

The new Gold Regions of the Northwest
Price one dollar. For Sale by H.M. Thompson, secretary of
the American Exploring and Mineral company, st Louis, Mo/

Thompson's Complete Guide to the New Gold regions of
Upper Missouri, Deer Lodge, Beaver Head, Nez Perces, Salmon
River, Boise River, Powder River, John Day, Cariboo etc. etc.

By Francis M. Thompson, late secretary of the exploring party of the American Exploring and Mineral company St Louis published by R.P. Studley and C^H. for H.M. Thompson, 1868

.....When the adventurers up the Missouri arrived in Deer Lodge Valley, which is a beautiful place and at the head of which the American Exploring and Mineral ^{Co} company have established their head quarters at the confluence of the little Blackfoot and Deer Lodge rivers, which unite here and form the Hell Gate River, this town is on Lieuts Mullins and Lander's road going from Fort Benton to Fort Walla and is bound to be the most important town in this new "Idorado between the Rocky and Bitter Root mountains; there were in that region of country no more than fifteen ~~which~~ white men and no mines had been discovered excepting a few claims upon a little tributary of Hell Gate River. Hearing that all the good claims in Salmon River mines had been taken the strong hearted part of the ~~in~~ emigration immediately set about prospecting the journey country about Deer Lodge for gold which the faint-hearted set out for ~~the~~ their return either by way of Walla Walla or via the Missouri.

Up the Missouri or Across the Plains

Either way has its advantages but the easy navigation of the river for Fort Benton by first class boats, it seems, must make that the favorite route of reaching all the northern mines from the states at least those mines ~~near the~~ ^{near the} head of the Missouri. The miner can reach his destination much earlier than by the plains and stock

can generally be obtained at the ~~fort~~ ^{FORT}, nearly or quite as cheaply as in the states especially during the scarcity occasioned by the war.

The River:

To one who has any appreciation of the works of nature the trip up the Missouri cannot be put pleasant. Up through the State of Missouri by the places made memorable by scenes in the great rebellion, by the Kansas border, between Iowa and Nebraska, by Omaha, by Sioux City, you plunge into the Indian country where he yet chases the buffalo as wild as himself--by the trading posts of the Fur companies through the Bad Lands by the Citadel Rock over the rapids and at last you see:

"through the morning's red light" the beautiful Stars and Stripes and hear the booming of the canon which will greet you on your arrival at Forts Benton and La Barge.

Over the Plains you need no guide, the highway is so plain that a man though a fool cannot err therein.

Captain Mullin, the projector and builder of the road from Fort Benton to Walla Walla is now in Washington urging a survey for a new route from Deer Lodge direct across the head waters of the Missouri and Yello Stone to Fort Laramine which to the Northern mines will very much shorten the ~~ear~~ route and ^{lead} ~~lead~~ nearly direct to the Beaver Head mines.

From Fort Benton

To reach any mines yet discovered you will take the Mullin Road but here you must make your arrangements for travelling. You will do well to wait the arrival of Stock from Deer Lodge and Hell Gate Ranches if ^{they} you are not already there before buying stock, and when once in your possession keep an eye on your property for you can trust all Indians just this far, they will steal your stock if they dare to. But in justice to these Indians I will say that I believe the Blackfoots and Flatheads are the most free from such propensities of any Indians.

If you intend to pack you will procure here your Pishmores and Parafleshes and two hundred pounds for

(COPY) Mullin - Wang

Indian pony.

The mines nearest Fort Benton are on:

Prickley Pear, very fine gold only yielding with rockers from \$3 to \$5 to the man per day

Pioneer Creek

These mines were the first discovered in this region and quite limited in extent; about fifty miners paying from \$5 to \$7 p Location five miles from Stewart's on Mullin road.

Pipe's Peak gulch--Half way between Deer Lodge City and Stewart's. Very fine gold. About ~~from~~ fifty men paying about the same as pioneer creek.

Boulder diggings: on the east side of the mountain on a creek which empties into the Missouri. Fine gold. About 25 men and paying from \$7 to \$10, 45 miles from Deer Lodge City and perhaps 200 from Fort Benton, leaving the Mullin road at Prickley Pear and keeping on the east side of the mountains.

