

The Elk City Mining News.

A Weekly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Elk City, Red River, Crooked River, Newsome, Dixie and Buffalo Hump Mining Camps.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY BY CHAS. HOFSTETTER.

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SALUTATORY.

WHEN a new paper is established it is the custom for the publisher to tell something of the object for which the paper is intended and the policy to be pursued. At that time the editor is in a reminiscent and peaceful mood and casts his prophetic eye into the dim and distant future and tells how his paper will evolve itself into a great and influential journal; how the multitudes will scramble to have their names placed on his subscription rolls; he will paint beautiful word pictures of his surroundings and thank a bountiful Giver for the privilege of existing in such a place, and generally the finish of his journalistic venture is like a spavined nightmare in the wake of a beautiful dream.

In giving to the public the Elk City Mining News we have no excuses to make and no apologies to offer, we do so with an abiding faith in the vast mineral district drained by the South Fork of the Clearwater. This faith was not gained by what somebody has told us but by the greater part of two summers spent in prospecting and practical experience in different properties. It is our earnest belief that there is no district in the northwest that can even compare with the section mentioned as to the number, quantity and grade of its gold showings and the adaptability of the treatment of the ore at home. It has been proven beyond a doubt that the source of the placer gold here is the quartz veins and porphyry dykes and an examination of the district should convince the most sceptical that where Nature has produced millions of dollars by her crude processes, when up-to-date artificial means are employed for the extraction of the precious metals Elk basin will be the bee hive of the mining industry of the great northwest.

ELK CITY DISTRICT.

IT IS NOW about forty years since the Elk City mining district was first organized. Since then it has, like most of the camps of the northwest, had its lean years as well as its fat ones, but has gone on producing the yellow metal in varying quantities. Taking, however, the general estimates of the old timers and dividing them by two it has an average of half a million a year to its credit for each of the forty years. This estimate is probably near enough the truth to be taken as evidence of the importance claimed for the camp by its people. The fact that this gold was taken from alluvial or glacial deposits instead of quartz is important only as truth that the gold was freed by erosion and derived from two sources, viz: The immense gold bearing intrusive dikes of conglomerate, and the smaller though higher grade veins of quartz. Both

sources will in the comparatively near future, without doubt, furnish as great a yield to the stamp mill as they did to frost and sun and glaciers in past ages.

Seldom indeed has it fallen to the lot of even the most ubiquitous prospector to find in one camp so many different sources of precious minerals in so small a compass. Never was there a more promising harvest of the yellow metal awaiting to be gathered.

Does capital desire the telluride ores of Cripple Creek? We have them here and are only two hundred feet in depth.

Does capital want a dredging proposition? There are thousands of acres on Crooked river, Red river, American river and Elk creek bottoms.

Is capital looking for a hydraulic layout? They are to be found here, hundreds of feet of gravel banks with the surface merely scratched and miles and miles of ditches already constructed.

If you are looking for a Treadwell or a Homestake this camp can size up with either in quantity and discount them for quality.

The foregoing are cold facts and susceptible of proof. It is not desired to convey the impression that a man can come here with pick, pan and shovel and a months grub and reap a glittering harvest. It will require more capital than that—much more—and good hard work, close intelligent work, but the reward is here for the man with capital and brains as sure as fate. But there is also ample room and fine opportunities for the prospector. There lies between here and the summit of the Bitter Roots a small empire waiting to be tickled with the prospector's pick; an empire large as some of the parishes in the east, which are dignified by the names of states.

The future of this district will, of necessity, be the future of the vast new empire of central Idaho comprising all the camps already established as well as those to be established in the future, it rests largely upon the personnel of the various communities, it therefore behooves all and sundry, camps as well as individuals, to stand shoulder to shoulder in all that which concerns our internal welfare; whatever the injustice inflicted upon us today, if successful, will be the injustice inflicted upon our neighbor tomorrow. Let the slogan be that of the "Three Musketeers," "one for all, all for one, for that which is the injury of one is the concern of all."

