

**DISHONEST PROMOTORS
THE MINER'S ENEMY**

Drive Away Capitalists and Retard Development of Mines.

The following article was read by Lewis E. Aubury, state mineralogist of California, at the recent session of the American Mining Congress in El Paso, Texas:

Now that mining in general is causing more attention to be drawn towards it than probably any other industry, in my opinion a necessity has arisen for the enactment of stringent laws which will protect the investor in mining properties. Protective laws should have been passed a generation ago, and had they been, mining would not now be suffering to the extent that it is from the acts of unscrupulous promoters. While fully recognizing the efforts of the Government through the postoffice authorities in endeavoring to suppress the "wild cat" promoter, the "fake" operators are so numerous in the United States that there is a necessity for prompt legislation in the mining States which will end the operations of these individuals. The task of suppressing the illegitimate operator is such a stupendous one, that while the postal department is using the best means at its command to prosecute persons for the fraudulent use of the mails, strong efforts should be made to either extend the necessary aid to that department, or to enact such State laws as will provide for the prosecution of the fraudulent promoter, where glaring misrepresentations are made by him. You are probably all familiar with the styles of prospectus with which this class of promoters flood the public at times, and of the losses sustained by credu-

lous persons who have been induced to purchase the stock through reading this glowing literature. Probably no other business is so afflicted with parasites as is mining, and the injuries done by them are incalculable. The possibility of huge returns from small investments appeals strongly to the average person with little or no knowledge of mining conditions, and it often becomes an easy matter for the faker, with his flowery prospectus, to secure capital from gullible persons.

But few recognize the great injury to mining investments which has been accomplished in this country by the fake promoter. We can see the results in the millions of dollars of capital which are at the present passing us and seeking investment in our sister Republic, Mexico, in South American countries, and in British possessions. I would not wish to create the impression that all of the capital seeking investments elsewhere is caused by the fact that the foreigner has been "bitten" so often in this country that he is seeking other fields, but I do claim that a large proportion of this capital would be invested in this country had not so many illegitimate mining schemes been foisted upon the public in the past.

Not until confidence has been re-established in our mines by the passage of such law as has been suggested, so that the investor can feel that he will be protected, do I look for the tide to turn our way, and not seek other channels. Now, let us rid ourselves of these leeches, and the sooner the better, and when this has been accomplished, mining will have been placed on a higher standard, and the legitimate promoter will have some chance of enlisting capital to aid him in developing his mining property. As it is, the investor with no knowledge of mining is not generally able to distinguish the good from the bad, and it is useless to tell him of the

necessity for securing expert opinion before investing. He listens to the tale of the wily faker, who speaks of guaranteed dividends, fabulous assays, etc., etc., and obtains expert advice after he has invested, and when the promises made him fail to materialize. When he realizes that he has been handed a "gold brick" with brass trimmings, he forever abjures mining and mining operators, and loses no opportunity to condemn the same. If, on the other hand, he made a profitable investment in a legitimate proposition, there is a strong probability that his capital could again be enlisted in mining, and the industry would have gained a friend instead of an enemy.

At the last session of the California Legislature I had the honor of presenting a bill, and which became a law, which aimed to put a stop to fraudulent practices. The law reads as follows:

"Section 1. Any superintendent, director, secretary, manager, agent or other officer, of any corporation formed or existing under the laws of this State, or transacting business in the same, and any person pretending or holding himself out as such superintendent, director, secretary, manager, agent, or other officer, who shall willfully subscribe, sign, endorse, verify, or otherwise assent to the publication, either generally or privately, to the stockholders or other persons dealing with such corporation or its stock, any untrue or willfully and fraudulently exaggerated report, prospectus, account, statement of operations, values, business, profits, expenditures or projects, or other paper or document intended to produce or give, or having a tendency to produce or give, to the shares of stock in such corporation a greater value or less apparent or market value than they really possess, or with the intention of defrauding any particular person or persons, or the public, or persons generally, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in State prison, or a county jail not exceeding two years, or by fine not exceeding \$5000, or by both.

