REturns After 19 Years.

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

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

Mr. Robbins is ex-secretary 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 1868 his father, Harvey Robbins, had tracts in Granite, Sumpter, Granite, Robinson, and North Fork; also operating a saw-mill. He conducted a hotel at the Metropolitan minery, 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.

"It is my understanding, there are being erected in the country I visited four up to date quartz mills. But if I told you of the mine improvements which I well-seen I would fill columns of your paper.

"Every time 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 an hand important business and rush along as though they were on the chase of something, might a 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 nearly 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 off.

"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 mines are turning away on payrock 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 time 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 bordering are made of the true American stuff which does not wait for prosperity, but makes it by rooting. 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 wildest & most enterprising of Sumter."—Baker City Democrat.

Abandoned Mine Prove Valuable.

In 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 reactivation 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 precedent. For instance, when at a depth of 600 feet the Congress mine in Montana was deemed a worthless prop-