

Harmon-Johnson Taking Gold Out at Downie Placers

The Downie placers on McCully's Fork, near Sumpter in the early days of that locality were among the best known mining operations. This property has been idle for more than 30 years.

The water rights which furnished water for hydraulic pipes in working the ground were sold to the city of Sumpter and the water used in the city water system. Following this the mine has been idle with but few attempts made to work it.

H. A. Harmon of Sumpter, has recently solved the problem of working the ground and states that they are well pleased with the results. He states the clean-ups made since starting the work have shown a recovery of an ounce of gold an hour. Associated with Mr. Harmon is Mr. Johnson, an Alaska miner, who is at the property.

The plan of operating, Mr. Johnson states, is one that is proving successful in a number of places in Alaska.

A large pump with Diesel power has been installed on the bank of McCully's Fork and the water pumped to ten sluice boxes, an elevation of less than 100 feet.

A caterpillar bulldozer is used to dig the gravel and bring it to the point where it is driven by the water into the sluice boxes.