

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

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BIG BUYERS COMING

CLARK & SWEENEY EXPECTED IN SUMPTER SOON.

In Search of a Gold Property—Output of the Red Boy and Golconda—Magnolia Mill About Ready to Begin Operations—Free Coinage Showing Up Great—Another Dredger Deal—Colonel Topping Ties Up the Van Anda.

Clark & Sweeney, of Spokane, among the most prominent mining operators in the Northwest, are expected to arrive in Sumpter in a few days. This firm's specialty is promoting large deals and is credited with having unlimited eastern money at its command.

These gentlemen created the great stir in the Buffalo Hump country last winter by tying up the Big Buffalo at the unprecedented price of a million and a half, the property then being a mere prospect. They finally failed to make the payments as they fell due and a half dozen other parties have since tried to bond it. Of late it is reported that Clark & Sweeney have again secured control.

They own mines principally in Idaho and Montana, among which is the Bunker Hill and Sullivan in the former state, where the great labor strike occurred last summer.

The purpose of their visit to Sumpter is to buy a mine.

This camp is the magnet that attracts all the magnates these winter days.

Stamps Soon to Drop on the Magnolia.

The Magnolia mill will have its stamps dropping between the fifteenth and twentieth, the machinery being all set and only the necessary connections having yet to be made with the pipes to start the mill going. Magnificent specimens of ore were shown from this mine here yesterday and taken to Portland to be placed in the Chamber of Commerce exhibit.

Free Coinage Values Increasing.

Vic Schilling and E. Cannon, half-owners of the Free Coinage, were out to the mine Monday. They report a great improvement in the values of the ore, of which they have at this time eight feet along the foot wall. The tunnel is now in nearly 300 feet, and when ten feet further in will cross cut to determine the width of the ledge. They are highly pleased with the property and say money would not buy it.

To Dredge Crane Flat Diggings.

It is reported that several Boise, Idaho, men have about completed negotiations for the purchase of the Crane Flat placer ground, in the vicinity of Granite, for \$15,000. A Mr. Williams, representing the buyers, was in Sumpter a few days since. He stated while here that if the deal is consummated, his company will put in a gold dredger of the most modern design and begin operations in the early spring on a large scale.

Col. Topping and the Van Anda.

Colonel Topping, whose arrival in Sumpter was mentioned in THE MINER two weeks ago, has returned to his home in Trail, British Columbia. He examined several properties while here and it is reported, probably correctly, that he secured an option on the Van Anda, but the statement published in a Baker City paper

that the purchase price is \$1,500,000 and the deal definitely closed, should be treated with a 200-pound sack of salt before swallowing.

High Values Found on the Colorado.

The Colorado mining claim and fraction, on Granite summit, five miles west of Sumpter, being worked by P. D. Healy and A. J. Stinson, the owners, have developed some wonderful values, considering the slight depth attained. One assay shows \$372.12 in gold, and the meanest sample assayed gave \$6.18, these being virtually from the croppings. The owners are much elated, as they apparently have good reason to be.

Byson Gold Mining Company.

Horace Sloan, T. R. Yorger, W. H. Jones and F. R. Dunn, all of Sumpter, have incorporated the Byson Gold Mining and Milling company, capital stock \$80,000, par value ten cents a share. The company owns the Byson and Tiger claims. It is understood that little if any of the stock of this company will be placed on sale; that the owners think they have a good thing, have the money for its development and intend to make and operate a mine.

RED BOY AND GOLCONDA.

The Two Produce \$31,000 in Less Than Thirty Days.

A total of approximately \$31,000 was brought in yesterday from two of Baker's famous gold producers and placed in the First National bank.

Mr. Clark Tabor, of Godfrey & Tabor, owners of the famous Red Boy mine, brought in a sum of money metal understood to be close in the neighborhood of \$20,000, the result of a month's operation of the faithful Red Boy, whose regular monthly cleanup varies from \$20,000 to \$27,000, or more, with the regularity of clock work.

Manager John T. English, of J. G. and J. T. English, the energetic owners and operators of the splendid Golconda mine, brought in from this treasure vault over \$11,000.

This handsome sum is from a twenty-days' run of the Golconda's mill.—Baker City Democrat.

Both mines are in this district, contiguous to Sumpter. The above designation as "Baker's famous gold producers," is merely one of the harmless vagaries of the county seat papers.

Buying Furniture in Carload Lots.

E. A. Case, president of the Case-Looney company, incorporated, is in Portland placing necessary orders to keep their furniture, carpet and house outfitting establishment in line to supply the heavy demand made upon them. Parlor and bedroom sets, kitchen and hall furniture, carpets, etc., will begin to arrive at once in carload lots, to replace the inroad made on their store and warerooms recently.

Disastrous Mix-Up With the Steam Saw.

Last Friday an employe of the steam wood saw slipped and fell against the balance wheel of the saw while in motion, inflicting a cut of three inches on the back of his head and breaking two ribs. Dr. Pearce performed the necessary repairs and the patient is reported doing well.

Music Lessons.

Professor C. E. Haight will receive a few pupils, either single or in class, for a course of instruction on the piano or organ; also in telegraphy. Enquire corner Bonanza and Clifford streets.

