

IS SUMPTER A FAKE?

So Designated by Butte Paper and Drunken Bum.

Sumpter has attained a position of sufficient importance to inspire an attack from a powerful rival; no less, in fact, than the much boasted, acknowledged "greatest camp on earth," Butte, Montana. The Inter Mountain, a daily newspaper of that town, publishes in its issue of November 16, under the scare head-line, "An Oregon Fake," a ludicrously false letter from one, Tim Lowney, dated at Sumpter, November 13, in which he designates this town as merely a logging camp crowded with idle, hungry men; speaks disparagingly of three of the greatest mines on the continent, the Golconda, Red Boy and Bonanza; says the only good rock he has seen here came from Montana and relieves himself of his entire job lot of similar transparently idiotic falsehoods.

THE MINER man never heard of Tim Lowney before and could not find any trace of him in any of the hotels or lodging houses here, but in his efforts to get a glimpse of so monumental a liar, met a number of Butte gentlemen who volunteered some interesting information regarding the antecedents and character of this anthropoidal ape. In the first place, he wears the championship belt for being the most irredeemable gold-lined idiot ever manufactured at and turned out of any of Professor Keeley's tool factories. He has fallen from grace, so far as the whiskey guzzling habit is concerned, but still retains the Keeley gold-given mental malady known in non-scientific circles as damfool. Aside from these acquired accomplishments, he was endowed by nature with a self-cocking mouth, a breech-loading enunciating apparatus and an inexhaustible magazine of blank cartridges, loaded with explosive language only, and was never known to fire off a sensible idea or a substantiated fact in his life.

Since his arrival in Sumpter he spent his time around the saloons, until he became such an unindurable "ringer in" nuisance that he had to be abated. He then turned his attention to literature and the effusion published in the Butte Inter Mountain is the result of his labors. One gentleman from Butte informs THE MINER that he has not left the camp since his arrival, and if he had seen a mine in the district, it was from the back window of some saloon, the proprietor of which hadn't gotten on to his game and fired him out.

Of course such a character is not worthy of the space and attention here given him, but the fact that an apparently reputable newspaper has used his letter to defame this camp, extending to it editorial endorsement by identifying the writer as a former constable in a justice court there—a lofty position for any man to attain, to be sure—leads to the subject an air of plausibility that justifies this reply. The motive of the Inter Mountain is almost too apparent to be here pointed out. It is found in the introductory remarks, where are these words: "When the Sumpter boom broke out in Butte some weeks ago," etc. Butte's men and their money are stampeding to Sumpter, and this is a feeble, poorly planned effort to head off that stampede.

Among the Butte people who are, either now here or have visited the camp and were so favorably impressed that they left with the avowed intention of returning, either for investment or permanent residence are, ex-Mayor Dugan, J. K. Pardee, C. F. Booth, John Gillie, S. Batteman, Frank Shaw, W. F. Cobban, Jimmie Rowe, superintendent of the Bonanza, Hon. R. G. Humber, and hundreds

of other prosperous and well pleased Montana men in the Sumpter district. This fact refutes the Lowney lie as a whole and there is, therefore, no necessity to prove its falsity in detail.

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