

Mines

The Poorman mine (Coeur d'Alene)

Six months ago the Poorman mine in the Coeur d'Alene district was bonded for \$136,000. A company has been organized by prominent business men of Butte and Helena with a capital stock of \$5,000,000.

The Poorman mine is situated on an extension of the celebrated Tiger, one of the most noted of the Coeur d'Alene properties. Three adit tunnels have been run on it one hundred and twenty-five feet apart, each one hundred feet. Each follows a well definite and contiguous vein of ore from three to four feet in width. The ore assays from fifty to sixty ounces in silver and from sixty to eighty per cent lead. The face of each level is in ore of high grade.

One thousand tons of rich ore are now on the dump ready for shipment and it is a very conservative statement to say that twice the amount of the purchase money is now in sight.

Within ninety days D.C. Corbin's narrow-gauge railroad will be at the mine and ore shipments will begin at that time. A concentrator will be built at the mine in the spring-- West Shore, 1887, pp 706.

Idaho Mines.

See Page 681, West Shore, for good story on Nolan-Danforth, two toughs,
Boise Basin, Bannock etc.

Gold mining stories

See W100 D0 Nolan-Danforth story, West Shore, 1887, pp 681.

Lost Gold Mines

See West Shore (The Wild Man of Camas--Idaho lost mine and tough story) Page 681 (1887 edition)

The Seven Devils district is situated in the northwest portion of Washington county, Idaho and about one hundred miles from Weiser City. It is nor heast from Baker City, less than ninety miles in distance.

The nearest and best route from Baker is by way of Sparta, Pine valley, across the Brownlee ferry at Snake river, thence down the river 24 15 miles to Salt creek, at Glover's old cattle ranch, thence up Salt creek by good pack trail to Bear creek crossing, a distance of 16 miles, then connecting with a wagon road from Weiser City.

From the crossing at Bear creek to the mines it is about ten miles. The entire route is well watered and grass is in abundance. The altitude of the camps is between five and six thousand feet.

The discovery of copper mine al in this section dates back as far as the years 1863-4 when the O.S.N C^o. dispatched Engineer Levi Allen to examine the waters of Snake river with the view of ascertaining the practicability of the navigation. In this undertaking the engi~~neers~~ e plorers were compelled, at different times to ascend the rugged mountains lining the river's sho e and naturally drifted more or less into the inland country. It was at one of these times that Allen and his crowd discovered the mineral abounding and after more or less prospecting unearthed a body of ore which they named the Peacock mine.

Little attention was paid to this discovery until a few years ~~ago~~ since when Allen and some companions went back to the camp and commenced further researches with wonderful success, until now the camp has attracted other miners and many capitalists who have caused large development work to be done.

The principal mines of the camp are the Peacock, White Monument, Helena, Alaska, Blue Jacked and Decorah. During the past winter about thirty miners have been pushing work in the camp---Baker City Democrat.

Gold--Idaho

Alton District, Idaho--Near the summit of the divide between the north and south forks of Salmon river Idaho is the Alton quartz mining district. Discoveries were first made there in 1884 and upwards of one hundred claims were taken up.

The formation of the country is micaceous granite and porphyry, resembling the mines of Granite mountain, Montana. The ledges of the new district also resemble the above celebrated mines, although some of the ore is much like the famous Poorman of the Owyhee district. The lodes all run parallel with each other, in a northwesterly and southwesterly direction, the same as all other veins in this northwestern country and stand nearly perpendicular but dipping to the west.

The ledge crops out a distance of eleven hundred feet on the surface and is about sixty feet wide. A great part of the fissure is a red iron cap rock containing several streaks or veins of minerals bearing quartz from six to thirty inches wide.

Coeur d'Alene Nuggets--The Treasure Box mine at Murray, Idaho, has been making a remarkable showing.

In January there was shipped to Helena the sum of \$4,700 in gold, the product of only three hundred pounds of ore, extracted in two weeks by two men, using simply a hand mortar.

In the lot were two nuggets, weighing 22 and one-fourth and 27 and one-fourth ounce. They are about the size of a man's hand and bristle with shafts and spears of gold which make them doubly valuable as specimens.

From the sixteenth of December six hundred pounds of ore have yielded, in the hand mortar, \$16,000. There are seventy tons of ore on the dump, estimated to contain from \$500 to \$1,000 per ton which will be worked in the arrastra. It is seldom that such a lead of free-milling gold ore has been found, but when it is, it is a veritable ~~bonanza~~ bonanza.

Feb. 1887

Cariboo Quartz-The source from which came the rich placers of Cariboo has been a mooted question for years among the miners of British Columbia. It seems now, that there has been developed a huge figure vein of gold quartz whose existence has been known for many years, but whose richness was never ascertained.

The ledge can be traced a distance of fifteen miles on the surface of the ground and crosses all the gold bearing creeks in the vicinity of Barkerville. The rock assays from \$70 to \$155 a ton, and consists of free gold and sulphurets. Previous work done on the ledge has yielded poor results owing to ignorance of any method of working the sulphurets. Extensive developments will be made on the ledge the coming season.

Salmon mines

Localizer: Major I.T. Keene, Geo. Hurley and S. T. Sterling loaded up several four-horse wagons for the Salmon mines last Saturday. Parties are fitting out every week for supplies of some kind. They all tell the same story of the new finds as well as the old.

--The Times-Mountaineer, June 18, 1887

Mines..Forts

Major J.S. Brisbin, commanding post of Boise Barracks was ordered on the 2d inst. to proceed to the mining riots in the vicinity of Wood river, Idaho, investigate the causes of these disturbances, ascertain all the facts obtainable and make report in writing to the headquarters of the Department of the Columbia--The Washington Farmer, April 11, 1885.

