact that over 5,000 miners and preparators in Oregon steadily plug away and add wealth to the needy world without coming into commercial competition with a single other line of business, but instead, create ready markets for and maintain high prices of the products of all other state industries!

"This is the sort of wet blanket the leading newspaper of Oregon throws upon mining in Oregon. And it is merely a reflex of the mossback spirit which actuates the cent-percent merchants and narrow-minded Portland hogs.

"So much for the Oregonian and the press of the west slope. Now, how does the state government regard the mining industry? I will show you.

"Here is a copy of the first biennial report of the Bureau of Labor statistics of the state of Oregon, prepared for submission to his excellency, the governor, and of the twenty-third legislative assembly, by

O. P. Hoff, commissioner. The report covers the period from June 3, 1903, to September 30, 1904. It contains 164 pages, is attractively bound in green, indicating the nature of its author, and is issued at state expense from the print shop of J. R. Whitney, state printer. It is a most interesting document, devoted, as it is, to barley, breweries, brick yards, canneries, dairies, evaporators, farms, fishing, flour mills, foundries, hop yards, hotels, laundries, livestock, newspapers, nurseries (wet and dry), poultry and pine needles. Everything necessary for a complete knowledge of these industries is printed in the book. For instance, in a table, due and valuable space, is allotted to presentment of the facts that in the state there is one lamp factory; that five wage earners are employed therein; that the wages earned per annum reaches a total of \$2,800; that \$2,000 is invested in the enterprise, and that the value of the product aggregates the phenomenal figure, \$2,100. One hundred and six similar items are tabulated as above, from a to z, Alpha to Omaba, hell to breakfast—EXCEPT MINING!

"Now, what do you think of that! "Thousands of men, scores of towns—even whole counties in this state supported solely and directly by the mining industry—hundreds of thousands of dollars distributed annually in wages among miners—and yet the honorable commissioner of the state bureau of labor statistics finds nothing in the matter worthy even so much as one line in his green-bound book!

"Wouldn't that make you dizzy? "What are the facts? I said that 5,000 miners are today developing the latent mineral wealth of Oregon. I take it back. There are ten thousand. In southern Oregon, from Cottage Grove south, to the California state line—through Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, Glendale, Wolfcreek, Merlin, Woodville, Grants Pass, Jacksonville—one fourth of the merchants and one third of the men are either directly or indirectly interested in mining. In Coos, Curry and Columbia coal mining employs hundreds of men. In Josephine and Jackson every other man is a ground sluicer, a pocket hunter, a quartz miner, a mine promoter, and the language of mines is spoken by every tongue.

"Here in eastern Oregon, from Snake river to the prairies of Harney, it is mines, mines, mines. Twenty towns, with an aggregate population of nearly 10,000, are supported solely and entirely by mines. Cornucopia, Iron Dyke, Sparta, Sumpter, Bourne, Cableville, Granite, Alamo, Greenhorn City, Tipton, Susanville, Quartzburg,—all these towns are mining towns completely,—without the mines they would not exist. Prairie City, John Day, Canyon City, derive the biggest part of their life from the mines—and Baker City, the commercial metropolis of the inland empire, without the mines of Baker county would be a water tank station on a transcontinental railway.

"And yet the green-backed report

of the high-salaried commissioner of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics, in all his 164 pages of facts and figures relating to the industrial life of this commonwealth, finds no room for mines!

"Wouldn't that give you keen pain?"

"I wonder what a special writer for the Oregonian and the busy commissioner of the Oregon labor bureau would have to say after a trip to the string of big gold mines of the Cracker creek mother lode, where 500 to 600 men draw pay ranging from \$3 to \$10 per day, and where the nationally famous mines—the E. & E., North Pole and Columbia—cover a territory about the length and breadth of Washington street in Portland, from which more wealth is created in one year than all of the Washington street merchants create in two.

"And what would the Oregonian space filler and the over worked labor commissioner say if they could sniff the smoke from the Sumpter smelter, watch the steady stream of ore coming in from these surrounding hills, and see the carload after carload of copper, gold and silver matte shipped to refineries. Would they still persist in ignoring a state industry which supports ten thousand wage earners and yields from three to five million dollars every year?"