Overcoats and ulsters at Johns & Co.

GOLD COMES HERE.

Both Banks Prepared to Handle the Output.

Until recently all gold taken from the Sumpter mining district has been sent to Baker City and other places to be exchanged for currency. The reason for this was necessity and is apparent; there were no banks or other institutions here to pay cash for the yellow metal.

Now, however, that there are two banking houses doing business in Sumpter, both prepared to handle all the gold taken from the adjacent hills and placer grounds, it is no longer necessary to pass through this camp in order to cash in.

Both the First Bank of Sumpter and the Bank of Sumpter report that already the miners have begun to bring in their hoards of gold, in dust and bricks, exchanging it for coin or "soft money," and in turn, exchanging that for the vain pleasures of this world; every miner man to his taste, he paying the money, of course, exercises a free choice. A wide range of diversions and inducements is here offered the gold diggers for parting with their treasure, with no one to interfere with their preference, method or system.

Thus far only the smaller producers are disposing of their dust and bullion here, the custom of years not having been broken by the new order of things so recently established. But it can be confidently predicted that ere long the big mines, as well as the individual miners, will begin to do their banking business in Sumpter, which will inevitably contribute largely to the ever and rapidly increasing volume of local business.

Heavy Snows and Pleasant Weather.

Heavy snow has fallen during the past week and it is sincerely hoped that it has come to stay; that the large quantities of goods which were stored here waiting for the roads to improve, may be hauled to the various surrounding mining camps. The weather has been mild and pleasant, however, snow on the roofs of houses melting during the warmer hours of the day and freezing into thousands of icicles on the eaves as the temperature lowered. Building operations have not been interfered with, except the annoyance of digging out lumber from great snow banks.

What a Contractor Has Done in a Month.

During the past thirty days Contractor J. M. Meiklejohn has built houses valued at over \$3000. A six-room house for W. R. Hawley cost over \$600; an addition to Ed Rand's house, costing \$350; a house for Dr. J. J. Fisher, costing \$700; Ed Hauser's, \$450; a neat cottage just finished for Mayor Gleason on upper Mill street with modern improvements, cost upwards of \$900. He now has a force of men at work on THE MINER'S new office, and will soon have finished a residence for Mr. Neill.

Illustrated Writup of Sumpter.

The Seattle Times of Saturday contained a page illustrated writup of Sumpter, including a map of this district, three views of the town and a picture of the uncompleted reservoir. The matter was prepared by Major W. T. Manning, of this city. It is a mass of accurate facts and figures and information about the camp, the mines and the people, that represents infinite labor in collecting and compiling, that will always be of inestimable

value to those who in future undertake the task of writing anything like a comprehensive history of the long depression and final rapid rise of this section of the state. It is a splendid piece of work, for which the thanks of the town are due to Major Manning and the Times. A number of large orders have been sent in for copies of this issue.

May Mean the Sale of Water Works Bonds.

President Goss, of the Bank of Sumpter, accompanied W. L. Vinson to Portland a few days since. The natural inference is that they have gone down there to close the deal for the sale of the Sumpter water works bonds. Full details of the proposition made to Mr. Vinson by Morris & Whitehead for the purchase of these gilt-edge securities was published in THE MINER some weeks since. Mr. Goss is one of the incorporators of the company.

Comparative Vote at City Elections.

Without half trying, an interesting inference can be drawn from the vote cast at the recent city elections of the three largest towns in this portion of the state. Pendleton leads the list with 751, Sumpter comes next with 420 and Baker City brings up the rear with 348. One year ago Sumpter would not have been included in any such comparison. At present it stands second and a year hence it will head the list.

Another Man Looking for Business Location.

Mr. Ralston, one of the leading business men of Pendleton, has been in Sumpter this week, sizing up the situation, with a view to locating here. He has met with the same difficulty that all newcomers encounter; that of securing a building. He is favorably impressed with the camp and its promise for the future, and will doubtless decide to come here to remain. He is in the furniture business at La Grande.

We Are "Setting 'Em Up."

And they are "beauties." Chairs, all kinds of chairs (two carloads at one time) special goods suitable for "Christmas" presents. Don't buy until you see our line. We offer you a \$15,000 stock to select from and on cash orders over \$50 we pay freight to Sumpter. Let us make you an estimate on orders, large or small, furniture, carpets, paints, wall paper, shades, curtains, etc. Queen City Furniture Co., Baker City.

Not an Even Chance for Life.

John Horsford, who was so badly injured by the runaway team last week, is in a dangerous condition, with scarcely an even chance for recovery. Concussion of the brain and a depressed fracture of the skull, with three or four lacerations of the scalp are some of his injuries. Dr. Pearce is doing all in his power for the unfortunate man and it is possible he may recover.

Articles of Incorporation for the Hospital.

Attorney Richards has drafted the articles of incorporation for the Sumpter hospital and the same will be filed with the state auditor in a few days. Contractor Jones is now perfecting the plans for the building, the original drawings being slightly modified. When this work is finished the order for lumber will be placed with the Sumpter Lumber company.

For Christmas.

I have a few choice selections in embroidered center pieces, pillow covers, doilies, etc. Mrs. Marsh, adjoining Drs. Tape & Pearce's office.

Job printing at this office.