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**AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE
FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

Mines and Miners,

Of Southern Oregon.

DREDGING IN SOUTHERN OREGON.

This past season dredging was revived in Southern Oregon, after a lapse of several years, and after several previous attempts and failures, as the decaying hulks of stranded "gold ships" on Southern Oregon streams will prove. It was known at the beginning that the bars and river beds of this district carried gold, but the methods used at first were not of the kind that warranted success. The dredging diggings of the Southern Oregon fields are deep, and a machine must be built to scoop possibly forty-five, fifty or even seventy feet. Also, there are heavy boulders, and the difficulties these present must be met and overcome to insure success.

On many tributaries of the Rogue and Applegate rivers, and of the Illinois, as well as on these streams themselves, there is considerable dredging ground, a great part of which will undoubtedly be worked within the next few years, as several companies are planning to launch machines. One has been in operation for several months on Fooths Creek, and has paid handsomely from the beginning. Another is to be placed on Willow Creek, near Jacksonville and another on the Illinois near Waldo.

The Fooths Creek dredger is owned and operated by the Champlin company, experienced people in the dredging business, as they have been operating two machines near Bannock, Montana, for several years. This machine was built at a total cost of about \$110,000. The company owns some 12000 acres of ground on Fooths Creek, a large part of which is available for dredging.

The hull of the Champlin dredger is 113 feet long and is of the standard pattern. An eighty-foot digging beam or ladder constitutes the frame for the chain of forty-two eight cubic foot buckets and their alternating links. Power is supplied by electricity from the power dam of the Condor company, at Gold Ray, and is transmitted into a lifting power on the churning and buckets of 80,000 pounds. This allows a maximum capacity for the machine of 4,500 yards, daily, with an easy average of 2,500 yards. Another bad feature of Southern Oregon dredging ground is the tightness of the gravel, as it clings together as solidly as if cemented. This requires a great amount of water and ceaseless agitation to perfect the separation of the particles and free the gold.

The Fooths creek machine overcomes this difficulty by first giving the gravel a thorough shaking up by a ten foot sheer drop into the hopper from the buckets. The gravel is then received into a revolving grizzly. This grizzly has five-inch perforations and is supplied with a number of water jets to give additional water. The boulders slide over the grizzly and drop off the side of the boat. The remainder of the material passes through the funnel-shaped bottom of the case surrounding the grizzly to a shoot sluice that leads to a second receptacle or sump. This short sluice is provided with Hungarian rifles, and here at least seventy-five per cent of the gold particles are caught.

From the sump the sand and gravel are elevated by a centrifugal sand pump to the head of the 120-foot sluice-flume, which is also provided with Hungarian rifles. The flume has a drop from end to end of eight feet, and is supported by a pontoon, and with only a four-foot dump above the water level. But this dump is fully 240 feet from the digger and with the swing allowed, affords am-

ple dumping facilities. The entire craft is operated and controlled by one man stationed in the "pilot house" overlooking the machine.

As before stated, there is a field for dredging operations in Southern Oregon. But the field offers success only to the right kind of people with the right kind of machine. Dredgers that will wash the gravel of the California and other western fields, would not work at all in Oregon, for reasons already stated. Once under way, dredging is no more expensive here than in any other section of the west. With two big power dams on Rogue river, power is transmitted by electric wire to any section of the southern Oregon district, and supplied more cheaply than can be secured by steam. The Fooths Creek machine first derived its power from two 100 horsepower boilers, and while there is an abundance of fir and pine timber on the property of the company to supply fuel for all time, they find electric power from the Condor dam much cheaper and of much less trouble.

Large Per Cent of Mercury.

A recent dispatch from Medford states that the flattering showing made by recent retorts of ores from the cinnabar mines of the Meadows quicksilver district, of Jackson County, near Trail, has caused a revival of interest in the mining of mercury in this section. Eighty pounds of mercury to the ton is produced by the properties of the Rogue River Quicksilver Mining Company, the shareholders of which are Medford men. The ore reduces easily and is uniform in value. This mine has produced considerable quicksilver in recent years, but its development has been slow, greater capital being needed to open it up and adequately equip it. A small plant is placed, for development purposes mainly. The retort installed has a capacity of 1400 pounds of ore per day. The mine is opened to a depth of nearly 200 feet, and the vein shows up well throughout.

There are a half-score of other cinnabar mines in the Meadows district, all of which are receiving attention, and all carry values in mercury, with also a fair showing in gold and silver. A number are opened to a depth of 150 and 200 feet, with veins varying in width from ten inches to three and four feet. The number of excellent prospects in the district makes the Meadows one of promise as a future producer of mercury.

Watches of the best standard makes for sale now at almost cost. Inquire of J. W. Hickel.

Those big, juicy oranges come from Learned's where a big shipment has just been received.

Hickel, the Jacksonville jeweler, has some fine Waltham and Elgin watches, warranted for 20 years, and full gold cases that he will sell at a close margin of profit.

Nunan—Taylor Company has a new invoice of trunks, grips, valises and telescopes and persons fitting out for a journey will find it profitable to buy of this firm.

Presiding Elder M. C. Wire will be here March 21, 22, 23 and have part in the Revival Services. The Second Quarterly Conference will be held at the Church on March 22, at 7:30 p. m. All interested please take notice.

The Sentinel desires to give its subscribers the news from all parts of the county hence we want a good, live, correspondent at all the leading postoffices in the county where there is no paper published. Send in the news and you will be treated right.