Beaver Head mines--On Grasshopper creek, a branch of Wisdom river on the east side of the mountains. Very fine gold and good quality assaying \$19.50 to the ounce. These mines were discovered by the American Exploring and Mineral company about the 1st of September, 1862 and were worked by about 500 men who were making from \$3 to \$150 per day.

Extracts from letters of Feb. 5th, 1863: I.B. Cavin states that Col McClean took out of his claim the first day's work \$600 with a rocker and could not work over five hours per day on account of the ice.

Big Hole mines are up high in the mountains on a branch of Big Hole or Wisdom river., nearly directly across the mountains from the head of the Bitter root river. They were discovered by a party from Salmon river late in the summer of '62 and worked by about fifty men. About \$10 to \$16 diggings.

To reach any of these mines from Fort Benton follow the Mullin road

to ~~Fort~~ ^{Lodge} Deer ~~Lodge~~, then turn up the Deer Lodge river thro gh the almost level pass in the mountains on the waters of Wisdom river. All these mines can be reached with wagons. The Beaver Head mines are about 40 miles from the old Mormon Fort Lemhi and not far from 300 miles north from Salt Lake City.

Crossing the Beaver Head mines west will bring you to the head waters of Salmon river and the great gold region of the Columbia valley.

At present this route is only practicable for pack animals unless the emigrant takes the Salt Lake road until he intersects the emigrant trail to Oregon which would make the distance some six or seven hundred miles from Fort Benton to Fort Boise. Pack animals can be crossed over the mountains from Big Hole mines to the Salmon River mines. The distances are about as follows: Fort Benton to Deer Lodge 180 miles; Deer Lodge to Big Hole 125; Big Hole to Salmon River, 150--total 455. From Fort Benton to the Nez Perces mines, leaving the Mullin road at Worden's, following up the Bitter Root to the Loo Loo Fork trail (only practicable for light pack trains) it is about 375 or 400 miles, bringing you out at Oro Fino City.

To those who would reach the mines by the way of Portland the route is by steamer daily to Cascades, 60 miles,; portage 5 miles, by railroad; thence steamer to Dalles, 45 miles, making 110 miles to the Dalles, which is the grand starting point for the John Day and Powder River mines; hence overland 125 miles to John Day or 240 miles ~~and~~ to Powder river. Very good roads.

From Dalles to Lewiston, 285 miles by steamer. Surveys have been made and it is supposed that there will be no insurmountable object to hinder running steamers as far up as Boise River, which is, by the old Indian trail, 200 miles from Lewiston.

Recapitulation.

Portland to Dalles, ~~110~~ 110 miles

Dalles to John Day 125 miles

Dalles to Powder, 240

Dalles to Lewiston 285

Lewiston to Elk City 118

Lewiston to Florence 110

Lewiston to Oro Fino 83 miles

Lewiston to Boise River 200

Dalles to Walla Walla 160

Walla Walla to Lewiston 90

Walla Walla to Fort Benton 628

Salmon River mines

Though not very extensive in territory have yielded an immense amount of treasure to the world. Men who could not get claims in the rich placers are washing on bars in the river. The pay dirt is an iron gray sand and is only a few inches deep on the surface, paying from \$4 to \$10. There were claims from which fifty-eight pounds of dust were taken on a single day but those extra paying claims seem to be nearly worked out.

The gold is of poor quality, selling for from \$12 to \$13 an ounce. At Warren's Diggings near Florence; about 400 miners were working at from \$14 to \$20 in October.

Nez Perces mines are said to be paying good miners from ~~\$8~~ ^{\$7} to \$10 per day.

Boise mines: Were discovered late in the season ~~and~~ and but little is yet known about ~~them~~ them. Mr. William Parvine says under date of October 14 : I find the mines both good and extensive, not so good as the diggings at Florence were but more extensive; eighty dollars to the pan being the greatest amount taken out at any one time. The mines may be set down at about \$18 diggings. They are situated about seventy miles a little north east of Fort Boise. About \$2,000 in dust has been

panned out by the prospectors since my arrival here. There is a good extent of mining ground and a bundance of timber, water and grass in and about the diggings.

