



# THE SUMPTER MINER

## OREGON HAS PRODUCED QUARTER OF A BILLION

How much gold and silver has Oregon added to the wealth of the world?

An accurate answer is almost impossible, but the 22d annual report of the United States geological survey to the secretary of the interior, rendered by Professor Waldemar Lindgren in 1900-1901, places the state's total production from 1861, the date of discovery, to 1899, the date of Lindgren's last available data, at \$109,000,000. Silver furnishes but a fraction of this amount.

The total production of gold from 1861 to 1865, the holycon placer mining days, is approximately placed at \$50,000,000. The production from '66 to '99, inclusive, is roughly estimated at \$59,000,000. Mint reports credit the state with a production during the period 1899-1904 of \$9,600,000. Thus, the aggregate production, from date of discovery to January 1, 1905, approaches the snug total of \$118,600,000. This is at the rate of \$2,758,023 per year for a period of 43 years.

The above figures are compiled, as aforesaid, from geological survey reports, which in turn, are based mainly, if not solely, upon incomplete government mint reports. Detailed statistics from this latter source are available only for a period previous to 1880. However, a comparison of the total production of the entire state shows that the

main part of the output is to be credited to the Blue Mountains.

Incomplete mint reports of the gold production of Baker, Grant and Union counties, covering a period of 19 years, from 1880 to 1899, credits the district with a total output of \$18,151,470.

The fact that a majority of the bullion produced in the Blue Mountains during this period was shipped to the United States assay office at Boise, and to the government mint at San Francisco, thus going to swell the reported yields of Idaho and California, gives reason for a belief that the mint report given above is fully fifty per cent less than the actual output.

It is therefore not unreasonable to believe that the aggregate gold yield of Oregon, from 1861 to 1905, exclusive of the latter year, was \$250,000,000.

It is a well known fact that, while the government statistics credited the entire state of Oregon with a production during 1904 of less than \$2,000,000, three mines on Cracker Creek, less than eight miles from Sumpter, produced among them selves, during the period named, more than two and a half million dollars.

It is conservatively estimated that the production of Baker county alone during 1905 will reach the three million dollar mark.

## M. E. BAIN BACK FROM BLIZZARD-SWEPT EAST

M. E. Bain returned today from a two months trip east. He spent most of the time at the headquarters of the Overland company in Minneapolis, but visited in Chicago, Detroit and spent the holidays at his old home in Canada. As he stepped off the train into the warm sunshine and filled his lungs with the balmy, Blue mountain air, he remarked to the group of friends who were cordially welcoming him home:

"Say, there is nothing the matter with this; here, hold my overcoat, while I get the full benefit of this winter resort weather. For the last few weeks I have been bugging a circular radiator, to keep from freezing, along with all mercury thermometers. I watched them until they marked thirty below, then crawled into my hole and remained there until I took the train for the west; but never escaped from the arctic zone until eastern Oregon was reached."

To a Miner man, Mr. Bain said: "I haven't a thing to tell you about the Overland company; I suppose you know more about the progress being made at the mine than I do myself. All reports from Superintendent McCarvell, however, are very promising. There is all kinds of money in the east; the banks and trust companies of the larger cities are literally crowded with it; but it seems to be almost impos-

able to induce anyone to invest in anything. The very atmosphere seems to be charged with a spirit of doubt and uneasiness, and few depositors will even listen to an investment proposition. They want their money where they can put their hands on it at a moment's notice, seeming to feel that they will need it in some emergency; but can't tell you why—this financial condition and dread of imaginary impending disaster seems to be some sort of contagious mental disease."

Mr. Bain met the Killen, Warner, Stewart company people and Tom Gwynne in Chicago, and saw the latter in Minneapolis last week. They are all doing well; are hopeful of still greater success in the future and send regards to Sumpter friends. Tom Gwynne is making good plenty on the Denver Daily Mining Record, as everyone knew he would.

A 60-day option has been given by Chris Jensen et al to a New York company on the Last Chance group of mines in the Quartzburg district. The group consists of five claims, paralleling the Dixie Meadows. Four hundred feet of tunneling has opened up the ground. The Last Chance is a big low grade proposition, very active to a strong company which intends to mine on a large scale.

## TOO MUCH BEING SAID ABOUT THE GOLCONDA

John Vert, of Pendleton, the newly appointed receiver for the Golconda mine, was in Sumpter today, conferring with General Manager James A. Howard. He departed this afternoon for Enterprise, Wallawa county, en route home.

While here, he appointed John Ward as watchman at the mine.

"I have nothing to say about the Golconda," responded Receiver Vert to a Miner reporter's query. "Too much has already been published about the negotiations which have for their end an adjustment of all differences between factions contending for control of the mine, and which will result in due time in a

resumption of operations at the property. It was unfortunate that the Golconda became financially involved, and no one has more cause for regret than the people of this mining district, who, very correctly I believe, regard the Golconda as a valuable property, and who are so frequently called upon to explain the fact of its 'idleness'. A rehearsed and re-embellished story of the troubles in which the Golconda has become involved can only result in causing factional wounds to develop into cancers. The receivership will endeavor to the best of its ability to straighten things out and to heal so far as possible all wounds."

Receiver Vert has for many years

been confidential man for the First National bank of Pendleton. He is rated as a successful financier, whose success has always been due to his honest straight-forward dealing.

### Oregon's Quicksilver Mines.

In a recent test run, eight pounds of pure mercury were produced from 200 pounds of cinnabar ore, taken from a cinnabar mine in the Meadows district in southern Oregon. This clearly demonstrates that quicksilver mining has a future in Oregon, and the development and equipment of the several prospects in the southern part of the state will be pushed with greater speed. The mine from which the eight pounds were taken, as a test, has produced considerable mercury in recent years, not so much this past season as formerly, by reason of less attention having been given it. The equipment of this property consist of a retort, in which 1,400 pounds of ore can be treated daily. Development has been done to a depth of several

hundred feet, and a good body of cinnabar is exposed.

There are several very promising quicksilver prospects in the Meadows district, aside from that mentioned above. One of them is opened by a shaft to a depth of 120 feet, exposing a 12 inch ledge of cinnabar. But the best developed and best equipped cinnabar mine in Oregon is the Black Butte, located some distance north of the Meadows district mines, and in the Calapooia mountains. The owners of this property are installing a plant, and are working along lines that will insure returns of values from both the ore shoots and the country rock. Over 12,000 feet of tunnels, drifts, upraises and winzes have been run, giving a vertical depth of 1,500 feet, the greatest depth, by the way, attained as yet by any other southern Oregon property. On levels down to the 400 continuous drifts have been opened for more than 2,000 feet.

Chicken pies, 25 cents, at Cafe Sumpter.