

Pulse of Western Progress.

Some very unique X ray experiments of extraordinary success have recently been made in Oregon City by Dr. J. C. Perry, a well known physician of this city, and Mr. W. C. Cheney, superintendent of the Portland General Electric company, says the Portland Oregonian. The experiments were with gold bearing rock, in which the X rays defined the free gold as plainly as if it lay on the surface of the quartz. So far as is known this is the first successful experiment of the kind conducted with quartz, and the splendid results obtained justify the assertion that the new ray will prove of great value in mining operations. The possibilities of the X ray in this direction are almost unlimited, and it promises to become as valuable to the mining expert as it already is to the physician and surgeon.

During the experiments, an accident discovered the peculiar powers of penetration of the rays. A double platinum, to accompany plates on either side, was filled, and one side exposed for a brief period, with a lead on it. The holder was then inserted for the quartz experiment, and a fine plate placed on the right side very plainly. But in developing the first plate with the hand, Dr. Perry and Mr. Cheney were surprised to find faint sketches of the quartz, showing, in this instance, that the rays had passed through a rubber plate, the glass of the first plate, an iron shutter, and spring beneath it, and the glass of the second plate, before it reached the sensitive film of the latter plate. This was a most interesting and similar to that of a composite photograph, only in this instance it was unintentional.

**UNIQUE TUNNEL SCHEME.**

The most unique mining enterprise that has come lately to the surface is that of the Pike's Peak Tunneling company, which says the Helena Independent, under the laws of Arizona with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 in \$100 shares, and according to their prospectus they propose to drive a tunnel from Colorado City through Pike's Peak, and under Cripple Creek. G. O. H. Parsons is the consulting engineer of this company, which claims to own enough rich ground to pay all expenses of driving the tunnel from the start. The prospectus of the company states that:

"The shortest route now to reach Cripple Creek's mines by rail is fifty-four miles. A straight line through Pike's Peak, a distance of sixteen miles, passes through beneath the principal mining towns and camps, in twenty-two miles. On the line it will cut through Pike's Peak, Crown mountain, Gory field, Bull hill, Battle mountain, Squaw mountain, Raven hill, Gold hill, Poverty patch, Globe hill, Grassy, Gillet, Horn mountain, Cameron, and other rich mines. The estimated principal mines now being worked:

"The average depth of the tunnel beneath the surface of Crown Mountain is 2,500 feet, but where it will intersect the following named mines the depth below will be in \$100 shares; Portland, 3,500; Rebecca, 3,500; Independence, 3,500.

**GRAPES CROP INJURED.**

Extreme cold weather, attended by hard frosts that were unparalleled for fifteen years, has had disastrous effect on the grape crop of California, and therefore suffered early cherries, peaches, prunes, apricots and vegetables, says a San Francisco dispatch to the Spokane Review. The winter was very early, and the grapes were injured throughout February and part of March. The result was that all fruit was far advanced, and therefore suffered more than usual. The wine grapes in Napa and Sonoma valleys promised a large yield, and all deciduous fruit trees were washed. For the first time since 1860, the grapes are below the freezing point, and only those vineyards who built fires and smudges saved their crops. It is estimated that fully one-third of the grape crop of the state is ruined. On the other hand, the price of wine grapes has advanced to \$25 a ton, so that half a crop will bring more money than a full crop. Fruit growers the loss will be heavy, for last year they suffered from poor prices at Chicago and New York, due to quality of the crop.

**RED MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.**

D. C. Corbin returned from the east, where he has been for several weeks on business connected with his many interests in Washington and British Columbia, says the Spokane Review. He brings full confirmation of the news reported in the Spokesman Review in regard to the building of the Red Mountain railway.

"The conditions now will warrant it. Up to last year the conditions were different, but now I am sure that the business proposition of the road will be completed this summer. In a day or two I shall go over the route, and when I return I shall make the start, and it is my hope that the road will be completed by the middle of next summer."

