

Mines.

Oregon. Department of Interior, report of surveyor general, 1872.

The mining interests of Oregon are still of considerable importance. On the waters of John Day, Powder and Burnt River rich placer gold mines are being worked with profitable results. Quartz lodes are also attracting some attention; recently a lode of copper ore has been discovered in Union county which prospects very rich.

For a number of years it has been known that gold existed in considerable quantities among the black sands along the ocean beach south of Coos Bay and the miners have been working them ore or less; but recently further discoveries have been made near Port Orford. From present indications these mines are destined to become quite valuable, the principal drawbacks being the want of water for hydraulic purposes.

Gold. Montana. Department of Interior, 1867-68.

Placer mines..

The first placer mines worked in this territory were found on the Hell Gate river in 1862. In the fall the mines at Bannock were discovered. In May, 1863, the mines on Alder gulch where Virginia City now stands were discovered and an immense impetus given to prospecting and about \$20,000,000 have been taken from there since that time. About a year afterwards mines were discovered on Prickley Pear where Helena now stands.

Valuable mines were discovered on the eastern side of the Missouri and immense sums have been taken from Confederate gulch and Montana bar. Diggings were struck on the Big Blackfoot in 1865 which have produced largely.

At the present time there is great excitement in the western part of the territory about mines said to exist on the Big Bend of the Kootenay which are probably within the limits of the Territory.

Gulch mining is attended with many difficulties in this country. The season is short and the gold generally found on the bed rock often fifty or sixty feet from the surface.

The first gold bearing lode of this territory was discovered at Bannock in 1862 and called the Dakota. The surface indications were extraordinarily good and give a stimulus to prospecting which resulted in the discovery of many valuable leads in that part of the country.

Several thousand lodes have been discovered in Madison county, many of which are in the vicinity of Virginia City. At Summit City, eight miles above Virginia City near the head of Alder gulch gold quartz mining is extensively carried on. From this point there is a succession of auriferous lodes to the foot of Alder gulch, a distance of ten or 12 miles.

granite, syenitic, porphyry, trap, gneiss, mica slate, hornblende slate, ~~and~~ telose slate, argillaceous slate, sandstone and limestone. These veins vary in thickness from a few inches to fifty or sixty feet. The gangue or vein rock called quartz by the miners here is very variable in character.

The district of gold mining now receiving a considerable portion of public attention is that around Helena, a great many of the lodges being situated on the Oro Firio and Grizzly gulches to the southwest of the city, stretching along to the northward toward Ten Mile, connecting with that district and Blue Cloud.

The Union Lode No. 2 is situated near Grizzly gulch in the Owyhee Park district and is partly owned by James W. Whittutuch, being considered one of the best developed and richest in the territory. It is being worked in several places. Recent crushings of ore have yielded seventy two dollars to the ton. Another, the Park lodge, is also doing well, while on the neighboring gulches are many fine lodes.

On Ten Mile, a stream that flows from a source near the summit of the Rocky Mountains in a northeasterly direction there is a fine lot of lodges. Careful assays prove these to contain from \$25 to \$200 per ton of ore and by the working test made in St Louis \$240 per ton has been obtained from rock taken from within seven feet of the surface.

Blue Cloud is a new district about ten miles from Helena on Ten Mile, is opening out well. Machinery is being erected and developments rapidly made.

In addition to the many mills there are scattered over the different portions of the country, wherever there are any promising lodes, a large number of ~~cradles~~ arastras. They are a rude mill constructed for the purpose of working quartz and are gener-

ally driven by water power. Most of them do well and yield handsome wages. Some are erected for the purpose of developing mines rather than going to the expense of bringing in machinery on the premises too early, deeming it best to prove the value of one good lode rather than own many with no knowledge of their intrinsic wealth.

There have been more valuable discoveries of leads this season than ever before

Mining.

Department of Interior 1873-74.

Gold, silver, copper, galena and iron are found in this Territory both east and west of the Cascade Mountains but prospecting for rich mines of the more precious metals has been so limited that the attention of the public has not yet been directed to any particular locality.

