

MINES OF THE NORTHWEST SECTION

Gold There and Plenty of It, But the Road Question Must Be Solved.

Mineral Oil There But No Drillers—

Garnets Found Near De Luz—

Systematic Mining Will Pay—

Death of Promoter Thompson

Fallbrook's mines are altogether in the prospective. Until quite recently, the mining industry has never had many enthusiastic and persistent representatives in this section of the county but at present active development work is being done on both sides of the river, and those in charge are evidently determined to ascertain the exact value of these ore ledges. Numerous assays on ore samples taken from different portions of the Fallbrook country have shown values in gold running from \$1 to \$19 per ton, and gold has been washed, in small quantities, from the sand of the Santa Margarita river. Various "gopher holes" have been dug by quickly excited and easily disappointed prospectors, but little real development work has ever been done.

Several years ago a number of Colorado mining people furnished money for a shaft or two on the Albert Campbell ranch on the south side of the river, but after about twelve months work this enterprise was apparently abandoned. Now, however, Mr. Campbell and a number of his capitalist friends have resumed operations and say they are prepared to continue development until their properties are revenue producers. They are working intelligently, and are confident that when the right levels are reached they will be able to demonstrate that Fallbrook is to be a mining center second to none in the county. They are giving out no figures, but say that assays made recently show results that greatly encourage them to proceed.

The rock formation on the north side of the river is somewhat different from that nearer the town of Fallbrook. In the hills across the Temecula canyon, opposite the railway station, superficial mining work has been going on for several years. At present the Fallbrook Gold Mining company is working on a group of claims that appear to be very promising. This corporation is composed of Fallbrook, Oceanside and Los Angeles men, and has plenty of money with which to carry out its plans. These claims have water and wood close at hand, and those in charge of the work say that machinery will soon be installed to handle the ore that is being mined. Quite a force of men has been employed in these operations, and the indications are that the number is about to be increased.

Indications of the presence of mineral oil are numerous in various parts of the Fallbrook country, some of the deeper wells containing plain traces of oil, but no effort has ever been made to drill down to reach the source of supply.

Garnets of an inferior grade have been found in a small canyon between this place and De Luz, and a few days' work performed at that particular spot shows that they exist there in considerable numbers. Because of their very doubtful value, the owner is not inclined to prosecute the work much farther.

In De Luz two different prospects have received considerable work. Vincent Riboni has a gold and copper vein on his ranch which has been fairly well opened by him. The same is true of the Fahrenkrug brothers' ranch. All the assays and other indications are encouraging in this valley.

No mining prospects in the county have received more marked attention and favorable comment from mining men than the copper deposits in the Defiance mining district, situated in the extreme northwestern corner of the county. These deposits were first discovered by deer hunters from Fallbrook, in 1895, and enough work has been done on the various groups of claims to prove that there are in that locality several wide and well defined veins of ore which carry large values in gold, silver and copper.

The Defiance is located on a government forest reservation between the Santa Margarita and Santa Rosa land grants, and because of its isolated position and consequent lack of road development has been greatly retarded. The district is not far from Fallbrook, but has a county road connection only with Murrieta, in Riverside county. The Defiance, or Recluse county, as it is better known, has water and fuel in abundance, and the road problem is the only serious one which its promoters are called upon to solve.

Several years ago an English company obtained various options from the claim owners and commenced work on an extensive plan of development, but an incompetent engineer caused the company to spend several thousands of dollars on a road which proved unfit for their use, and the company's officers became discouraged and withdrew from the field. Assessment work is being done each year, however, and when a road is finally built, into either this or Riverside county, those who have taken care of their holdings will meet with their reward. Many assays made by reputable mineralogists from honestly selected samples of Defiance ore have given values of \$25 to \$40 per ton.

The death of Andrew Thompson of Chula Vista, the well known miner and prospector, may be something of a setback to the Defiance district. Mr. Thompson owned several groups of claims on which he had done some very satisfactory development work, and had only recently signed a contract with John S. Dunn and other Los Angeles capitalists, by the terms of which the district was to receive a thorough development. Like all others who have been identified with this district, Mr. Thompson had unlimited faith in its future, and he also possessed the ability to interest men of large means in his operations. For the benefit of this district, and for the success of the mining industry throughout the county, it is to be hoped that some men like Mr. Thompson will become interested in the mines and minerals.