"For genuine assiduity and short sighted dampfoolishness, commend me to the Portland Oregonian and the commissioner of the state bureau of labor statistics."

## NOTES OF THE MINES.

Seven feet of snow at the Morris mine, in the Greenhorns.

Two full carloads of unusually high grade copper-gold matte turned out from the Sumpter smelter last week.

Manager Bob Evans, of the Majestic, near Minersville, says he is drifting in three feet of ore assaying from \$2.50 to \$91.

Beginning today, heavy shipments of crude ore and concentrates will begin from the United Elkhorn mine to the Sumpter smelter.

Jack Hazelwood and Tom Brown are preparing for early spring work at their Eagle creek placers, where the pay dirt is said to pay \$1 per yard.

S. C. Richardson and wife have sold to the Greenhorn Gold Mining and Development company two claims near Windy Gap for a nominal consideration.

A short carload of ore from the rich shoot recently opened in the east drift from the 70-foot level in the Snow Creek was received Friday at the Sumpter smelter.

H. A. Mitchell, of Baker City, has sent a force of miners to the Longstaff group, near Alamo. A 4-foot pay streak in a 40-foot vein carries values better than \$8.

Shipments from the Imperial during the remainder of the winter are expected to equal if not surpass the record for December, when 217 tons were brought to the Sumpter smelter.

High grade ore has been cut in a 325-foot tunnel on the Rialto mine, near Granite, owned by O. O. Benson, of Portland, J. W. Tabor, of Granite, and Grant Thornburg, of Sumpter. A porphyry dyke faulted the vein, but persistent driving eventually entered a fine body of free milling ore.

Johnny Stewart is preparing to reopen his California gulch placers, near Granite.

Work on the Comstock, near the Red Boy, has been suspended, and Manager McGerry has gone to Baker City.

A heavy shipment of ore and concentrates from the E. & E was received at the Sumpter smelter Thursday of last week. Manager James Wyatt personally supervised the sampling.

Al Gelsler is in Sumpter today from the Gem mine. "The Gem looks better than it ever did before," he says. "More ore is in sight than at any time in the mine's history. Development work is being kept up with a big force."

Captain E. Simpson, of Susanville, is in Sumpter today, en route home from a trip to Walla Walla and Pendleton. He holds a bond on the Gem mine, near the Badger, and is forming a company to take over the property. The captain has mined in Montana, Utah, Colorado and Nevada for 40 years. He thinks the Susanville camp the best ever.

A number of forfeiture notices are being published in the Granite Gem. W. E. Hurd is "advertising out" W. I. Lepman on the Kentucky and Tennessee claims, on the head of Beaver creek, claiming to have expended \$600 in three years. Mr. Hurd also desires the world to know that during the last three years he has spent \$300 on the Beaver quartz claims, on Beaver creek, and that J. W. Curren has failed to cough up his share. A. F. Wright is also notified by Mr. Hurd that \$200 of the latter's money has been sunk in the Big Elk claim and that if Mr. Wright desires to retain an interest he had better ante. J. C. Mooreland, W. A. King and A. A. King are alleged by Mr. Hurd to have failed to pay for their share of assessment work for four years in the Sunday Night claim.

## K. W. S. Company's Laboratory.

The Killen, Warner, Stewart company is fitting up a completely appointed laboratory and assay office in Sumpter Townsite company's brick block on South Mill street, the whole of which building the company occupies. E. Nordyke is now at work putting in the wooden fixtures, and the apparatus will be installed in a few days. A. F. Kirohen will have charge of the laboratory, under Professor Nicholson's supervision. This has become an economic necessity with the company, its assay and test work having grown to such dimensions.

## Greenhorn City Election.

At the municipal election in Greenhorn Tuesday, the following officers were elected: Geo. A. Carter, mayor; W. S. Jackson, recorder; M. M. Riardin, treasurer, and Ira Lemmons, J. Rosenthal, A. E. Rutter, R. Philamber and W. F. Diaper, councilmen.

## ESTRAY NOTICE.

Taken up, at the ranch of Henry Panning, near Whitney, last spring, two 2-year-old colts, one grey, branded "C" on left shoulder, and on bay branded "S". Owner may regain property by paying expense of their keeping since the date of their taking up.

HENRY PANNING,  
Whitney, Ore.  
December 30, 1904.