

THE SUMPTER MINER.

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

BAKER CITY people seem to be thoroughly alive to the bright possibilities of that town's future, and it is to be hoped that they will avail themselves of the opportunity which now presents itself to build a city there, by united action and intelligent effort.

IT IS a fact that Sumpter is the only "boom town" in the Northwest today. Some people don't like the word boom—merely a blind prejudice—while others don't like the fact—these latter are invariably those who want to buy something and are indulging in the vain regret that they didn't do so before prices began to advance.

THE MINER appreciates the spirit of good will which prompted the twenty gentlemen, all large mining operators in this district, to pass a set of resolutions on the appearance of its first issue, commending the paper and pledging their support, but the native modesty of the publishers forbid them to publish the document, as requested.

THAT is an excellent pamphlet which the Baker City chamber of commerce has recently issued, presenting the resources of Baker county. It contains some startling statements, perhaps the most noticeable of which is that there are raised in this county 150,000 tons of potatoes, and that there are not enough vegetables produced here to supply the local consumption. There are perhaps 15,000 people in the county. This would give to each man, woman and child 10 tons of potatoes annually, 20,000 pounds, 18 pounds for each meal—a "square" meal surely. There is positively no excuse for any one going hungry in this vicinity.

SUMPTER is in sore need of telegraphic connection with the outside world. There is a telephone line from here to Baker City, but there is evidently discord between the Telephone and the Western Union companies, and to induce the latter to accept a message from the former requires more influence and wire pulling than it does to secure a presidential appointment. Just what this trouble is and from what source it originates THE MINER has not discovered, but it has learned from experience the fact that such friction is now in existence. Why the Western Union, which is usually so enterprising, ever on the alert to reach out for new business and territory, is neglecting to gather in the rich business which Sumpter is now offering is an unsolved conundrum.

IN A recent issue of the Oregonian is published a letter from Baker City, apparently from a staff correspondent, that denotes a snobbish reverence for the man who has accumulated money, which is little less than disgusting. He speaks of men without capital as "adventurers" and declares that they are not wanted nor noticed in that town. It is to be hoped that this sentiment is not approved by Baker City citizens. If such men are treated like a white chip there, let them shoulder their blankets and start for the Sumpter gold fields.

OF course capital is needed in this country to develop our gold mines, but no less necessary to accomplish this are men with brains and energy and experience, plungers, thoroughbreds—whether they have capital or not. Between the two, such men are preferable to those who by long, arduous labor have accumulated money and are looking for a sure thing invest-

ment, that pays 6 per cent interest. There is always more or less element of chance—a gamble—in the mining business, and those who have made the greatest success therein, accumulated the most colossal fortunes, have had their business triumphs and reverses, at times have been broke. Such men as these influence the investment of capital, engineer to success gigantic deals, advertise to the world the section in which they are operating, develop the country and make it prosperous, and even though some may choose to designate them as "adventurers," they accomplish more good for a community than those men with money who seek but to add to their horde. With one it is the fascinating game of his life, in which to succeed in an undertaking is to "win out," and that is his goal; while with the other the sole object is to increase his individual bank account. It does not require any complicated argument to demonstrate which character benefits a community and his associates most.

WIDE INFLUENCE OF MINING.

Surrounding Farming Country Is Especially Benefitted by the Industry.

As mining sections are not generally famed for their agricultural resources, it may seem something of a paradox to say that there is no country so good for an agriculturist as a mining country, a statement, however, which every one knows to be a fact.

The farms of Washington have been enhanced a hundred per cent in value by the mines which have been opened up in this section within the last few years. A mining camp is to the farming section surrounding it the same as a city, affording a certain market for all the produce, and as a rule with higher prices prevailing than in most towns, prices in mining camps being generally high, at first from necessity generally arising from lack of transportation, and later, when the necessity no longer exists, it would appear from custom.

It is no wonder therefore that the farmers of Washington are becoming wealthy. In fact, when the present prosperity, industrial, agricultural and otherwise, of this section is analyzed, it is found that but a very small measure of it can be credited to anything but the mines. Some persons talk disparagingly of "mining speculation," failing to consider the great benefits which the country at large derive from mining activity.

I use the expression "country at large" advisedly, for no community or section can live to itself alone, that being pre-eminently true of a mining section; and the producers and manufacturers of the farthest eastern states are to some degree aided by the impetus which the mineral discoveries of the last year or two have given to the mining industries of the Northwest.—Spokane Stock Report.

Contract Let on Amazon Group.

F. J. Conroy, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who has been in this district for several weeks as the representative of a wealthy syndicate of Pittsburg capitalists, has recently obtained control of the Amazon group of properties, comprising the Cupid, Brooklyn and Amazon, and will at once continue the work of speedy development thereon. A contract was let the first of this week, the first work of which calls for 200 feet of tunnel, with a cross cut of 100 feet, on which will be placed three shifts of men. The buildings already on the ground will be put in good repair and everything made comfortable for steady work this winter. The Amazon is the second extension of the famous Golconda, on that now well-known vein, and only favorable results can be expected from proper development, which is promised by Mr. Conroy.

The Ladies' walking and sailor hats have arrived and can now be procured at the Union Bargain Store. They are of the very latest styles.

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J. B. Stoddard,
SUMPTER, OREGON. Manager.

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