

READ AND REFLECT

SOME SOUND ADVICE TO OWNERS OF PROSPECTS.

Poor Business Policy to Demand a Bonus of Prospective Buyers for the Privilege of Developing Your Own Claims.—Such Methods Will Seriously Injure the District.

There is a growing belief in the minds of outside mining men, that while there is no question as to the merits of the Sumpter ore belt, it is impossible to obtain anything like a reasonable opportunity to develop prospects held by a certain class of claim owners in this section. The intelligent, trained, experienced prospector, who has seen something of the commercial side of life, knows how difficult it is to influence capital, and is always reasonable in his demands, but the unreasonable attitude of a numerous class of claim owners will certainly result in keeping capital out of the district, and more than offset every effort thus far made to attract men of means to enter and develop this field, and thus retard, if not completely check, the development of one of the greatest gold belts in America, and in the end become a lot of worthless, undeveloped claims in the hands of their owners, who will foolishly lose the opportunity to benefit themselves and the camp.

If the former owners of the Little Giant had taken this unreasonable and selfish position, there would have been no mine or mill there today. They gave permission to those who were willing and able to find a mine, to work their property and received wages on their own property while it was being developed, and inside of a year sold their mine for \$30,000. It would seem that examples like this would instill a little business sense into the heads of the class referred to, who, like the proverbial "dog in the manger," will neither eat nor allow anyone else to.

There are men in this camp owning claims, upon which there is not a hole big enough to cover a hat, who cannot tell a man whether their ore runs a nickel or a dollar a ton, have no conception of the law of averages, who demand a bonus of every intending investor for the mere risky privilege of discovering a mine. This is a part of the history that has retarded the growth of all camps, but there are more men here who know nothing of the value of their ore than any spot I know of. What they are working for is hard to discover. They might as well dig a hole in a snow bank. The writer recently visited a mine where the owner claimed he had been robbed by the last leaser. When asked what his ore averaged per ton, he did not know. The mystery is how he knew he had been robbed. The woods are full of these fellows who continually make the mistake by assuming the other fellow doesn't know anything. The law of retribution is certain to follow these mistaken notions. It is possible that these men will get over this delusion some day, as they sigh for lost opportunities and in the remote future have the sweet satisfaction of knowing that they are the sole owners of a piece of ground 600x1500 feet that they can leave to their heirs.

A man or company that puts money into a prospect with a view to find a mine, is certainly taking a big per cent of the chances, while the owner of the claim takes none. He is sure of wages while prospecting his own ground. If a mine is found, his chance for a sale is good, if not he is ahead of the game anyway. The utter absurdity of asking an investor

from one to five thousand dollars for the privilege of spending more thousands on a non-producing claim, is apparent to anyone who will give it a moment of thought. The forfeit asked is generally the limit of the owner's faith in the claim, otherwise he would work his ground or allow others to do so.

As a rule, the milling gold ores of this and other gold districts, are not poor men's propositions, except where the owner can develop and sell. Even if developed, a mill of some kind is required before any income can be looked for. There would be just as much sense for the state to pass a law placing a tax of \$1,000 or more on every man who desired to make a mine, as for the owner of an idle claim to tax an intending investor for the opportunity of exploring the ground.

A going mine inspires faith, an idle one acts the reverse, and shows a lack of faith.

If the owners of unworked ground desire the aid of experience and capital, or have any regard for their own success or that of the district, they must pursue a more rational and business like course. It is easier to tear down prosperity than to build it up.

There is no necessity for a man to separate himself from his brains because he owns a small hole in the ground.

J. F. L.

Gem of the Mountain Bonded.

R. R. Erwin and John F. Leland have taken bond for a year on the Gem of the Mountain mine, at Susanville. The water will be taken out and preparations made to begin work at once. The Gem has a fine record. It is a patented property, and ranks second to none as a producer. Three feet of the ore milled \$10 per ton in gold over the plates, and there is over a foot that will run over \$50 in gold. The mine was worked at a profit in the 'seventies by Fred Cabbell, who built the first stamp mill in that district. It is a payer from the jump.

LINES OF THE Sumpter Stage Transfer Co.

CARRYING U. S. MAILS.

SUMPTER-CANYON ROUTE.

12:30 p. m.	Lv	Sumpter	Ar	10:30 a. m.
1:30 p. m.	Ar	Clifford	Lv	8:00 a. m.
3:40 p. m.	Lv	Clifford	Ar	7:30 a. m.
7:10 p. m.	Ar	Austin	Lv	5:00 a. m.

Connecting at Austin with stages for Canyon City and interior points.

3:40 p. m.	Lv	Clifford	Ar	7:30 a. m.
5:00 p. m.	Ar	Bonanza	Lv	6:30 a. m.

Connecting at Bonanza with stages for Pys, Robinsonville, Worley, Virginia, Don Juan and Elcher mines.

SUMPTER-GRANITE ROUTE.

12:30 p. m.	Lv	Sumpter	Ar	10:00 a. m.
4:30 p. m.	Ar	Granite	Lv	7:00 a. m.

Livery at Granite to North Fork, Red Boy, Banquette and adjacent mines.

SUMPTER-BOURNE ROUTE.

12:30 p. m.	Lv	Sumpter	Ar	9:30 a. m.
3:00 p. m.	Ar	Bourne	Lv	8:00 a. m.
5:30 p. m.	Ar	Columbia	Lv	7:30 a. m.

Including North Pole, E. & E., Climax, Ohio and adjacent mines.

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