"The surveys have been made for some time. In fact, there were a number of surveys made, and now I am certain I have the best one that could be selected."

"The road will follow closely up the north fork of Sheep Creek, making one detour in order to get a good grade."

"Will you bridge the Columbia?" asked the reporter.

"Yes; that is part of the scheme, to go through to Roseland without transferring. The bridge will cross the Columbia near Northport. How soon the work will be commenced on the bridge I cannot say exactly."

"When will you inaugurate daily service from Spokane to Roseland?"

"Some time before the middle of May."

"This sets at rest any doubts which have been expressed relative to the building of the Red Mountain road, which business proposition, the time was not ripe until this summer, and not until last fall was there a reasonable quantity of tonnage from the camp, and, as it would cost one-third more to build through the mountains in winter, the wisdom of the delay is apparent. The road, when completed, will be as well built as any road in the northwest."

**NO FAITH IN NAVAJO GOLD.**

The announcement that a military expedition had been ordered to repair to the Navajo reservation for the purpose of clearing out invading hosts of prospectors did not create much feeling in Denver, says the News, for the reason that there are few of the reliable men known as prospectors of the southwest who take any stock in the reports all anxiously circulated about that district. It is argued that if there was any amount of gold in the reservation it would have been made known to many white men

who have lived in the contiguous territory for most of their lives. No such reports have been received from a reliable source, and all the talk has been of the nature of rumors from those who heard the story from some one else.

The Navajo reservation has many times attracted the attention of prospectors, and in which it is claimed that the richest gold deposits of North America are to be found within the limits of the reservation. The reports were published very extensively a few years ago, and in 1892 the Interior department took the matter in hand, and secured the appointment of a commission to go into the country and report upon its gold deposits. The object of the department was to investigate the claims, and at least a part of it, open to gold hunters if the stories were proven to be correct. General A. M. C. McCoy was placed at the head of the expedition, and the members were ex-Governor Barstow of Vermont, and an expert mineral man named Allen of Albuquerque. Lieutenant Baker acted as engineering officer of the expedition, and the latter was a formidable array in the eyes of the Navajos, who inhabit the fastnesses of the reservation. A competent body of prospectors accompanied the party, and the gold was explored for that portion of the reservation which was alleged to be richest was undertaken. They spent six weeks in the mountains and range, and according to the report, specimens, which were taken to Los Angeles, then the headquarters of the military department, and assayed. The returns were favorable to the project to open the reservation was dropped.

While in Denver, General McCoy many times spoke of the expedition. He was positive that the gold was there, and that the wealth in the reservation were fakes and gold would never be found in paying quantities in the home of the Navajos.

**ARTIFICIAL RAINBOW TROUVE.**

Jacob Simon of this city has received some good news from the island of Cozumel, about 350 miles off the coast of Costa Rica, in which he and Captain Geisler are interested. Interest in the island was first secured by the late General A. M. C. McCoy, who had millions of dollars in treasure buried on the island. Expeditions had been made before to search the hiding place of the buried treasure, but Geisler secured a chart from some source that purported to give the location. He needed money to back his enterprise, and so he managed to interest in the island a number of persons who possessed of considerable wealth and is a keen business man. Simon fitted out an expedition here, and the schooner Haystack was a long voyage and a party of Haystack men was selected to man it.

The island was reached, but the expedition did not prosper in the search for the treasure could not be located. The schooner returned with its men after a time, but Geisler still had faith in the ultimate success of his plans, and they are now working on the island. He has received a letter from the island telling him that the coffee was getting ripe and that a good crop would be harvested this year. This was very pleasing news, as the island was promised for five years for coffee to grow from the bean on the mainland.

The island is only six miles across and is very fertile. The mercury on the warm days seldom registers above 90 degrees and at night the temperature drops to 65 degrees. The island is heavily wooded, and the only animals are the wild hogs, which are there in great numbers and are very vicious.

The reports supposed to be hidden on the island amounts to \$60,000,000, according to the traditions handed down to those who are now searching for it. It has been buried there for many years and has been buried there by the pirates who robbed the ship Relampago off Acapulco and took the money that was being sent from Mexico to Spain.