Let our rivalries be of a fair and honorable character, if you cannot satisfy a possible purchaser pilot him to your neighbor's claim, if your camp fails to meet his approval, fill his grip and start him for the next camp, rejoicing if possible. This course will pay the biggest kind of dividends.

A PROFESSIONAL JUMPER.

ONE OF THE worst parasites that preys upon the efforts of honest prospectors is the claim-jumper and the most radical steps must be taken to eradicate him. He never prospects but spends his time picking out technicalities in other people's locations, and when a prospect begins to show up favorably or the owner has a deal underway, he covers the ground with a second set of stakes and a lot of litigation ensues by which no one profits, unless it is the attorneys.

We have in mind such a man who came into this section in 1902 and jumped several claims in the Seigel creek section, one of which the original owners were developing at the time. This was not all. He made his presence so obnoxious to the prospectors that a meeting was held and the proposition discussed as to how it would do to use him for the decorations of a summer Christmas tree. The result of the meeting was that he was told to fan the breeze, which he did in a way that would put to shame a scared coyote. But like a Camas prairie horse thief, he came back again. This summer he did business down on Crooked river, jumping a group of four claims, one of which was located and held since 1897 and, besides the ten foot discovery shaft, has a sixty foot tunnel, half mile of wagon road and a cabin on it. Profiting by experience, his entrance into the district this summer was not annunciated by a fan-fare of trumpets but he came as a thief in the night and spotting the ground mentioned, jumped it and hired men to do the location work without delay and then immediately left the country. His next appearance was in Lewiston and shortly afterwards a lengthy article appeared in the Tribune, of that city, telling of Mr. So and So's arrival from Crooked river where he had discovered and located a dike 600 feet wide, the lowest assay obtained being \$27 in gold per ton. Then came the announcement that he had interested with him several prominent Lewiston citizens in this new Eldorado.

A ranker piece of wildcatting and misrepresentation has not come to light for a long time and out of justice to the legitimate mining interests of the district and to the people whom this unscrupulous claim jumper is interesting with him, he and his methods should be exposed.

"The printing outfit for the Elk City paper passed through town yesterday, and another man's laborious task begins; it's no child's play. There ought to be at the very least \$1000 in cold coin given to the man who ventures in these small burgs. We are glad to hear that our friend was assisted in such a way by the patriots of the old gold camp."—Stites Journal.

We do not consider it a laborious task but rather a pleasure in being in a position to extol to the world the merits of a district such as Elk City is situated in, and will say that the extent of our "assistance" was considerably less than \$1000 in "cold coin."

WE ARE told that some of our outside brethren are somewhat suspicious of the financial outcome of our venture here. They don't know this country. We have been mighty short of cash once or twice since the gentle breezes wafted us hither but we never missed a meal.

NEVER since the camp was discovered has the assessment work been so generally done. Straws show which way the wind is blowing.

IT REQUIRES TIME.

PEOPLE in the east who invest in mining shares have a very imperfect idea of the time necessary to make a paying mine. In a vast majority of cases the man who takes a flyer in mining stocks is surprised, and commences displaying symptoms of uneasiness, if he does not secure returns upon his investment within a few months. They do not seem to understand that a vast amount of labor is required to develop a mine to that stage where returns are possible. Too often the unscrupulous promoter, in order to dispose of stock, will make misrepresentations that the investor accepts without considering their plausibility, thus casting suspicion in the end upon legitimate and meritorious propositions. Under the most favorable circumstances it requires years to place a new prospect upon a producing basis. This is natural and to be expected. Mines are not found, they are made, and it calls for months of hard and expensive work to evolve a mine from a mineral location. If mines existed without the trouble and expense of making them the country would not be flooded with stock at a few cents per share. This has been shown time and time again, indeed it is the history of every dividend paying mine in existence. We have an illustration of this near at home. The Granby Mining and Smelting company, ownnig mines and operating a smelter just across the line in British Columbia, announces that the first dividend of 1 per cent on the par value of the stock will be paid December 16. Here is a company that has been operating steadily for seven or eight years, during which time hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid out for labor and machinery, yet the first dividend is just in sight. Patience is a virtue necessary to possess by those making mining investments. —Loomis (Wash.) Prospector.

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