

J. W. Maddox Writes East

Medford, Oregon, Dec. 22, 1910.

Dear John—
It is raining today, the commencement of the rainy season, which generally begins about the middle of November, alternating with sunshine and showers until about the middle of February each year, giving us in all from 220 to 30 inches of rainfall during the entire period. The remainder of the year is made up of almost perpetual sunshine, except now and then a gentle shower during the months of April and May, as a reminder that the planting season is at hand. We only know of winter by the falling of the leaves, an occasional fall of snow following a cool rain that disappears almost as suddenly as it came. An icicle is as rare in this climate as an honest politician in New York. Keithsburg or Aledo, Madam nature was surely in her best mood when she put on the finishing touch and passed her gentle hand over this beautiful valley. Why, John, it seems to me that Old Sol turns his brightest side toward us as he climbs the zenith, casting a happy glance backward as he descends the western skies, into the deep blue sea; the man in the moon seems to wink his other eye as he passes over. The very air we breathe seems laden with health giving ozone, so rarified and etherized that one's vision can penetrate and measure distance to the tallest of snow capped mountains from 80 to 100 miles in the distance. You remember I said in my last that I was getting my second eye sight. Well I was out the other day with a friend. He called my attention to a snow capped mountain in the distance (called Mt. Pitt.) I asked him the distance as the crow flies. He said "eighty miles." Why it seemed as near to me as the late bungalow jail does to the Mercer county court house.
Now, John, I must tell you a lit-

tle more of Medford and its environments.

First: It's a beautiful little city, full of thrift and business enterprise. The surrounding territory with its hundreds of square miles of the finest fruit, stock, vegetable and alfalfa lands in the world to draw from, bids fair to become one of the leading and most prosperous cities on the western coast. Its banks are running over with good money. Idle capital from the principal money centers of this, as well as foreign countries, is seeking investment here. Now, don't take on an air of Aledo enterprise, pucker up your mouth and holler Ananias when I tell you of an orchard sale made here a few days ago to a merchant prince of Seattle, aggregating in total three hundred thousand dollars. The orchard proper contained something like 280 acres of fourteen year old apple and pear trees. There are sales of less amount made nearly every day. Orchards near the city often sell for \$500 to \$1,000 per acre, making it a Mecca for the rich man, while a little way out, and not too far away, lies the paradise for the man of less means; where unimproved lands are selling at from \$35 and \$40 to \$100 per acre. Just think of it, John what you and a lot more of them Eliza township fellows are losing by moving to Aledo, hunting county offices, etc. Now I am in communication with a number of good men in old Mercer, who are asking for the facts in relation to land values and climate. To all I have answered truthfully, and in conclusion will state that I have spent considerable time looking over the valley and studying values here, and will willingly answer all inquiries.

Yours truly,
J. W. MADDOX.

P. S.—Oh, yes, John, I forgot to tell you we can't hardly keep house at all without the Democrat.
J. W. M.

trict, which extends into Idaho. A meeting of miners of the southern Oregon and northern California districts has been called at Ashland for January 17. This getting together of mining men will mean much for the development of the mines of Oregon. The State Miners' association, with L. D. Mahone as secretary, is showing unexpected life and is becoming a strong factor in putting mining upon a practical business basis.

Gold is by no means the only mineral to be found in southern Oregon. Quicksilver, coal and silver as well as copper mines are being developed. W. H. Jackson is developing the Mammoth quicksilver mine on the Rogue river, and cinnabar properties are also being opened on Evans creek. A large body of coal has been found within five miles of Medford and is being sold for fuel. The coal will be of special value as fuel for the smelters of the Blue Ledge copper mines when railroad communications are built. Undeveloped deposits of lead, salt, coal and limestone exist in this region. Limestone for years was burned in kilns situated on Jackson creek.