Hon Lyman Shaffer says: "The mines are what are termed dry diggings and extend over low hills and dry ~~ra~~lines.. Some are carrying dirt from 20 to 100 yards and taking out from \$8 to \$12, some \$20 a ditch company has been organized to build a ditch some six miles and it will be commenced early in the spring. About 500 miners are there and those who have opened their claims say they are satisfied with their prospects.

Late discoveries at Boise--Mr. John Caviness, just in from Boise informs us that recent discoveries have been made there which eclipse anything hertofore revealed. Mr. C. expresses the opinion ~~that~~ ^{that} next year the Boise mines will prove the richest mining region in the upper country.

New Mines have been discovered late this fall on Catherine creek, a branch of the Malheur river 50 miles below Boise --reported rich-- also on the head of Burnt river.

These mines are very extensive and rich; they are what are called "deep diggings." that is the gravel is very deep and requires much labor. The gold is coarse, some nuggets being found which weigh from eight to ten ounces. It is valued at about \$16. The principal gulches are Griffin's Gulch, Blue Gulch, Freeze-out, Union Flat, Rich Flat, Deer Creek and Bear creek.

~~John Day mines on the John Day river~~ The Oregon Steam navigation company have bought the water ditches at Auburn and will complete them immediately. Auburn has a population of about 3,000.

John Day mines--On John Day river do not differ much from Powder river mines. They are very extensive and rich. Some claims have turned out 15 ounces in a day. Some are hauling dirt on sleds and taking out \$40 per man. Some fine specimens of silver have been obtained

from here. March 1st, 1863, men were taking from \$20 ..to \$250 a day to each man.

Colville mines--"here are also extensive mines on the Columbia at Colville, some fifty men working at bar digging, doing well.

Some prospectors claim to have found very rich diggings between the St Joseph and Couer d'Alene rivers on the Camas prairies. They intend returning to them another season to work them.

Cariboo country--"here can be no doubt but this is one of the richest gold regions yet discovered but the extreme difficulty of reaching it with the necessaries of life and the severity of the climate, withhold all but the most daring from attempting to go up to these mines.

The mines are situated upon the head waters of the Frazer river in about 54 North latitude.

About in the center of this mining region is a cluster of high mountains called Bald Mountain, the highest point of which is called Snow Shoes and in these mountains rise Keithley, Cunningham, Harvey, Antler, Grouse, Jack Club, Lightning, Van Winkle and many other creeks which are paying largely. The working of these mines is attended with many difficulties, having to contend against the

climate and the short space of time to work them. The mining season commences after the melting of the snow in the mountains, generally about the end of July and extends to from the first to the latter part of October according to the season. The roads are very bad and there is a great scarcity ~~of stock~~ of stock feed for stock upon the route. The climate is very pleasant during the working season. The miner should go well protected from cold and with a pair of green glasses to protect his eyes from the blinding effects of the reflection of sun from the snow. Much of the gold is very coarse nuggets. The gold is generally found in spots, not evenly distributed and some claims are mentioned as paying \$25 to \$30 per day to the man.

To reach Cariboo the starting point is Victoria, Vancouver's Island,
 thence to New Westminster, steamer, ²⁵New Westminster to Port
 Douglas 25, thence to Pemberton lake, stage 30;
 Portage, steamer; Lake Anderson, stage; portage, steamer; 34;
 Lilloet, on foot, 4; ferry to Cayoosh flat, thence to the
 Fountain 8; thence to the Pavillion, 12; Smith's 16; Big Creek,
 12; Canoe Creek 20; Dog Creek 10; Alkali lake 16; Lake Williams (Davis
 Ranch) 28; Deep Creek 13, Round Tent, 12; Beaver Lake, 17;
 Small Lake, 18; Forks of Quesnelle, 7; Kuthley's creek, 24; Antler
 24, total 413.

There are also overland trails from the Dalles and from ~~Walala~~
 Walala as follows:

From the Dalles across the Yackama valley to Priest's Rapids, 125;
 thence to Grand Coulee, 25; along grand coulee, 60; thence to
 Okanogan, 25; thence to Forks Samilkameen, 60; thence Red Earth
 Fork 60; thence cut-off near Nicholas' lake 55; Lower crossing,
 Nicholas' river 35; Ferry Thompson river, 10; Thence up
 Bonaparte river to Davis ranch over Brigade trail 125; thence to
 Antler, 115, total 725.

