SURPRISING SUMPTER

HOW THE CAMP IMPRESSED AN IDAHO NEWSPAPER MAN.

It is in the Hub of the Gold Fields, Which Promise to Make Trinity, One Water and Timber—AlI the Mountain Roads Lead to Sumpter—Writer Had to Make His Own Way through the Woods—Sumpter—Deserts—The Largest and Richest District.

In the Boise Statesman of the sixteenth instant the following interesting letter, written by Don Donaldson, from this camp, is published:

Sumpter is the Hub city, the very center of the richest mining district now being developed in the world. Sumpter has the miner's Trinity—or, water and timber are in great abundance upon all sides. Sumpter is the point to which every one must go and return when visiting the Cracker district, Canyon City, Prairie City, Sumpter, Granite, Red Roy, Cobold and Bancroft. It is equally true that every one in these big districts, some of which are at the very doorstep of the camp, must come to Sumpter for supplies and comforts: where all machinery is handled by rail, where large summits cut off their timber and lumber; where in a few weeks they will do their tunneling. The camp is situated in a mining element every congregation together.

Up to the present year very little attention was given Sumpter as a mining center, but when in January the Bonanza mine was sold to the Standard oil people for one million dollars, prospectors and investors began to flock into Sumpter: too many let property began to be gobbled up and values rose three fold.

Today the camp is fully 2,000 strong and growing like a mushroom. Buildings are going up on all sides. Hotel accommodations are inadequate (your correspondent being in a little cottage in process of construction, though they are large). A newspaper, named THE SUMPTER, is about to be published and is obliged to accept a barn as an office for the present.

Extra placer mining is being conducted within the town limits at the present time.

So the strength of the Sumpter backers, backing and what she counts upon to build up and maintain her, a little may be said in relation to a few of the many rich mines that lie near by.

First place, attention is called to the E. E. & E. ledge in the Cracker creek district. This ledge runs northeast and southwest, about 20 miles in length, the center of which is less than seven miles from Sumpter. On this ledge we first find the North Pole, a mine of 13 claims, owned by Raring of London. They have a 10-foot cyanide plant at work on this mine and have a more ore place out than any other mine in the United States. This mine was sold a few years ago by Jim Lovett for $4,000,000 and was considered a very large deal. Today it would take a sum made up of seven figures to say it.

Then we come to the E. E. & E. group of 15 claims, owned by St. Louis people. They have a 15-stamp mill and a chlorination plant and have $1,000 feet of development work done. This mine has paid $100,000 net per year for the three years.

The Monita mine comes next, it is owned by Minneapolis men and is working a 10-stamp mill. The ore easily concentrates and amalgamates. The company is installing a new hounding and compressor plant. It has been shipped concentrates, some of which have gone as high as $1,750 per ton, while as per cent

has been paid in free gold from the piles. There are now about ready to ship three carloads of concentrates. The Bonanza has released $1,000,000 for the mine and considers it one of the best properties in the world.

Large Columbia, we almost stumble upon the famous Golconda mine, which Statesman readers have heard so much about. It is at the foot station that they found the rich ore which runs about $20,000, some of which is as high as $200,000 per ton. They have not yet as far as we know, found the extent in which the pay payore which seems to continue as they go down. They are to operate it to the value of over $6,000,000 ready to ship.

Next we find the Monita Bell, which E. P. Oestle sold to the Standard oil people. A very strong ledge is in sight at present, development at present.

The Anna, Lulu and Rainbow mines lie next on this famous ledge. These mines are of high grade ore. Active work is going on.

Then we find the Bunker Hill group, owned by Capitana Thompson and Angus McKee, and Queen's. They have 300 feet of development and are erecting a well equipped hoisting plant.

J. G. Sumpter district, we jump over to the Bunker ledge, which is parallel to the E. E. & E. ledge.

On this ledge we first find five claims purchased by Michigan capitalists last January for $64,000. They have in this short time blocked out a half million feet of ore, which is the same kind as is found in the Golconda and Columbia. They are blocking out ore sufficient to run a 20-stamp mill.

The E. H. mine is found on this ledge and is owned by Michigan parties. They have run a tunnel 150 feet and a shaft 100 feet and found a large body of high grade ore.

The Midnight mine has been bonded for $25,000 by Mr. Haysford of Colorado, and active development begun.

Then we find the old Mammoth group, which includes the old Mammoth, Bell of Baker, Gold Hill and Red Fox mines, which have been stacked at $1,000,000 and active development begun.

We then pass over to the Cove district, where the ore is of an entirely different character, it being a high grade silver and lead of high value. This whole district is a perfect network of ledges and all the spurs or feeders seem to be as rich as the mother lode.

In the Cove district we find the Imperial or Gray Eagle group of mines, containing 11 claims, 6 of which are on the main ledge. This group carries a enormous body of good smelting ore and they have now blocked out a half million dollars worth of high grade ore for shipping.

Then we see the California mine, which has 1,000 feet of development work done. It has a 20-stamp mill and taking out large quantities of shipping ore.

We find also the Henschel, the Donnelly, the Red 45 and others on this ledge, all in an active stage of development, but I must stop for space.

Let us next go over the Belsuave district, which is better known as the Granite district.

There we find this property bonded by Hamberger & Kefef, of Salt Lake, who have run 10,000 feet of tunnels and are shipping quantities of high grade concentrates.

We find also, the Buffalo mine, which is a small vein of high grade rich ore, work being pushed 9,000 feet of development done.

The Magazine group, managed by Mr. W. A. Vincent, was only begun to be developed a few months ago, but he has opened up a large body of high grade ore and is putting in a 10-stamp mill. Mr. Vincent also has the Maiden's Dream and Little Giant mines, which are in an active state of development and mills for both of which are now on the tracks in Sumpter. The Cougar, a mine of six claims, is in the Granite district. The development consists of a 10-stamp tonniet which shows up an ore body that will average eight feet from wall to wall, the entire body being of high grade milling ore. They have a shaft sunk 110 feet in the ore across the bottom of which averages $60 per ton. They are putting in a 200-ton cyanide plant which will be in operation in four weeks.

The Success, which joins the Cougar, was bored recently by P. E. Oestle for $10,000. This mine has a 10-stamp tunnel and a 24-foot shaft and active development will be begun at once.

Leaving the Granite district four miles we find the famous Red Roy mine, which is only 12 miles from Sumpter. So much has been said of this mine this notice of it may be brief. It has probably the best equipped 20-stamp mill in operation in the United States. The mine is paying $100,000 monthly dividends.

There is still the Greenhorn district in which there are a score of mines in active stage of development.

We must not forget the great Bonanza group, which, like in the tunneling and development of any in the section, and which has in operation forty stamps working eight and day high grade milling ore and is paying $200,000 monthly dividends.

There are scores of other mines which have brilliant futures before them. There are fully 1,000 prospectors in the mountains adjacent to Sumpter.

Some General Dealers in...