

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

Report by: W. A. G. Bennett  
Date: May 31, 1944

## MITCHELL IRON ORE PROSPECT near O'BRIEN

Grants Pass area  
Josephine County

On April 29 a trip was made to a point two miles northwest of O'Brien in company with Mr. J. H. Mitchell of Oakland, California. Mr. Mitchell had previously written to Mr. Ray C. Treasher - the first time in August, 1943, and later in October of that same year. During the time the State Assay Office was closed, Mitchell wrote to Mr. Nixon requesting that his property be investigated as soon as some one was employed here at the Assay office.

Very soon after my arrival here, I wrote to Mr. Mitchell and asked him if he wished to accompany me to O'Brien. He finally obtained a reservation by air after several failures, and arrived here the evening of April 28. We started out the next morning and on arriving in O'Brien, the husband of the Postmistress there was taken along as one who would know the exact location of the claims. Mitchell had previously sent a map of which the claims were supposed to be accurately located. Mitchell apparently did not know that the map was inaccurate. After driving to the end of the road at Rough and Ready Creek, we were unable to find any open cuts for definite claim notices. The man we took along from O'Brien, much to the surprise of Mitchell, knew nothing of the claims. So, instead of wandering around aim-

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

## MITCHELL PROSPECT (2)

lessly in the brush, we returned to Grants Pass. Mitchell then left by stage for Oakland after failing to get communication with the man -- a Major Vance -- who originally located the claims.

It is my understanding that Mitchell will bring Vance along with him, and that I will go out and go to O'Brien again. It is my impression that Major Vance is very enthusiastic about there being a very large iron deposit near O'Brien. Apparently Mr. Mitchell is endeavoring to sell this "Iron Deposit". I found only one open cut in sacsonite. Around about there is a reddish soil obviously containing some iron. If the claims are found in this peridotite area, there is practically no hope of iron deposits.

When Mr. Mitchell is able to come north again with Major Vance, I shall make another trip with them to O'Brien to visit their prospects and perhaps sample a few of the open cuts. I explained to Mitchell that if the claims occurred in the peridotite, chances for there being iron deposits are very few.

I surmise that Mitchell is a real estate broker in Oakland.

In conclusion, I think Mitchell is sincere, but both he and Major Vance are woefully lacking in general knowledge of mining and geology.