From Walala to Priest Rapids 60; thence same as from the Dalles,
 600, total 660.

Pasture and water are plentiful and fuel for the greater part of
 the distance likewise abounds.

For the most of the way this route follows the banks of
 Brazier's river. The trail is bad from Williams' lake and if
 traveled by packed animals, advantage must be taken of what little
 pasturage there is for animals.

It is thought that another season will see steamboats ascend the
 upper river as far as Stuart's Lake, Fort James. ~~The~~ A company
 has been formed and it is thought will be ready by the time
 emigration is ready for the spring as it is expected that there will be

a great stampede them for Peace River.

From Fort Benton to Walla Walla

To Coulee 12, no wood, no water between this camp and one before it.

Lake, 23, total 35, no wood, no water between this camp and one before it

Mud Creek, 16, total 54; wood and water lacking.

Sun River Ferry, 8, total 59.

Bird Tail Rock, 17, total 76

Dearborn river 17 and 93.

Little Prickly Pear 12 , 105.

Medicine Rock 15 and 120.

Silver Creek 16 and 139.

Great Prickly Pear 6 and 145.

Summit R.M. 4 and 149.

Crossing Lake Blackfoot, 13 and 162.

Livingston Creek, 8 and 170.

Deer Lodge River, 9 and 179.

Deer Lodge City 4 and 183.

Gold Creek, 9 and 192.

Flint Creek 13 and 205.

~~Head Gate~~ Grotte Creek 11 and 216.

Hell Gate Bridge 7 and 223.

Big Blackfoot 32 and 255.

Worden's store 10 and 265.

Hell Gate Rondel 15 and 280.

Kul Kul Co Creek 6 and 286

Shakotay creek 4 and 290.

West Point of Rock 9 and 299.

West End Mountain 9 and 308.

Nemote Creek 6 and 314.

Brown' Prairie 8 and 322

Little Prairie 13 and 335.

Bitter Root Ferry 10 and 345 (Poor feed for stock)
 Round Prairie 2 and 347.
 St Regis Borgia river 13 and 361 (poor feed)
 Prairie in the Wood, 17 and 378 (poor feed)
 Summit Bitter Root mts 5 and 383 (poor feed)
 Long Prairie 5 and 388 (poor feed)
 An Oasia^S 15 and 403.
 Ten Mile Prairie 8 and 411.
 Coeur d Alene Mission 9 and 420.
 Wolf's Lodge Prairie 18 and 438 (no wood)
 Leitusees' farm 15 and 453.
 Spokane River ferry . 19 and 472.
 Dead Creek 12 and 484 No water between this and next camp
 Thompson Lake, 12 and 496 (no water..etc.)
 Tchoo-Tchoo-oo-sip, 20 and 516, no water between this and next
 Oraytayuse 15 and 531 (no water.between this camp and next)
 Palouse river, 13 and 544, no water beteen this and next camp.
 Colville road, 19 and 563
 Snake River Ferry 15 and ⁵⁷⁸~~600~~ (no water..feed poor)
 Touchet, 30 and ~~400~~ 508.
 Walla Walla 20 and 628..grand total.

Snow generally falls upon the Bitter root mountains about the
 1st of October and there is no safety in crossing after that
 time. From Bitter Root ferry to near Coeur d'Alene Mission is almost an
 unbroken forest and ~~a~~ advantage must be taken of all places to
 pasture stock, especially if late in the season.

Language used^g by the Blackfoot, blood and ^{copy} Pagan Indians..attached.

(See. Chinook Jargon)

Notice--The emigration to this rich and new gold country this season of
 1863, judging from official reports, will reach 100,000 people, a
 number unprecedented before.

Parties should go well provided wth clothing, food/ ~~enough~~
enough to sustain themselves comfortably for at least one
year. Many of the valleys produce vegetables wheat and oats in
abundance; corn to a limitd extent and the best of grazing for
cattle and horses.

Parties or individual wishing information of departure of
steamboats or trains from St Louis and other points can obtain
the same with a copy of this Guide by addressing the undersigned
and enclosing one dollar and two postage stamps--~~box 1629~~. box 1629
H.M. Thompson
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1863.