

Eastern Oregon News, 6/24/38

TEST⁷⁰⁹ OLD DYKE FOR LOW GRADE MINING

Braden Company Has Men
Sampling Mammoth
Dyke at Malheur

BULLDOZER USED TO STRIP SURFACE

Preliminary Sampling
Date Has Been F
able, and Testing V
Continued.

Several weeks ago preliminary sampling of the Mammoth porphyry dyke at Malheur City was undertaken by Thomas Hamilton representative of Col. William Braden, of the Braden Copper company of Chili, S. A.

The first sampling proved encouraging and a series of other samples were taken, with the result that Mr. Thompson returned to Baker this week and will undertake further testing of the ground to determine if the dyke can be developed into a large low grade gold operation as the sampling to date has indicated possible.

The dyke is several hundred feet wide and croppings of it show for a long distance through the hills. It is considered to have been the source of much of the placer gold that was recovered by the early day miners from the placer fields below the dyke.

A bulldozer has been ordered by Mr. Thompson and will be used to remove the overburden from the dyke material and permit a more thorough sampling and testing of the deposit. Should these tests prove favorable it is expected to carry the work on with the purpose of making it a large low grade gold operation to treat several thousand tons of the material per day.

—GRAND PARADE JULY 4—

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Malheur County

Thomas Hamilton is expected to resume sampling of the **Mammoth** porphery dike at **Malheur City** to determine its possibilities for large scale low grade gold mining. The surface will be bulldozed. **Hamilton** is reported to represent the **Braden** interests.

Mammoth Low Grade Gold Body Scrutinized by Big Concern

The work in this section the past summer of the Silva Corporation, headed by Col. Wm. Braden, one of the most widely known of American mining men, has brought to Eastern Oregon the most comprehensive testing operations yet attempted in an effort to locate massive low-grade bodies of gold ore.

This Los Angeles and New York concern tested in Southern Oregon last year. Early this summer officials made a preliminary survey of Malheur district geology. Sufficient promise was given and then a more extensive examination of the old Eldorado ground northeast of Malheur City indicated the showing warranted active testing for gold values.

The extent of the sampling done during the succeeding several months is indicative of the size of an operation the concern would like to develop.

Much Work Done

Six thousand feet of open cut excavation was done by a bulldozer, old workings of the area were thoroughly examined and unwatered where necessary and diamond drilling was done at points located by the preliminary work.

Churn drilling will be the final phase of the exploration work, a phase, which if begun, is one of locating ore bodies for mining operations.

The ground, owned for the most part by Baker and Malheur county residents, has not been actively mined for the past 40 years. Earlier the famous Eldorado ditch brought water for small placer miners about 1873. Of recent months renewed interest is manifest in this as in other Eastern Oregon areas.

The Silva Corporation's engineer has had about 20 men on the sampling project this summer. The open cut work is ten feet in width, the bulldozer going down to the hardpan—from two to 21 feet below the surface. A scarifier broke into the "hard" and from this

samples were taken and triple-assayed. The longest trench is 2800 feet in length, sampled in alternate 15-foot distances throughout its entire length. Other trenches, a total of 6000 feet in all, tangent off through different significant formations. Diamond drilling is now testing the ore to a depth of over 200 feet.

Would Be Sizeable

The project by a company which developed the Braden and Andes copper properties in South America is based on new principles of gold mining. Explained by Silva's Engineer T. M. Hamilton, the objective is the "disseminated" gold throughout the massive granodiorite of the local area. The value sought is thus a low figure per ton, and the tonnage minimum is a high one. In rough figures it is believed the minimum operation would call for 2500 tons daily capacity and Mr. Hamilton suggested from 10,000 to 50,000 tons as a maximum—figures unheard of here tofore in western gold mining.

Malheur offers limited water resources for milling and probable difficulties in tailings disposal. Of this the company representative indicated preliminary showings made them "willing to gamble." Water would, however, limit the size of an operation in the Malheur district.

No Definite Word

The outcome of the extensive sampling work is not yet apparent. The progressive thoroughness of the testing in its various stages would indicate likelihood of sufficient ore value to interest the company further, and with many thousands of dollars invested in testing the company "has its fingers crossed." But the mathematics of the final sampling in the great ore body, alone, will determine whether it can be mined at a profit.

And on the outcome of these figures depends the possibility of this district's getting at this time a really big gold mine.