

HEAVY SNOWS BURY HOWLAND MINE IN WINTER

Continuous operations have progressed on a small scale for more than eight years at the Howland mine, situated in the high mountain ranges between the Rogue and Illinois rivers. Shut in by snow which falls to a depth of from four to eight feet in the winter, the mine is accessible only by a circuitous trail during the summer months.

From two to five persons have been employed during the eight years the mine has been in operation, prospecting and developing the property which consists of a group of 11 claims.

George L. Howland, an experienced prospector and a practical engineer, discovered the mine and, with his son, Leonard, has actively engaged in its development ever since.

Like many others of his profession, Mr. Howland has been at the scene of many big gold strikes in different parts of the world. He believes now, however, that his roaming days are over, for he has at last found what he has searched for and dreamed of during the years of his travels.

During the operation of the mine more attention has been given to determining the extent of the deposits and testing the values of the ore bodies in various ledges and veins that have been opened, than in actual production. But as a sort of by-product, sufficient gold has been extracted in a small ball mill installed several years ago to pay practically all costs of operation. The mill is run by water power which is available only a month or so in the spring.

Some three hundred feet of tunnel has been drilled during the past several months which should cut one of the lower ore shoots on the hillside, about a hundred feet deeper than has been reached hereto-

for. As the tunnel is extended further into the hill the other veins will be cut at much greater depth.

Geologically, the rocks are chiefly serpentine or greenstone and gabbro, a dark grey, intrusive rock that has a texture like that of granite and is equally as hard. The veins are composed chiefly of quartz and near the surface iron oxides are abundant.

N. W. Williams, of the Pick N' Pan hardware store, who was a successful mine operator in California and Alaska before entering the hardware business, investigated the property a year or so ago and became so enthused with the prospects that he purchased an interest in the mine and has been associated with its development since that time.

Last winter a small hydraulic plant was installed and, with the aid of a storage reservoir, sufficient water was available to wash off a lot of the hillside dirt that is from three to 20 feet deep, in order to uncover new veins.

The water gave out before the objective was reached, but some \$400 worth of very rich gold bearing quartz apparently broken from a rich ledge that had worked down into the dirt, was picked up on the exposed bedrock. It is planned to explore this ground at an early date.

Transportation of provisions and mine equipment by muleback has retarded exploration work. It is hoped that a forest road, now partly constructed, will be completed this year. As soon as this is done truck transportation will become available, and it is the intention of the owners, to install mining and milling machinery on a large scale.

Judging from the values recovered in the prospecting stages of the development this mine has every indication of becoming one of the large gold producers of the state, in the opinion of Mr. Williams and others who have appraised the mine.