**SIX EXAMINING CONTEST.**

Two river men belonging to the Stonebreaker crew witnessed an exciting incident on the Clearwater last week, says the Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune. As they were passing just above the mouth of the North Fork they observed the water being lashed into a foam. The splashing was equal to the commotion caused by a battle, and it was not until the roar of water came a scream in a voice of despair from the concealing foam that rolled ten feet high.

The water over the stony beach towing their heavy boats. When they came within fifty feet of the strange commotion of water the battle seemed to end, and only splashing bubbles marked the scene of disturbance. Two great bald eagles were sitting on the beach with native pride subduing by water that dripped from befringed plumage. They watched the approaching men with savage glare and reluctantly deserted their sentinel perches on the boulders. They moved little by little from rock to rock till they were fifty feet above the river on a crag.

On the beach between the rocks, ten feet from the water, was a salmon, a monster of forty pounds. It struggled and beat the rocks and gasped in the battle for breath. It was torn by the claws of the eagles. Its eyes were picked out and it lay a prey to the cruel birds. The eagles and raptors upon the salmon as it cruised on the ripple. They buried their claws in its back. Side by side there were a dozen wounds. The fish was borne the beach by the eagles; they dragged him, inch by inch, toward the shore—inch by inch till they had him on the stony beach. Then the battle was won. The victors waited for the fish to beat its own life on the rocks. They waited for their dinner, but the men robbed them.

**JACKSON'S HOLE OR BUST.**

Colonel W. T. Sawyer is in a few days expected to return to the city with a party of five families who intend settling in the Jackson's Hole country. Last summer about 100 families went into the valley and started out to make their homes there. They were successful, and their glowing accounts of the country have induced others to enter this spring, says the Rocky Mountain News. Part of about forty miles from the valley to the effect that the Taylor Park company, which owns 2,700 acres, has a force of men at work and the gravel is panning splendidly.

**COLORED.**

One worth \$42 is claimed by Denver men on Sampson mountain, in Deer Creek district, Jefferson county.

A three-foot vein running high in copper and iron and averaging \$90 to the ton has been opened in drifting from the 200 foot level in the Denver and Central mine at Deer City.

Dr. W. Moore, who recently located a claim on the Fall river district, near Central City, and set a force of men to work on the claim, reports that he has only taken down fourteen feet when they struck a rich vein of ore, which assays \$110.40 to the ton.

W. H. Adams, up from San Luis valley, reports that a large amount of cattle will be brought into the neighborhood of the valley by Nick Dowling. Dowling is at present in Arizona, where he is buying the stock, which will be brought to the valley and shown to the rangers. About 4,000 head will be brought north.

Near Dow Center Dick White has just received returns from a mill run of \$55 per ton gold. O. W. Dow has a force of men at work on his tunnel, which is now about fifty feet. Mr. Dow has an incentive to work, as his mine has already made a record, he having turned out ore running per assay \$27.42 in gold. He received \$10 at apparent success, and their glowing accounts of the country have induced others to enter this spring, says the Rocky Mountain News. Part of about forty miles from the valley to the effect that the Taylor Park company, which owns 2,700 acres, has a force of men at work and the gravel is panning splendidly.

The news was brought by Ben Marney, a miner, who came over from the island above Corvallis and has been visiting the quartz mines on Cross Mountain, in the Tin Cup country, and says they have struck about 500 tons of ore that will run probably \$1,000 or \$1,200 to the ton. The quartz is of the best and has a large stamp mill put in this summer.

One of the most striking strikes in the Saw Pit district was uncovered in the Lime Kiln pit last week. It is situated on the north side of the river, and is the richest and Willow creek, about four miles this side of the camp of Saw Pit. The claims, the Lime Kiln, Lime Pine, Cliff and the claims along each other of the line contact. The tunnel, in the breast of which the ore was encountered, is 140 feet. The mineral is of the best quality, and is the richest in gold yet discovered in the district. Marvelous values are obtained by panning, and the strike has created a ripple of excitement in town.

