

[Correspondence of the Times.]

~~From the Mines,~~

ORLEANS BAR, December 25.

MR. EDITOR:—Having seen an article in a late number of the *Times*, asking information from some of the gentlemen of the "Pick and Shovel." In answer to your request, I have to say, that in this locality, the best ground is at or near the surface, consequently we work from the top down, say four or five feet, frequently ten feet and to the "bed rock," where it pays. So far the Miners have done little more than skim the surface, though it is supposed that when thoroughly tested, the bed will be found rich. The ledge or bed rock, is sometimes granite, but most generally it is found to be Slate, sometimes mixed with Quartz. As to the average yield to the bucket, it is hard to determine; perhaps three cents would be a fair estimate, though, in places where it pays deep, good wages are made with a Shovel at much less prospects.—The soil is found to be both clayey and sandy, according to locality.

I am well aware, that this is not a very flattering account, but if there be a better locality for mining I do not know where it is. I left the Southern Mines two years ago—then there was scarcely room for a miner to obtain a claim which afforded a decent show for mining; here there is plenty of "sea-room" for ten times the population that is now on the river. Our Creeks and Gulches, so far as they have been prospected, all pay. The Klameth River has never had the notoriety it deserves; the facilities for getting here have not until lately been good, but now, with two steamers and thirty or forty sail vessels plying regularly between San Francisco and Humboldt Bay at the

present low rates of passage, making it the most economical route to or from this section—that difficulty is removed.

I have lived in California five years and have never lived so well before as I do here. We have an inexhaustible supply of Venison, Elk, Bear and Salmon, also vegetables of almost every description, and very cheap.

As yet, but few families have come into this section, though many are expected to arrive early in the Spring. If I had a wife I should not hesitate to bring her here in preference to any place in California; the people here are quiet and orderly; none of the rowdy "Sidney Cores" that formerly infested the mining regions are tolerated here. The climate in this section, and particularly in this locality, cannot be excelled. Persons who were here before "49" was discovered, say that no person has ever died in this vicinity since that time. Two or three have been killed or drowned, but that we do not think should be numerated among deaths, but rather as casualties, incident to all countries. About sixty Chinamen have lately migrated from the Salmon, they say, the diggings are good enough for them.

We would much rather the same number of some other people had come amongst us, but I suppose they must live somewhere, though really I don't see much necessity for that. I notice that the *Times* speaks about the necessity of removing the Indians to a reservation. I presume you do not apply it to "our" Indians, if so, you are wrong in the view you take of it, for in the first place, the tribes in this vicinity are better off here than they possible can be made elsewhere. And I ask you, would it be as good policy, as honorable or as just to force them from their homes into a strange country and supply their places with the long tailed celestial gentry. The latter lives upon comparatively nothing, and whatever he makes he takes.

to force them from their homes into a strange country and supply their places with the long tailed ecclesiastical gentry. The latter lives upon comparatively nothing, and whatever he makes he takes away with him. The former does nearly as much work, gets as much gold, and spends every dollar with the traders, either for necessaries or superfluities. Did time allow, I could furnish to you incontrovertible evidences, that the two people, so far as applied to benefits resulting to the country, the Indian is entitled to more consideration at the hands of the Government.

I have written desultorily, and not so explicitly as you may have expected, in regard to the mines and for the simple reason that neither I or any one else can speak definitely, and consequently, I can only say that miners are better contented here than in any district I have visited. As for telling big gold stories, if acceptable to you, I am not the man to do so. If you are desirous of obtaining such humbugery as is practised in other sections, you can sit in your office and write them as large as you please, and from my experience, I will guarantee they will be as true as the majority of those which are daily published in other portions of the State.

MINER.

HUMBOLDT MINERS.

UNION, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

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