

SUMPTER HAS A BANK.

In Temporary Quarters Until Brick Block is Built.

The First Bank of Sumpter is open for business.

Friday the directors elected these officers: J. H. Robbins, president; J. W. Scriber, vice-president; J. W. Mead, cashier. The directors are R. H. Miller, Clark Snyder and the above named officers. The local stockholders, besides Messrs. Mead and Snyder, are H. Sloan, Thomas McEwen, Postmaster Kahler, Mike Lynch, J. B. Stoddard, J. G. Connell and W. W. Looney. Messrs. Scriber, Robbins and Miller are from La Grande; J. Frank Watson, another stockholder, lives in Portland.

The bank has bought the corner lot, 25 by 100 feet on Center and Granite, which was originally leased for the purpose, paying therefor \$2700. This is the highest price yet paid for Sumpter realty. At first this property was leased for a period of ten years, at a monthly rental of \$25, but for some reason or other the deal fell through.

A two-story brick block, 25 by 60 feet, will be erected at once on the lot, to be occupied by the bank. The plans were drawn for a one-story building, and some little delay was occasioned in having them changed. The brick have been bought from C. Y. Burr. They were contracted for some weeks since. The work of construction will be commenced immediately.

The bank is doing business in the Sumpter Hardware company's store for the present, and will remain there until its building is completed.

BAKER COUNTY'S WEALTH.

Geiser Brothers Make a Good Talk to a Portland Paper.

"If the eastern Oregon gold mines were near the North Pole, so that people would run the risk of freezing to death in reaching them, what a rush there would be," said Ed Geiser, at the Portland last evening. Mr. Geiser is one of three brothers who are now regarded as pioneers in the stamp milling industry of Baker county. Eight years ago the brothers had a 10-stamp mill running on the Bonanza mine, which they have since sold to a Philadelphia company at a large figure. The Bonanza is now running forty stamps night and day, and the mines are getting out ore from the 700-foot level, while its former owners, now men of wealth, are developing other quartz propositions in the same district.

The Geiser brothers, although still young men, have been seventeen years in the mining business. A few years ago, they came to eastern Oregon from Colorado, in straightened circumstances, and when they obtained possession of the Bonanza they were in debt. They point now to many successful men in Baker county who were no better off than themselves.

The mineral belt of eastern Oregon, Mr. Geiser says, begins at the Seven Devils and reaches the head of the John Day, a distance of 200 miles. In width it averages sixty miles, and the paying ledges are simply scattered all over it. No prospect holes have yet been sunk on any of its ledges that did not pay better as the pick and drill sank deeper into the earth. This is a record, he says, that cannot be duplicated in any mining region of the world, there being absolutely no risk in taking hold of a mining proposition, according to business methods.

But a quartz mine takes money to develop, and the man who has \$25,000 at his command has an advantage over the man who has but \$10,000. It takes \$10,000 to develop a quartz mine, and \$15,

000 to put up a modern stamp mill. Then the owner is ready to sell out to foreign capitalists who are looking for a sure, paying investment.

Until recently, the mines of Baker county have been worked by home capital, which has been limited, and the development has consequently been slow. Now, however, capital is coming in from the East, and from foreign sources, and the success of the entire district is assured. He thinks it is the greatest mining district the world has ever seen. "Look at the fuss they make over Cripple Creek," he said, "a district six miles square, while in eastern Oregon we have over 200 miles long by sixty wide, whose permanence and value exceeds Cripple Creek at every point. On the Golconda, last week, ore valued at \$55,000 was taken out within forty-eight hours, and this is only one of the many rich ledges of the district."

Candidly, Mr. Geiser thinks within a very few years the output of gold in eastern Oregon will revolutionize the finances of the world with its volume. Although millions are now taken out of the region every year, the product is only a drop in the bucket to the output when hundreds of rich ledges are contributing ore to the thousands of stamp mills now in contemplation.

Mr. Geiser cannot understand why the Linnton smelter is kept shut down, in view of the hundreds of tons of ore going to San Francisco, Tacoma and Everett every year. Portland is the natural point for a series of great smelters, and the city is sacrificing growth and prosperity in its neglect to grasp the golden opportunity. The three brothers—Al, Frank and Ed—are in Portland on business, and will remain here a few days.—Oregonian

Actual Assessment Work Necessary.

As the mining laws become more commonly understood, there are more relocations of claims for non-performance of assessment work. Many claim holders have appeared to believe that they could relocate their claims at the end of each year and hold them as against any would-be "jumper," some even going so far as to post a notice on the claim warning others to keep off; but the law requires that assessment to the amount of \$100 or improvements in like amount be made annually, and a failure to comply with this renders the claims subject to relocation. Where the assessment work has not been done, and the claim owner is on the ground at the expiration of the year, he must at once commence his work of assessment, and must actually complete it, exercising reasonable diligence in so doing, for the claim still remains open to relocation until the assessment work has been actually and fully performed.—Baker City Democrat.

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LEADING JEWELERS,
Mitchell Smith, Mgr. Baker City

THE RED FRONT



SOME NEW SUGGESTIONS

LADIES—We have just received a fine new line of Dress Goods, Exclusive Patterns, Dress Skirts and Trimmings, Outing Flannels, Ribbons, Laces, Underwear, Etc.

MEN'S WEAR—The latest shapes in Fall and Winter Hats. We carry the Geo. G. Snow Shoes. All the weights in Underwear.

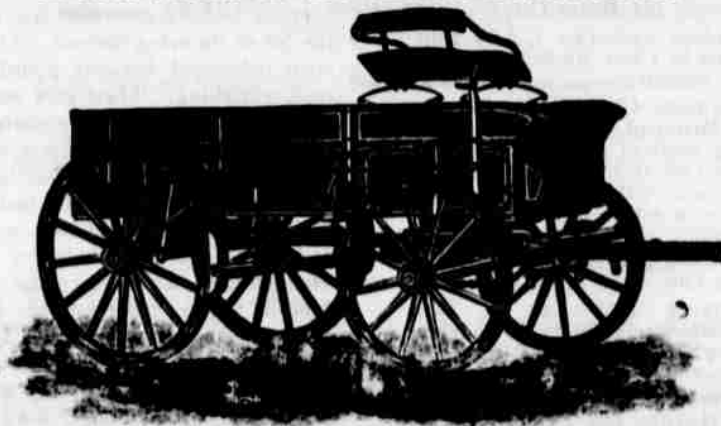
JUST LOOK AT THIS—A few items in Table Delicacies:—Gordon & Dillworths Port, Cognac and Sherry Jellies, English Plum Puddings, Orange Marmalade, Peach, Strawberry and Raspberry Jam, and many other good things for the stomach's sake.

W. C. CALDER

THE RED FRONT.

Sumpter, Oregon.

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Baker City, Oregon

Opera House
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Agents for Mattingly and Moore Whiskey—20-year-old whiskey as good as Elixir of Life. All whiskies out of bond and guaranteed the genuine article. Popular resort for Commercial Travelers and Miners.

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