**WYOMING.**

Ex-Governor Osborne has adopted a peculiar brand for his sheep. It is a skull and crossbones.

An oil spring near Muddy creek in the vicinity of Casper, flows a beautiful greenish colored oil steadily.

The Casper oil refinery is pushed to its utmost capacity in filling its orders. The output of the refinery has been twice as much as any month since starting up.

A party of twenty graders are at work a short distance west of Casper building reservoirs to hold the water, and to receive the stock shippers during the summer and fall months.

Hugh L. Atkinson, a well known resident of Bates Park, lost his life Monday by an accidental breaking of his wagon, on which he was hauling a load of wood. The deceased was 59 years of age and was one of the pioneer settlers in the Bates Park district.

**THE DAKOTAS.**

Aberdeen is to have a large elevator in place of the one recently destroyed by fire.

A party of Elkhorn surveyors has run a preliminary survey up Battle creek, leading toward the town of Keystone. Pennington county. Keystone is noted for the rich mines in the vicinity, and the residents now feel assured of railroad connection in the near future.

By accident, not noticed to the county auditors over the state, State Auditor Hipple has discovered that there are seven telephone companies doing business in South Dakota, which has so far been exempt from taxation, which will be required to make returns in the future.

Messrs. Waite and Gibbs, who recently sold the Florence group of mines to the Golden Rule syndicate for \$30,000, have purchased the property at the corner of Main and Deadwood streets for \$7,200, and will immediately erect a thoroughly modern iron and brick business block on Deadwood.

The Aberdeen city council has taken steps to establish a park on the large tract adjoining the city on the west, which was recently purchased by the city. The park will be for the lawns, lakes, trees and flowers, with which the park will be artistically arranged. The park will include about seventy acres of land, and will be a great improvement to the city when completed.

Plans and specifications are being drawn up for a new opera house in Eugene. It is intended to erect a two-story brick building, 8x120 feet.

E. Boettcher, the Umattila sheepman, expects to commence his sheeping season in the east. He will take the usual number, about 12,000.

There will be dozens of new dwelling houses being erected in the city of Corvallis, and to accommodate the great flow of migration to South Lane this year.

R. A. Graham has been endeavoring to secure the establishment of a beet-sugar factory in Coos county, and the Mail says that there is a fine prospect that such a factory will be located on Coos bay or the Copilla.

Wool has begun to arrive at the Pendleton on the Pacific coast, and the quality is said to be a general thing, very good. The scouring mill proposes to increase its capital stock by \$20,000 at its annual meeting, the 5th proximo.

The recent high waters have caused the Willmette river to cut a new channel nearly a mile long in the vicinity of the mouth of the McKenzie. The new channel is yet full of sand and has not been navigated. By reason of the change in the river the old channel has been rendered unnavigable.

There is a move on foot in the vicinity of Buena Vista to have the city's drainage cut off and annexed to Benton. The people who reside about Buena Vista state that in order to get to the county seat, Dallas, they are obliged to go the round-about way, that takes time and money, and the expense much greater than if they could take the boat and run direct to Corvallis.

The Barnhart sheep, between 7,000 and 8,000, are being sheared at the Baker ranch below Pendleton, on the Umattila. Some very good wool is being hauled to Pendleton on the shearing pens. Some of the J. E. Smith sheep are also being sheared at the same place. Shearers are receiving 5 cents per fleece this year, the same price paid a year ago. At this rate the men are compelled to leave the sheep in the hands of the shearer.

Hardwood logs for the Independence sawmills are now being cut along the Willmette, above Corvallis. William Brisson and John Noy of Corvallis recently secured a contract for the delivery at Independence of 100,000 feet of ash and maple, and the first raft comprised 12,000 feet, and was taken down without the aid of a steamboat. It was towed by a tug, and was finally landed at Independence intact.