Section 2. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act are hereby repealed."

BUSINESS POINTERS.

Ink—at Model Drug Store.
Clans Scissors at Cramer Bros.
Fresh roasted coffee at Smythe's.
Stransky Steel Ware at Cramer Bros.
Japanese dolls, get them at Smythe's.
Order seals and rubber stamps of A. E. Voorhies.

See Cramer Bros.' corner window for bargains in Heating Stoves.
Most any kind of Shade ornamental trees and Berry plants. See Taylor at Model Drug Store. 1-19 st.

Send your family washing to the Steam Laundry. All rough dry work 25 cent per dozen. Phone 373.

Charter Oak Stoves and Ranges were awarded gold Medal at Portland exposition. Coron Sells them.

Eyes carefully tested and glasses fitted to correct any defect of vision by Dr. W. F. Krenner, Courier building. Prices reasonable.

Garland Stoves & Ranges at Cramer Bros.

A prize given with each pound of coffee purchased at Smythe's Rogue River Coffee Market.

Your clothes called for and delivered and all flatwork that goes through the mangle washer, ironed at 25c per dozen. Grants Pass Steam Laundry. Phone 373.

Letcher has just received another stock of lenses and can fit all kinds of eyes. His apparatus for the testing of vision is all up-to-date and the most reliable kind.

Corporation books, stock certificates and seals at the Courier office.

Can a Man Be Mayor and Be a Christian?

Topic of sermon by the pastor, Joseph B. Travis at the Baptist church Sunday evening, a discussion of Christianity as applied to Civic affairs. Not theories, but conditions presented.

Sunday morning topic is "An Awakening That Counted." Sunday school at 12 o'clock, the convenient hour for everyone. A cordial greeting for all.

WILDERVILLE

J. W. McCollum lost a horse recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan's little daughter is quite sick.

Mrs. H. D. Jones is visiting friends on Rogue river.

We are having a few spells of sunshine, after so much rain.

Emma McCann visited a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Anderson on Rogue river.

W. Y. McCollum's health continued so poorly that he has gone to visit a daughter at Newberg, Oregon, hoping to regain his strength.

Mrs. J. W. McCollum's health is improving. Uncle Fuller.

LELAND

The late heavy rains have given the miners plenty of water so that class of people is happy.

The stage running to Greenback also other points is doing a good business, although the road is very bad.

There has been a little snow in the air but the weather is mild. People are going around without coats; grass is growing nicely and mud in plenty—better than to have the ground frozen two feet deep.

We have no sickness to report, some people have slight attacks of the hen-flu-end-ways but of a mild form; nothing serious. Wideawake.

CHURCH NOTICES.

Newman M. E. Church.

The evangelistic services are still in progress. The pastor will speak in the morning on "How to be Spirit-possessed." In the evening on "The Sin Against the Holy Spirit, or The

Unpardonable Sin." Last Sunday night found the church crowded so that the League room was opened to accommodate the people. A repetition of this fact would be very acceptable. You are invited to attend.

St. Luke's Church.

Mr. Williams will preach his anniversary sermon Sunday morning at the regular service which begins at 11 o'clock. Special music will be provided for this service, which will be of interest to all. All members and attendants are particularly requested to be present, and a cordial invitation is extended to all others to attend.

The choir has recently been increased by the addition of several good singers, and now is at least one of the best choirs in the city. The music of the Episcopal Church is of a high order and such as conduces to the right spirit of reverence and worship. The regular evening service will be held Sunday, at 7:30.

Christian Church.

Meetings are being well attended and services are full of interest. The sermons are on important subjects for the thoughtful person. This week Mr. Bower has spoken on "Origin of the Bible." "What is the Bible?" "Who is Jesus?" "What is conversion?" "What's the use of a Christian life?" The stereopticon has been used to illustrate the songs some evenings. This will be continued next week as will also the strong, vital sermons by the minister.

A cordial invitation is given to all to attend each service. Special music is a feature each evening. Mr. Bower's regular invitation is "Come, bring your Bible and friend."

