THE SUMPTER MINER.

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THE SUMPTER MINER.

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

LESS than two months since the writer wrote a paper entitled: "The Substantial men of this town and district don't want a boom and we are not going to have one." But "we are," just the same.

IT WOULD seem, then, that there really is a Sumpter mining district. It received official recognition at the Spokane fair by winning the first prize, a gold medal, from non-competitors, for the best mineral exhibit.

THERE is a baker in Baker City named Baker. This juxtoposition of the word ought to be a trade winning and the owner of the name and bakery seems to realize his value as an advertising dodger—but this is not one of his dodges.

The men in charge of the eastern Oregon mineral exhibit at the Spokane fair, Messrs. Poindexter and Metts, were evidently the right men in the right place. They knew they had a good thing and seem to have impressed this fact very forcibly upon the public mind and the newspapers.

The Miner refrains from making any suggestive remarks concerning the story published in Baker City papers about the geese being found on the streets of that town—but if it wanted to, it could make a hell of a different pertinent "crack" on the subject.

The Harney County News complains because there is hoarding in that county something like a quarter of a million of money, earning no revenue for its owners. This seems to be a strange condition of affairs in a country where there are so many opportunities for profitable investment.

In another column is published a telegram from New York of recent date which confirms the report that the Union Pacific, within the future, will open the O. S. L. and O. R. & N.; further, that they will be operated separately as heretofore. This could mean much for this section of country, but the chances are that it doesn't, for the telegram says there will be no reduction in freight rates upon buildings and materials which do not operate their railroads that way, unnecessarily states the authority.

This gives us one interest a rail connection from ocean to ocean.

The fact that merely neglecting to do assessment work upon a mining claim in the manner prescribed by law does not work a complete forfeiture of right in that claim, tends in a very great measure to retard the development of a mining district. The wise lawmakers of this state have so provided by omission in framing statutes pertaining to mining, that failure for an indefinite number of years to do assessment work upon any claim will not mean a forfeiture of any right, except in the event of intervention by another party. The prior locator's rights stand until complaint is made to the district attorney, or until the re-location is filed.

The county records, of course, give a very accurate abridge of all mining claims; but for certain times after location, proofs of labor are required to be filed with the proper county official, and these should either state whether all or not all requirements of law have been complied with by the claimant. But the mere failure to file these proofs of labor at stated times does not operate as a relinquishment of right. It is only upon re-location that the original locator's rights are nullified. Too often the original locator and the re-locator is one and the same person. It is much easier to simply post a new notice of location than to do the assessment work which the law prescribes as necessary to a binding of right. Obviously, these are difficult matters to remedy. It would seem that a special official, a sort of claim warden, whose duties it would be to take cognizance of these various ways of evading the law, would be one solution of the problem. The main idea is to develop the mining resources of this country. What arrangement tends toward that end is good. The allowance of a large number of possibly rich claims to be innocuously idle through successive years of re-location in avoidance of assessment work, is the heaviest drag upon the development of a mining region.

The supreme court of California has decided that a party holding a claim for several years without doing in any year the work required, by simply going on the ground at the beginning of each year and doing a few hours work, with no bona fide intent to comply with the satisfactory requirement as to the amount of work to be done, cannot hold the claim. Such work so done is a pretense and sham and will not prevent the re-location for want of necessary work. The supreme court of Montana held that when a locator resumes work for the purpose of holding the claim, he must continue the work with reasonable diligence until the law has been complied with. The right to resume work must be exercised, however, before another has taken possession with the intent to re-locate it. The first initiation of steps lawfully taken by a re-locator after a claim is subject to a forfeiture will protect him for the period fixed by law, and an intermediate resumption of work by the delinquent original locator cannot cut off his privilege.

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NOTICE

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