Marble and granite quarries are being operated at Tolo and near Medford. The crushers at Tolo are able to turn out 50 carloads of crushed granite for use on roads every day when in full operation. This plant is equipped with air compressors, air drills and grinding and polishing machinery to furnish granite for building purposes and monumental work. Electric power generated at Gold Ray dam, on the Rogue river, is used in this quarry.

The tremendous water power now

running unharnessed in the Rogue river, Big Butte creek and other smaller streams will furnish all the power needed for the development of mining and quarrying for centuries to come.

The mineral springs which are found scattered through southern Oregon are another natural resource furnished by nature. Extensive bottling works are being operated at Wagner, Coe and Shasta springs.

That the mining industry of southern Oregon will soon come into its own, not even a pessimist can deny. The mineral wealth which has here-

before lain secluded in the mountains will soon be reached by railroads. Then the capitalistic machinery and advanced mining methods which have

revolutionized mining will be given a chance. There is no rational ground for believing that the miners of the '50s

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GOLD MINING IN SOUTHERN OREGON

(Continued from Page 1.)

their mines would pay wages, and in their slow but sure way amassed what was to them a fortune and left for their native country. Gradually Yellow "John" has quit this field of enterprise, and few Chinese are seen today in the Rogue River Valley.

Placer mining in Southern Oregon has gone through much the same stages as in California. First the Mexican bates, or an ordinary cone-shaped pan, was used by the miners. Then the rocker or cradle came into use. After this came the tom, an apparatus with cross riffles which permitted the play of a continual stream of water. Then sluice boxes were built across the claims where there was sufficient water. By this method miners could shovel gold-bearing gravel into running water from both sides. The gold in the gravel was caught on the quicksilver plates at the riffles.

After the sluice-box, the hydraulic method was inaugurated. Water was conveyed through pipes to the workings at a high pressure and played upon the gold-bearing gravels. A whole hillside can be washed into sluice-boxes and the gold saved by this method.

The greatest handicap to hydraulic mining in southern Oregon has been the scarcity of water. Most of the mines can only be worked during the rainy season, as the majority of the smaller streams dry up in the summer. Projects have been proposed several times to bring water 50 or 70 miles to the mines from one or other of the large streams, but as yet none of them has materialized.

The Jacksonville Sentinel, in 1859, referred to the possibilities of hydraulic power contained in the opening of artesian wells. The paper went on the show that the Rogue river made the proper bend at a high altitude and that the lower strata of ground were of the proper gravelly nature to insure the presence of these artesian wells. However, only two artesian wells have been found. These are in the Talent orchard, where their limited flow of sparkling aqua is used in stimulating the growth of the celebrated Rogue River valley bring a harvest as truly golden as placer mining.

At present the Rogue River Canal company is preparing to build 200 miles of ditches from the headwaters of Big Butte creek. The water is for irrigational purposes, but there is no cause to prevent some of the flow being used in mining, as the highest ditch will run well back into the hills where the placers are situated.

The heaviest producer of the hydraulic placers of southern Oregon has been the Sterling or Ankeny mine, on Sterling creek, a few miles from Jacksonville. This mine is said to have produced from \$25,000 to \$50,000 every year for the last quarter century. The equipment consists of a 25-mile ditch, carrying 2500 miners' inches, and supplying water for two and three giants nine months in

the year. The mine includes 700 acres of deep red clay gravel deposit.

There are many signs of awakening interest in mining throughout the coast. California for the first time since 1897, has gained first place from Colorado as the foremost gold producing state in the Union. The increased production of gold in California has been due to the development of dredge mining. Operations of this character are being started on Fool's creek in the northern part of Jackson county.

The possibilities of dredge mining in southern Oregon where many streams with rich channels abound are just now beginning to be investigated.

As a reaction from concentration of energy upon the exploitation of Oregon's horticulture possibilities great effort is now being made toward the advertisement and development of Oregon's mineral wealth. Sumpter, this year held its first mining congress—representative mining men coming from all parts of the dis-

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