Having bought a new lot of cloth at a bargain, the Grants Pass Tailoring company is now able to make a first-class suit at almost half the former price. Call and examine our goods and get prices. Number 512, West G street, opposite Depot. 12-15 tf

R. L. COE & COMPANY

GRAND INTRODUCTION SALE OF

NEW SPRING MERCHANDISE

THE BIG STORE TO THE FRONT AS USUAL

While competitors are offering you all sorts of inducements to buy their old winter goods, the Big Store has been head over heels getting their new spring goods ready for this great INTRODUCTION SALE. Never in all our experience have we been able to place before our patrons such rare bargains as you will now find on our counters. While all classes of cotton have advanced from 10 to 20 per cent in price during the past six months, we were fortunate in being able to make some early purchases last fall, before the advance, that will not only open your eyes but your purse also. All fashion authorities are now predicting that this is to be the greatest white dress goods season ever known, we received some tips from the heads of large eastern importers and have just placed on our counters

Wagon Loads of New Spring Dress Goods, Embroideries, Laces, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels, Napkins, Table Linens, Calicoes, Gingham, Bats and Sheeting

at prices that will put the discount sales of old winter goods out of business.

One Word About Our Big Shoe Department

Our Big Shoe Department under the efficient management of Mr. Albert B. Coe has been thoroughly reorganized. At our big sale last summer we cleared out all odd and broken lots and now have on our shelves a brand new and clean stock of up-to-date shoes.

MORE THAN DOUBLE THE STOCK CARRIED UNDER ANY ONE ROOF IN SOUTHERN OREGON

and if we can't save you from 25c to \$1.00 on every pair of shoes you buy we will make you a present of the best shoe in the house.

We are Exclusive Agents for W. L. Douglas, Hamilton-Brown and Pingree Shoes

Think of buying Hamilton-Brown Famous Fine Kid Shoe, every pair Warranted. Ladies and Misses Think of it at only **\$1.50**

Did you ever see the big advertisement of the Hamilton-Brown

American Lady Shoe

We have just received a Big Spring Stock of them in Hand Turns, Hand Welts, Patent Kid, Gun Metal Calf and Kid, all of the latest lasts. We sell all styles at \$3.00. We should like you to compare this shoe with any \$3.50 shoe in the town. Remember it is a German Hand Welt and Hand turned, only **\$3.00**

Think of buying a W. L. Douglas German Hand Welt Kid or Calf shoe every pair warranted at **\$2.50** Think of it

Pacific Logger

We have been unable to supply the demand for the Pacific Logger, the factory has been sending us sizes as fast as they can get them out, but although running a full force night and day, they can not begin to keep up with their orders. We now have a large stock, however, and can fill orders for any sizes desired and have more on the way.

Think of buying Children's Hamilton-Brown Fine Kid Dress Shoes; warranted all solid leather also heavy double sole calf, only **\$1 & \$1.25**

Majestic Shoe

Our Big Spring Stock of Ladies Majestic Shoes are now on our counters at only **\$2.50**

3000 yards fine embroideries 2 1/2 to 18 in wide at **5c to 29c**

Wide Corset Cover Embroideries worth 40 and 50 cents going at sale price.... **18 and 29c**

100 pairs Lace Curtains just about half regular price per pair **49c 69c 89c 99c**

50 pairs Fine Swiss and Nottingham nets per pair **\$1.50 to \$6.50**

60 pairs Mens Heavy Work Shoes regular \$2.50 and \$3 grades, now on sale at **\$1.49**

25 Pieces Silk Finish Mercerized Waisting's Elegant New Spring designs. Regular 40 and 50c values. Sale price of entire lot only **25c**

Big Wall Paper Bargains

1000 Double Rolls at 9c.

Another Big shipment of Cotton Blankets **49 to 99c**

60 Doz. Boys extra heavy 25c Stockings Sale price **17c**

60 Doz. Childrens extra fine Re-enforced knee, something entirely new that will outwear 2 pairs of the ordinary Stockings at **12 1/2c**