Murrayville, Idaho, Nov 15, 1884.. The premature boom of last winter has reacted on the other extreme and we are making substantial development in quartz and the bankers report that the output from the placers is not less than \$20,000 a week.

On Pritchard Creek a large majority of the placer claims were involved in litigation up to August first when the district court decided in favor of the jumpers who are as inactive as the Palouse grangers who discovered and located the country, hence much of the ground is lying idle. The ground is deep and can only be worked by bed rock drains.

Besides the Stage road from Thompson falls to the Northern Pacific Railway we have now a western outlet to the railway by a wagon road connecting with Steamer at the Mission and thence from the lake by Stage to Spokane Falls. Portland and San Francisco capitalists have been organized to run a bedrock drain, the consideration being a deed for one-half interest in every claim drained.

The original start was at the mouth of Eagle creek and run up, but the expert having the enterprise in charge has amended his plans to embrace three drains as by the original plan no tunnel could be made large enough to handle the volume of water.

Experience gained at other camps does not apply to Coeur d'Alene, hence we have been working in the dark. There are about 30 producing claims on Pritchard creek mainly in the vicinity of Murray. The boss mine of the camp at this date is the Gillette, situated on Pritchard creek midway between Eagle and Murray. From developments made on this claim it is believed that the proprietors have struck the head of the channel as it descends from the high rim rock below Murray.

The quartz interests are assuming importance. The Mother Lode is bonded for \$130,000 with the privilege of driving a tunnel 75

feet along the ledge and sinking 25 feet. The tunnel is now in 70 feet. It is said that the original discovery was only a bolder, being so thickly plastered with gold that it was deemed impossible that any mere ledge could carry such rock. There is no question that it is a well defined true fissure vein and will be dirt cheap at the price.

At the head of Reeder gulch is a belt of gold having quartz veins consisting of the Golden Chest, the Claggett, Mother's Boy, Friend and Occident lodges which have also recently been bonded for good futures. Lower down the Prichard creek and on the north side are the Skookum, Old Abe, Grouse and Blue Grouse group for which negotiations are pending while at the head of Dream gulch the Wall street, Jim Blain, Treasuay Hill, Legal Tender and Homestead belt promise to eclipse the Mother lode.

In the folks of Eagle Creek are situated the Margaret, Oregonian Webfoot and Coolidge mines in which some of the solid men of Portland are interested.

Two miles below Eagle is the New Comstock and its extensions which is regarded as one of the very best quartz prospect in the camp. On Oregon gulch, the site of the discovery of carbonate ore last spring are several good ledges of which only the assessment work has been done.

Some recent discoveries of quartz on the north fork of the Coeur d'Alene show up good prospects. The Fannie mine on Trail gulch shows a four-footed vein of galena with a three inch strata of quartz bearing on the hanging wall that is literally held together with stringers of gold. A five stamp battery will be erected next spring to reduce the ore from this mine. At Carbon Center in Beaver district, the Sunset group of Galena mines is one of the biggest thin s struck in Idaho. Scattered all over the camp are quartz locations. YOD Washington Farmer, Nov. 22, 1884

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extent and there is still room on the tributaries of that stream for a dozen gold fields rich as ^uBoise.

But of all the unexplored regions the country southeast of this city lying across the heads of ^uBurnt River and on the northern waters of the Malheur appear to offer the finest field for energetic and persevering explorers. Its civinage to mining camps already well supplied with goods and to the great productive region of the Willamette Valley will always render it easy to get supplies there at moderate prices and in great abundance. The climate is also milder than in any of the mines in the ^uBitter Root Range, ^uBoise or ^uOwyhee. The mining season in consequence is longer which is an advantage to be prized in this northern region.

The Mountaineer

Friday, Feb 22, 1867

The gold discoveries of Boise diverted for awhile the attention of the prospecting class of miners from districts which had otherwise been thoroughly explored and tested.

Among these there are several considerable areas which may eventually prove of vast importance to the towns on the Columbia River.

Commencing in the vicinity of the first discovery on the waters of the Columbia, the Pen d'Oreille on which as large piece of gold were found seven years ago as is now taken from Blackfoot or Prickley Pear mines. Only two or three claims were worked to great profit on this stream in 1850. and the parties working them finally lost the land and abandoned the grounds.

From Salmon River south to the St Joseph river the country is of a favorable description for gold mines and is entirely unprospected.

From Fort Joseph south to the Oro Fino mines gold has been found in many places and at times it was thought in paying quantities, but no permanent mining interest has ever been developed in that section of the country.

To the south of Oro Fino toward Elk City gold has been found and worked and there are now marks of labor such as gulches worked partially out, cabins, sluices and ditches in places which have never had a name in newspaper and which will never have been heard of about in the towns on the Columbia.

The whole watershed of the west side of the Bitter Root River is comparatively an unknown country and the southern tributaries of that stream are still unexplored.

In the great basin of Salmon River gold has been found in paying quantities but not sufficiently rich to induce excitement. Mines are being worked on the Lake Fork of the Payette to a limited

Visiting Miners

There is a large number of men passing through this city daily, returning from the various mining districts. Our hotels are nightly crowded, and the appearance of our streets betokens business. The miners are generally well provided with ore, which makes "everything lovely."

—The Dalles Mountaineer, Oct. 19, 1866

Similkameen Mines

The California papers state that companies are organizing in different parts of the state for the purpose of proceeding to the ~~Sink~~ Similkameen mines in the early spring, and thoroughly testing them, when, if their report be favorable, we may expect a rush scarcely paralleled by that to Farzer (cq) river a year and a half ago.

— The Dalles Journal, Dec. 16, 1859

Mine N^o. 3 at Roslyn has been closed down and the miners utilized to guard the claims against Imbrie and others who are disputing the coal company's right to the land. Herald, June 20, 1889.