

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter

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DURING the past ten days THE MINER has printed stock certificates for as many companies, seven mining, two commercial and one land. "The old thing" is waking up for sure.

THE MINER positively declines to undertake the impossible task of keeping cases on all the railroad rumors that are being circulated in eastern Oregon at present. But the readers of this paper will get their first information of any definite move, affecting this part of the state, from its columns. And if you see it in THE MINER—well, there is a possibility that there may be something in it.

THE Portland Telegram is publishing much information regarding the Sumpter district, trying to arouse the citizens of that town to the importance of getting in and reaping some of the financial benefits to accrue from a close alliance with this rich and rapidly developing district. On the other hand, the Oregonian, the moss-back thunderer, remains sullenly silent, appearing to think it is beneath its dignity to become enthusiastic on any subject, preferring to remain coldly critical.

FEW men placed in the position occupied during the past few weeks by Manager Stoddard, of the Sumpter Lumber company, controlling the local stock of lumber almost absolutely, with an urgent, clamorous demand far beyond the supply, could have resisted the temptation to raise prices to an exorbitant limit and make an enticingly big clean up at the expense of the buying public. But Mr. Stoddard has resisted that temptation, and maintained only reasonable prices. This fact should always be remembered to his credit. In another column he announces today that the lumber famine is broken and that he will turn no purchaser away unsatisfied.

OF course there will be other towns than Sumpter in this section of the state; good ones, too, but Sumpter will maintain its supremacy. The district is rich enough to support a half dozen prosperous camps. Every one of them, however, will be tributary to this central business point, and will contribute to its growth. All roads will, as they now do, lead to Sumpter, and here will be the vigorous, throbbing heart of the mining and commercial activity, with every road, wagon, electric and rail, serving as veins and arteries do for the animal organ. Those who are skeptical regarding Sumpter's future, because they fear some other camp will spring into active life, are not conversant with the limitless resources of the region.

EVERY day it becomes more apparent that the prediction made in these columns some weeks since, that the "boom" would materialize here before the advent of spring, will be verified. As a matter of fact, that condition of affairs, commercial, real estate and mining, generally designated as a boom, already prevails in Sumpter. No where else in the Northwest is every branch of business so active

and prosperous as it is here at the present time. Those who wait until spring before investing or arranging to go into business anywhere in this district, will wish that they had acted sooner. The longer one waits the more money will it cost to get in on this proposition, which is surely destined to be the most intensely exciting, offering the best and more opportunities for accumulating wealth, than any yet known in this land of booms, real estate and mining excitements.

THERE is no doubt but that this is one of the richest mining regions on the globe. Said a gentleman who is familiar with the subject, a few days since: "There is in a radius of three miles from a point in the Sumpter district more good ore than there is in all of the reservation." He referred to the richest mining region in Washington, the Colville reservation, of which Republic is the business and mining center. Then another gentleman present, who is also well versed in mining lore, remarked: "And you can go further and tell the truth, if you say there is more gold in the hills of eastern Oregon than in the rest of the continent of North America." These sound like extravagant statements, but there are people here of good judgment who believe them. One thing is certain, there is a whole lot of the yellow metal in these parts.

THE Pendleton Republican quotes one, George E. Moore, as stating that he had been in and around Sumpter for several months and that, though the town is booming now, it will not prove to be a permanently prosperous proposition. This is merely Mr. Moore's opinion, and he has a perfect right to express, when and where he pleases, but being human, he is liable to err. He gives as one reason for this belief that the "cheapest sort of electric machinery to furnish lights has been put in." As a matter of fact, the first electric plant in the state is now being installed, in place of a little toy arrangement put in a year or two ago. Again, Mr. Moore is in error in his statements regarding wages paid here, the number of stamps dropping and the number of men employed at the various mines. But his most conspicuous misstatement is relative to the development of the several properties, when he says the deepest working is only 350 feet. Now, had he told the whole truth regarding this matter, he would have stated that the mines here are generally opened up with tunnels, instead of shafts, and that there are a score of the former in much deeper than that; at the North Pole, for instance, they are in over a thousand feet. If the gentleman will revise his statistics to conform to facts, he will probably change his opinion.

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