I have been requested by parties east of the Cascade Mountains and also by the local land officers at Walla Walla to appoint a surveyor of mining which I have done for the land district of Walla Walla.

W. McMicken, surveyor general.

Mining. Washington Territory. 1872. Dept. of Interior.

Washington Territory contains almost the entire catalogue of minerals and the more precious metals have been successfully mined in several localities for several years.

From the mouth of the Umatilla up and along the Columbia river for several hundred miles there have been large amounts of gold taken out every year for the past ten years. at present the principal mining is done by Chinamen, who are experts with the rocker and are willing to work for a lower rate of wages than the Anglo-Saxon race.

Galena (silver and lead) was discovered several years since on the south and east slopes of Mount Rainier, but as yet the lode is undeveloped, and nothing is known regarding its actual value.

Traces of gold and silver had been found in the Cascade Mountains at various places, but as yet no systematic efforts have been made to develop their extent of richness.

Large quantities of iron and coal are also found west of the Cascade range of mountains and particularly throughout the valley of Puget Sound. Large

Not agencies have thus far been employed toward the development of utilizing of the former, but the time is not far distant when the iron fields of Washington Territory will afford extensive and profitable employment for both capital and labor.

The number and extent of the vast beds of coal underlying it is thought at least one half of the entire surface of Western Washington, can scarcely be overestimated. The variety, so far as known, is a fair quality of bituminous, burns readily in an open fire, leaving no clinkers.

Immediately along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Columbia river and Puget Sound there are immense coal fields not less than 300,000 acres of coal lands, which are likely

to be developed at an early day by that enterprising company, and which will add millions of dollars in wealth to the country. Thus far no anthracite coal has been found in this Territory...

A few miles from Walla Walla limestone was discovered about a year since, but as yet its extent has not been fully ascertained

North of the Spokane River and in the vicinity of Fort Colville and also at Little Dalles on the Upper Columbia river, there are ledges of excellent marble in unlimited quantities, white, gray and variegated, and all susceptible of fine polish.

Marker. Fort.

At Fort Colville, is a marble slab, erected at the head of an officer's grave, that was taken from a ledge about two miles southeast of the ~~st~~ station. It will compare favorably in purity of color, beauty of grain and susceptibility of polish with stone taken from the finest quarries in the Atlantic State.

L.P. Beach, Surveyor General.

Trade With Mines

The rush of gold miners to the Fraser river in 1858 was the beginning of the advance of a great horde whose frenzied search for buried treasure opened a new era in the history of the Pacific Northwest. After 1858 miners pushed their way farther and farther into the interior of British Columbia. Discovery followed discovery...By 1866 Cariboo, Kootenay and Big Bend had drawn their thousands, a few to discover wealth, many to suffer poverty and disillusionment. Meanwhile, gold had been discovered south of the international boundary, and in the early years of the 1860s miners swarmed into the Columbia River basin and adjoining areas. At Salmon River, Boise Basin and Owyhee, many sought and some found the wealth of which they had dreamed.¹ But whether successful or unsuccessful in their quest of gold, the miners had need of food, and this requirement was the opportunity of many who had resisted the lure of the gold fields. Promising markets for the farmer and stockman were opened; agriculture and stock-raising in the American Northwest were stimulated. To provide food for the thousands of miners was a way to wealth more certain than the direct pursuit of gold.

One of the immediate consequences of the entrance of miners into the Far Northwest was the development of a trade in cattle and cattle products from Oregon and Washington to the British Northwest. Through San Francisco and Honolulu shared to some extent in the cattle trade to Victoria, western Oregon was the principal source of meat supply of Vancouver island, of western British Columbia and of the American towns on lower Puget Sound for a decade after 1858. Here cattle had been accumulating for a score of years or more. Some had been driven from California to the Willamette valley; more had been brought from across the plains by successive annual immigrations since 1823.

1. W. F. Gifford, 'The Miner's Advance in the Pacific Northwest (1858-1866)'