The big logging outfit, which, in the employ of Captain Smith, has been operating in the vicinity of Corvallis for the past five months, has delivered a raft of 1,200,000 feet of white fir logs to the Oregon City pulp mill.

All the logs have been taken down except a raft of 50,000 feet now at the island above Corvallis. It is thought that 80,000 feet down the river. These will be taken to Oregon City by the Hong in a few days. Three hundred and fifty thousand feet of logs were taken from the Oregon place. Unless another contract is secured there will be no more logging operations by the outfit for the present.

WASHINGTON.

The revenue cutter Bear is taking 400 tons of Blue Canyon coal from Lake Whatcombs.

The establishment of a wool-scouring plant at the mouth of the partner of Melville Stone in Michigan, who had arranged to engage in the business.

Three roofer citizens are reported to have been spotted in Silver Lake, near Medical lake, with a head and face of a monkey. Large eyes that shone like balls of fire and with a row of fangs on its back webbed together.

A \$500 of the \$4,000 required is yet to be raised for the Gilmore creamery, at New Whatcombs. Bellingham bay people will hold \$1,000 of the capital stock, the other \$1,000 outside the state.

A vast acreage of grape has been shown this season in Kijickat county, and all bids fair to produce an abundant yield. One observer estimates that the wheat crop of Kijickat county this year will be somewhere near 1,000,000 bushels.

A new saw mill to cost \$50,000 is soon to be erected on the water front in Tacoma by the partner of Melville Stone, which is H. M. Lillis. Work on the mill is now commenced in thirty days. The capacity of the mill will be 30,000 feet of lumber per day.

A promising discovery is reported on Carlock creek, forty-five miles west of Marcus, H. McIntyre, the locator of the claim, which is called the Monte Carlo claim, showed an assay result which shows that the ore assays in gold and silver, and is very rich. It is of the peacock variety. He says there is a ledge there six feet wide.

The Anderson Woodmen company of Tacoma has received an order from a Kansas City packing house for 200 carloads of wood to be manufactured from wood native to Washington. Several days ago the company received orders from Kansas City, Omaha and other central eastern packing houses for woodmenware, aggregating 200 carloads.

The specifications of the gasoline launch that is to carry summer travel between Astoria and Iwaco, connecting with Columbia river boats, have been ordered. The boat is to have two engines of twenty-horse power each, instead of fifteen, and her forward part will be built for trucking baggage, holding enough cargo to pack twelve carloads.

The Goldenstate Agricultural reports that out on the R. A. Simms place, on the Columbia mountain, the crops are acting in a peculiar manner. They are budding their wheat and other central eastern packing houses for woodmenware, aggregating 200 carloads.

The numerous claims that have been taken up under the Brockway canal, on the Fetterburg river, have been ordered. The boat is to have two engines of twenty-horse power each, instead of fifteen, and her forward part will be built for trucking baggage, holding enough cargo to pack twelve carloads.

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**BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO COMPANY.**

DURHAM, N. C.

Dear Sir:

You are entitled to receive FREE from your wholesale dealer, WHITE STAR SOAP with all the

**Blackwell's Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco** you buy. One bar of soap free with each pound, whether 10 oz., 8 oz., 4 oz., or 2 oz. packages.

We have notified every wholesale dealer in the United States that we will supply them with soap to give you FREE. Order a good supply of GENUINE DURHAM at once, and insist on GETTING your soap. One bar of WHITE STAR with each pound you buy. Soap is offered for a limited time, so order to-day.

Yours very truly,

**BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO COMPANY.**

If you have any difficulty in procuring your soap, or out this notice and send it to your wholesale dealer.

the direction in which we expected to navigate the boats.

It was thought for a bottle.

It removed the cork, rolled up the manuscript, and when the boat was within the grasp of the passengers, a tall Missouri colored, hasty spoke up.

"Capt. he said, pale, but with the ring of iron resolution in his voice, 'I see that you have done a great deal of work here and I'll empty it.' 'A. Thanks. Now let 'er go!'"

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