

RETURNS AFTER 19 YEARS.

How Sumpter and Vicinity Impresses a Man After That Long Absence.

Hon. J. H. Robbins, of La Grande, is at the Sagamore, having returned here Thursday by the Sumpter Valley railway from a week visit to Sumpter, Granite and many of the surrounding mines.

Mr. Robbins is ex-receiver of the U. S. land office, and is now manager and vice president of the Chicago Store company; whose mercantile establishment in the "sugar city" is the largest of the kind in Union county.

This gentleman's younger days were passed in the now famous gold fields about Sumpter and Granite. From 1864 to 1880 his father, Harvey Robbins, had trading posts at Sumpter, Granite, Robinsonville and North Fork; also operating a sawmill. He conducted a hotel at the Monumental mine, and at various periods was identified with almost every important enterprise in a big scope of country.

Mr. Robbins in an informal talk with a Democrat representative remarked regarding his week visit in the gold fields:

"I left that country nineteen years ago and have not visited it for about nine years. The country is now truly great and the vast changes are to me truly wonderful.

"Besides the present milling facilities, there are being erected in the country I visited four up to date quartz mills. But if I told you of the many improvements which I myself saw it would fill columns of your paper.

"Everywhere I went I found people busy and did not see an idle man. You meet scores of newcomers, on horseback, on foot or in vehicles. They all seem to have on hand important business and rush along as though they were on the chase of a sure thing, mighty good thing.

"Sumpter is enterprising in the fullest sense of the word and is growing rapidly. There will be other good mining camps, but Sumpter has even now plenty of nearby mines to always maintain her as a city of very considerable mining and commercial importance. It may be booming there, but the boom is one of the kind which has a solid bottom which will never drop out.

"Granite has just started but she has a good lot of the same active, working mining fever everywhere manifested in Sumpter. It will not be long until at least five good quartz mills are thundering away on pay rock within easy reach of Granite and I would not be at all surprised to see a splendid camp there in the not distant future.

"While there is sure to be a mighty good city at Sumpter and an important point at Granite, you may say that it is my opinion that nothing on earth will ever take from Baker City her place as Oregon's principal mining center. The people of Sumpter and Granite and of those golden mountains generally are made of the true American stuff which does not wait for prosperity, but makes it by rustling. But Baker City's central position will continue here as the chief mining center among all the other important points in Eastern Oregon, among which will always be the wide-awake city of Sumpter."—Baker City Democrat.

Abandoned Mines Prove Valuable.

The alternating periods of depression and revival of mining, such as we have experienced during the past decade, almost invariably prove to be conditions that are needful and appear as though providentially designed. The resumption of work in old, neglected mines, and the reconquest of abandoned and depopulated camps has resulted in many startling revelations of discovery for which the history of mining in America during the past twenty years furnishes the most valuable precedents. For instance, when at a depth of 150 feet the Congress mine in Montana was deemed a worthless prop-

erty. Now, at 800 feet, it is held at a valuation of \$3,000,000. The Fortuna at 1500 feet was sold for \$140,000, it is now valued at more than \$3,000,000. The famous Copper Queen mine, Arizona, is to be placed in the same category. Appropos, the recent habilitation of numerous old mines and camps of Colorado has been fruitful of many immediately happy results, and among these the old pioneer district of Empire can be cited as a bright and promising example.—Mining Reporter.

MINE OWNERS, ATTENTION!

Call for a Meeting to Organize a Mining District.

There will be a mass meeting of the mine owners of Cracker Creek, Red Boy, Granite, Bonanza, and all other camps in this vicinity, at Ells opera house, Sumpter, Oregon, Saturday, October 7th, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of forming a regularly organized mining district, making laws, rules and regulations defining its limits and transacting such other business as may be necessary for the formation of such district. Signed:

- JOHN RHODIN, J. F. CUPID,
- P. D. HEALY, A. J. STITSON,
- S. CHAPMAN, LEVI SMITH,
- CHARLES S. WARREN, W. C. CALDER,
- J. W. DUCKWORTH, A. L. MCEWEN,
- E. L. MANNING AND MANY OTHERS.

Developing the Black Cat and Carbon.

John Harris, of Spokane, who bought and incorporated the Black Cat and Carbon claims on Ihex mountain last winter, was here with G. C. Munro, the managing director of the company, and paid a visit to the property last week. Mr. Harris says the ledge is a big one, running about parallel with the Ihex lead. The croppings of quartz are very large, but somewhat broken up on the surface. The character of the quartz is almost identical with that from the Ihex. A good deal of surface prospecting has been necessary to locate the right position for a shaft. It will take some little time to determine the width and values on the lead. A cabin and blacksmith shop are in course of erection, preparatory to getting in supplies for the winter.

Van Duyn & Swiggett, Brokers.

C. S. Van Duyn has resigned his position with W. C. Calder, to engage in the real estate and brokerage business. He has formed a partnership with L. V. Swiggett and opened an office temporarily in the parlor of his popular hotel, the Van Duyn. Mr. Swiggett, before coming to Sumpter, was engaged in the real estate business at Butte, Montana. They are both rustlers, and courteous gentlemen, thoroughly up in the business, familiar with the local situation and are sure to occupy a conspicuous position as mining and real estate brokers in this prolific field.

Fine job printing done at THE MINER office.

F. SHELTON, SAM R. STOTT.

STOTT & SHELTON,

Attorneys at Law.

SUMPTER, OREGON.

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We have just received a fine new line of Dress Goods, Exclusive Patterns, Dress Skirts and Trimmings, Outing Flannels, Ties, Ribbons, Laces, Underwear, Etc.

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The latest shapes in Fall and Winter Hats. We carry the Geo. G. Snow Shoes. All the weights in Seasonable Underwear.

Just Look at This.

A FEW ITEMS IN

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Sumpter, Oregon.