

Silver City Nugget

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TELEPHONE No. 26

Owyhee County, Idaho

(CONTINUED)

Artesian Wells.

Bordering on the Snake river nearly the entire north side of the county are extensive tracts of rich lands, wanting only water for irrigation to make them equal to any agricultural lands in the state. The greater portion of these are subject to homestead entry. They would provide many prosperous homes if irrigation were practicable. Within the past two years a number of artesian wells have been drilled on these plains and in every instance a supply of water has been the result. The average depth of the wells is about 600 feet. Each one supplies a flow of water, which if conserved and used only as required on the lands is sufficient to supply a ranch of considerable size. The cost of drilling these wells is not great, and thus lands that may be had for the entry can be made valuable. This presents the opportunity for home making which is not to be overlooked.

Hot Springs.

There are numerous springs in Owyhee worthy of note. Some of the hot springs have acquired more than a local fame for possessing curative properties and are resorted to by persons afflicted with various complaints.

In the great Bruneau Canyon, not far above the head of the valley, a hot creek joins the river, fed by springs of which but little is known, on account of their inaccessibility. Beautifully located near the head of Bruneau Valley several springs of very considerable volume, with water at almost scalding temperature, gush from the ground. Many people resort to these springs for bathing.

On Castle Creek is a large spring from which the water emerges at a boiling heat. On the south border of Snake river are several hot and warm springs, one of which with its accommodations for the public, with bathing house etc, is now extensively patronized by persons troubled with rheumatism and kindred complaints.

Game and Fish.

The wild and picturesque portion of this country abounds in wild game and its streams are well stocked with mountain trout, Black tail deer, some antelope, occasionally a mountain sheep constitute the larger game, while mountain lions or cougar are frequently hunter's trophies. Sage hens and willow grouse are found in great abundance both on mountain and plain.

There is plenty of shooting for lovers of hunting and similar recreations. Snake river supplies our local markets with larger fishes, among the best of which are sturgeon and salmon.

Camping Out.

People coming from the Eastern States where the rainfall is greater than here and the fall of the dew heavy at night can scarcely realize the enjoyment one has in camping out on our streams in our mountains. Hunting and fishing parties of families and friends, ladies gentlemen and children, establish camps at favored spots and enjoy out-door life and recreation for a few days and weeks. The days will be all sunshine and the nights always cool and refreshing. Tents are only taken with such parties to secure privacy. The open air, under the blue starlit canopy with plenty of blankets to keep them warm, is all the shelter required. One does not sweeter through a hot night and get up in the morning enervated. Hot nights may be good for crops of growing corn, but they are not conducive to health and restoration of energy. Our almost cloudless summer skies, our cool nights and invigorating atmosphere of

our higher altitudes have in them a charm the residents of the less favored localities little realize. If you feel enervated and worn out, come to Idaho and enjoy a season of our out-door life.

Society.

One need not feel that he is going beyond the pale of civilization in coming to Owyhee. The people are quite as refined in manners and accomplishments as in scattered communities anywhere. In fact they are made up from the more energetic classes of the older states. Churches and fraternal society organizations are to be found here, conducted with as much zeal as elsewhere. The public schools are in charge of experienced teachers and are most liberally supported. The people are as law abiding as any community anywhere. Our civil and criminal courts hold only a very brief session because of the little business coming before them. Our great mining industries give us in their employees a considerable population which is continuously shifting, but the western precious metal miners are the peers in intelligence, industry, morality and honor of any class of mechanics or working men in the world. They take and read a greater number of daily and weekly newspapers, magazines and books than most other communities. Tramps are few. Dead beats, hobos and bums are not a minus quantity among us, the broad mantle of charity and the tolerance of the people suffering them to exist in our midst.

Mines and Mining

While the live stock, wool growing and agricultural interests of the county are large and important, Owyhee is essentially a mining county. Its ranges of mountains are seamed with veins of gold and silver bearing ore which so far surpass all the other sources of wealth that all other industries are dwarfed by comparison.

The products of our mines have been the foundation of many large fortunes. The future of the industry promises many more fortunes. In fact it may be truthfully said that the industry is yet in infancy. The surfaces only of many of its districts have been touched and few and important discoveries are continuously being made. Owyhee is still a most inviting field for prospectors as well as for investors.

A brief description of the numerous discovered mining districts is all that can be told of them in this little folder. Further information may be had of any business men here, who will refer you to parties informed regarding the districts about which inquiries may be made.

War Eagle Mountain

The first location of a quartz vein was made on the mountain—the first in this portion of the state—was made in 1863. Mining was carried on on this mountain with great activity from 1865 to 1875. The production of bullion during this decade is variously estimated from records of shipments at from \$24,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Unfortunately all this business was controlled by San Francisco stock speculators, and with a great bank failure in that city, in 1875, "the bottom dropped out." The principal properties were tied up in litigation, the mines filled with water and buildings and costly machinery allowed to go to wreck, and for nearly fifteen years only the smaller properties, owned by individuals were worked.

Now titles have been straightened out and a new era of activity is beginning based on legitimate business principles. On the eastern slope of the mountain is a great string of veins nearly a mile long, in former times owned and operated by a number of separate companies. These have all been acquired by one company, which instead of attempting to work them from the top down as was formerly done, has run a tunnel 6300 feet, cutting the system of veins at a depth of 2100 feet and proposes to work the entire series of mines through this tunnel, establishing a new camp, with reduction works east of the mountain.

West of this system of veins crossing the summit and nearly to the foot of its western slope are so many veins of ore of more or less value, all covered

by mining claims that the brief space will not admit of a mention of all them. Among them is the great Poor-man mine, with a record of more than \$6,000,000 in production. Even further west, under the town of Silver City, are other veins—a valuable vein of ore crossing the center of the town. West of Silver City is

Florida Mountain.

scamed like its neighbor with great veins of ore. Here the Trade Dollar consolidated company's properties have within the past ten years made fortunes for the shareholders. Other companies have recently been organized, acquired other properties which promise to become rivals of the Trade Dollar in value of production.

DeLamar Mountain.

located seven miles west of Silver City, has produced nearly if not quite \$10,000,000 from the property of one company. And there are a number of other promising properties on that mountain, only awaiting the magic touch of capital to bring them out.

Gow Creek.

Four miles northwest of DeLamar, is a district with splendid surface showings from which much rich surface mineral has been taken, but not sufficient development work yet accomplished to demonstrate its real value. It is a district worthy of investigation.

The Rooster Comb District.

Nine miles north of DeLamar, has recently been demonstrated to carry large veins of very high grade ore. The district in which veins have been discovered and located covers a considerable area. Men with ample means to demonstrate their value have acquired some of these claims and the present year there will be a good deal of work done there.

Flint District

This district is located eleven miles south of Silver City. There is an extensive outcropping of silver-bearing quartz veins in the district and there has been a considerable production of bullion from them. A number of years ago the producing mines became the properties of some B. & M. railway capitalists who have permitted them to remain idle. However, local men have developed claims outside of the Flint company's holdings, have put up a concentrating mill and are making a success out of their enterprise. There are other similar opportunities in the district.

Mammoth District

Is located five miles east of Flint, on Boulder and Mammoth Creeks. Some very wide veins of low grade silver ores have been located in this district. Ample water power is available for reducing the ores of the district and it is claimed it can be so cheaply concentrated that a profitable enterprise could be established here.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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