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The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY J. W. CONNELLA

Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES One Year Six Months ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

A MINING broker from the east who was in Sumpter a few days since, in discussing advertising with the writer, roasted the eastern financial, mining and investing journals to a delicate brown. He said that when you see in one of those papers a page or two devoted to answering queries about certain companies and their properties, you can rely on the fact that they live on blackmail. Most of these questions are written in the home office, and it is a ten to one shot that if an unfavorable rep rt is printed, the company has refused to be bled; if favorable, the deal has been consummated, to the satisfaction of the publishers. This being the case, it is almost a sure thing that the owner of a wortnless property will pay for its laudation and the owner of a valuable one will not; so these pulished "reports" should be "coppered," Everyone knows that these eastern journals have no especial facilities for securing information regarding mines and that they will not incur the large expense of having an engineer make an examination and report. Their answers to queries are therefore of no value to the prospective investor.

Tue fire insurance rate in Sumpter has never been reduced since the water system was installed. It never will be until the property owners of this town get together and make some united effort to accomplish that end. The Pacific Insurance Union is one of the most independent irritatingly insolent trusts in existence, and regards a protest from an individual with amusement, and the act of a newspaper in voicing such protest with supercilious contempt. The only way to deal with this combination is to go at it with a leaded club, in the form of another combination. If the citizens of Sumpter who carry insurance at the present exorbitant rate will unite and demand a reasonable reduction, backed by a bonded agreement to cancel their policies unless the demand is granted, the insurance pirates will regard such action with neither amusement nor contempt. It will be treated with the utmost respect. This town has already paid ten times as much in insurance premiums as the fire losses have amounted to and it is time for some sort of reasonable, halfway decent treatment to be extended to it by the companies doing business here.

Userring the authorities of the entire school board, Cate Johns is now doing i exactly what the taxpayers of Sumpter voted should not be done, in reference to

school house repaired and an addition built thereto. At the recent school election \$4,500 was voted for a new building, on the promise of the board that it should be of brick. On an informal ballot the brick building proposition carried by an overwhelming majority. On the informal ballot the plan to erect an addition to the present building received only six votes. No bonds were voted for this purpose, and an attempt to sell them will doubtless be unsuccessful, for they will not be worth the paper they are printed on. Johns is all wrong and he can't be right under any circumstances. The effort of the American to make this whole transaction look straight and regular, to apologize for Johns' action, was a ridiculous failure, a transparent move to induce Johns to reinsert his advertisement in that paper, which was ordered out some weeks since because the management thereof showed a disposition to assert its independence, of which rash act it now repents and is auxious to grovel in the dust for five dollars a month—or less.

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