

SURPRISING SUMPTER.

HOW THE CAMP IMPRESSED AN IDAHO NEWSPAPER MAN.

It is the Hub of the Gold Fields, Which Possesses the Miner's Trinity, Ore, Water and Timber—All the Mountain Roads Lead to Sumpter—Writer Had to Sleep in an Unfinished Shack—Unhoused Crowd—Some of the Mines in Detail.

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—ore, 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, Frairie City, Bourne, Granite, Red Boy, Golconda and Bonanza. It is equally true that every one in these big districts, some of which are at the very door of the camp, must come to Sumpter for supplies and outfits; where all machinery is landed by rail; where large sawmills cut their timbers and lumber; where in a few weeks they will do their banking. The camp is filled with the best mining element ever congregated 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; town lots and other 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 housed in a little cottage in process of construction), though they are large. A newspaper, named THE SUMPTER MINER, is about to be published and is obliged to accept a barn as an office for the present.

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

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

In the first place, attention is called to the E. & E. ledge in the Cracker creek district. This ledge runs northeast and southwest, about 50 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 Baring of London. They have a 50-ton cyanide plant at work on this mine and have more ore blocked out than any other mine in the United States. This mine was sold a few years ago by Jim Duckworth for \$10,000 and was considered a very large deal. Today it would take a sum made up of seven figures to buy it.

Then we come to the E. & E. group of 9 claims, owned by St. Louis people. They are equipped with a 20-stamp mill and a chlorination plant and have 15,000 feet of development work done. This mine has paid \$150,000 net per year for three years.

The Columbia 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 hoisting and compressor plant. It has been shipping concentrates, some of which have gone as high as \$1,700 per ton, while 40 per cent

has been saved in free gold from the plates. There are now about ready to ship three carloads of concentrates. The present owners have refused \$1,000,000 for the mine and consider it one of the best properties in the world.

Leaving the Columbia, we almost stumble upon the famous Golconda mine, which Statesman readers have heard so much about of late. This mine has 2,000 feet of development and is operating a 100-ton bromine plant. It was at the 200-foot station that they found the rich ore which runs about \$20,000, some of which runs as high as \$200,000 per ton. They have not as yet found the length or breadth of this pay chute which seems to widen as they go down. They have to date ore to the value of over \$500,000 ready to ship.

We next find the Mountain Bell, which P. E. Poindexter sold to the Standard oil people. A very strong ledge is in sight and big development has begun.

Then we find the Amazon and Cupid mines, owned by Pittsburg parties. They have begun development with a large force of men.

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

We next find the Bunker Hill group, owned by Captain Thompson and Angus McQueen and associates. They have done 1,000 feet of tunneling and are erecting a well equipped hoisting plant.

Leaving the Cracker district, we jump over to the Ibex ledge, which is parallel to the E. & E. ledge.

On this ledge we first find five claims purchased by Michigan parties last January for \$65,000. They have in this short space of time blocked out a half million 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 Ball Mountain 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 \$10,000 by Mr. Hayward 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 stocked 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 13 claims, 6 of which are on the main ledge. This group carries an 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 3,000 feet of development work done. It has a 10-stamp mill and is taking out large quantities of shipping ore.

We find also the Herculean, the Donnelly, the Baby M'Kee and others on this ledge, all in an active stage of development, but I must stop for space.

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

There we find this property bonded by Bamberger & Keefe, 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 and 2,000 feet of development work done.

The Magnolia group, managed by W. L. Vinson, was only begun to be devel-

oped 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. Vinson 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 track at Sumpter.

The Cougar, a mine of six claims, is in the Granite district. The development consists of a 500-foot tunnel on the ledge, 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 the ore across the bottom of which averages \$162 per ton. They are putting in a 250-ton cyanide plant which will be in operation in four weeks.

The Success, which joins the Cougar, was bonded recently by P. E. Poindexter for \$30,000. This mine has a 110-foot tunnel and a 25-foot shaft and active development will be begun at once.

Leaving the Granite district four miles we find the famous Red Boy mine, which is only 18 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 \$30,000 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 is in the most advanced state of development of any in the section, and which has in operation forty stamps working night and day upon high grade milling ore and is paying \$50,000 monthly dividends.

There are scores of other mines which have brilliant futures before them. There are fully 1,500 prospectors in the mountains adjacent to Sumpter.

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