

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

SUMPTER, OREGON, DECEMBER 27, 1899.

NO. 16.

ADVERTISING SUMPTER

Newspapers Devote Columns to Camp and District.

GEN. WARREN TALKS

Tells the Butte Miner All About this Booming Town and Surrounding Rich Mines—Skillfully Arrayed Facts and Figures—Portland Telegram's Most Comprehensive Story, Superbly Illustrated.

Sumpter is being widely, wisely and willingly advertised of late.

The splendid Christmas number of the Portland Telegram reached here last evening. It contains the most comprehensive write-up of the Sumpter mining district which has yet appeared in any publication, together with a short, concise, convincing story of Sumpter's recent rapid growth. The whole is superbly illustrated with half tone cuts printed on enameled paper, of the town of Sumpter, looking south on Mill street, and of a half dozen or more of the more prominent quartz mills in the district.

The Butte Miner of last Saturday contains so excellent an interview with General Warren, expressed in his characteristic, forcible, clear way, summarizing the conditions here, a portion of which THE MINER cannot refrain from reproducing, giving it this prominence, which it deserves. Those who are posted on the local situation will testify that the General has rather kept within the facts, than gone beyond. After an exchange of bouquets and an exhibition of General Warren's far famed modesty, in not wishing to boom an enterprise in which he himself is interested, he proceeds as follows:

"Very well, then. Sumpter is, as I said before, an old placer camp. In the old days some free milling quartz was discovered near the surface and worked by arrastras and other crude methods. The ore, however, turned, what the old time miners considered base, just below the surface. As a matter of fact it is not at all refractory when you consider that in concentrating 70 per cent of the values can be caught on the plates and that the tailings when finally treated by the cyanide process yield up the small per cent that would otherwise escape.

"As far as I am concerned I went to Sumpter last August. It took but a brief inspection to assure me of the great future before the town and I became interested in platting new additions to the old townsite. This property is owned by the Sumpter Townsite company, limited, of which I am president, as you will notice from this letter head. Tom C. Gray is vice president and auditor, William C. Calder, secretary and treasurer. You will notice by these plats that we have platted adjoining the old townsite a total of 4000 lots, that some other parties have platted additions beyond ours and that our company owns the vacant property lying beyond this. Of the 4000 lots owned by the company 1000 have already been contracted for and by next May I expect they will all be gone. You will notice by the way one very desirable addition is called 'Warren Heights,' and in this addition is located the reservoir of the waterworks,

that has a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons. The plant is owned by W. L. Vinson and has a gravity pressure in the business center of the town of 181 feet.

"Of Sumpter itself I will say that at the present time there are 2500 people there. Seven stage lines run from the town to adjoining camps and from 100 to 150 freight teams are constantly engaged in hauling. The town is connected with the outside world by a new narrow gauge railway as shown on the map. Sumpter is the entrepot and market for a vast area of country extending to the west and south a distance of 60 miles, to the west and north 15 to 25 miles and the extensive district to the east is equally divided between Sumpter and Baker City.

"You ask about the mines and their development. Well, briefly, to commence with, there is the North Pole, that has a tunnel 1600 feet long which cuts the vein 1100 feet deep and the vein shows better there than at any other point. The Red Boy has a mile and a half of levels and 20 stamp mill and has \$3,000,000 worth of ore in sight and a sale is now being negotiated in London on a \$3,000,000 basis. One million dollars has been frequently offered and refused for the Columbia. The Free Coinage was bought by Schilling and Cannon, of Portland, three months ago for \$5000. They have just sold a controlling interest in the property for \$75,000. The Sumpter Snow Bird, owned by Colonel E. S. Topping, Mike Shay and J. S. C. Fraser, of the Bank of Montreal, with less than \$3000 expended upon it, is now considered a \$100,000 mine. The Ibex, bought a year ago for \$65,000, has been sold to Colonel Ray, of Port Arthur, Canada, for \$300,000. The Bonanza has been sold to Colonel Hays, representing the Standard Oil people for \$750,000. The Diadem sold to the Pardee syndicate for \$24,000, and has after less than \$2000 has been expended upon it, and with a shaft down only 55 feet, ore enough in sight to pay for the mine. The Van Anda group of mines purchased by Blewett & Co. from Col. Bill Turner for less than \$100,000 last spring, gives indications at the present time of being a \$1,000,000 mine. The Cougar, belonging to Larson & Co., of Spokane, has a 250-ton cyanide mill upon it just ready to run. The sum of \$1,000,000 has been frequently offered and refused for this property. The Magnolia and Little Giant have mills now in the course of erection and are under the direction of W. L. Vinson, although largely owned in England. Each one is considered a \$1,000,000 property.

"Besides these established dividend payers there are at least 20 others developed to an extent that justifies the erection of mills. E. D. LeClair, formerly of Butte, began work about a year ago on the Richmond group near the Bonanza. He now has a shaft down 250 feet with cross cuts run, and the property is considered one of the best mines in the district. Capt. C. H. Thompson and Angus McQueen own the great Keystone group, adjoining the Bonanza on the east. Recent developments make it one of the great properties of the camp. Col. John Burke, well known in Montana and the Coeur d'Alenes, picked up an old mine, that had been abandoned for years, called the Chloride. He was backed by Tennessee capital and has developed a \$500,000 property. The Gem of the Mountains, owned by Leland and Erwin, promises to be one of the great copper-gold properties of the country.

"There have been 2000 prospectors in the mountains around Sumpter until lately, when they have been driven in by snow. Many of these, however, have

erected winter quarters, and are going ahead with the development of their locations.

"The Sumpter district is not a Cripple Creek—it is the Rand of America. The gold belt is 15 by 60 miles in area and the surface has not been scratched yet. By next August there will be 20,000 people in the Sumpter district. I do not advise anyone to go to Sumpter now. The snow is two feet deep in the town and five feet in the mountains, consequently no advantageous prospecting can be undertaken at this time. When the snow has passed away in the spring there will be no region in America offering such inducements to the prospector, gold seeker and practical mining man."

GOOD SHOWING ON THE BYSON

Tunnels Reveal Large Veins of High Grade Ore.

The Byson and Tiger mineral claims on Dixie creek, Grant county, thirty-eight miles from here, owned by the Byson Gold Mining and Milling company, the incorporators of which are H. W. Sloan, W. H. Jones, T. R. Yerger and Fred Dunn, all of Sumpter, are said to possess more than usual merit. They have been prospected and opened up in a thorough manner by the following work: On the Tiger claim there is a twenty-foot shaft and a fifteen-foot drift on the vein, which shows four feet of ore running \$4 by mill test. There is a five-stamp mill on the claim, though not belonging to the property.

The Byson claim has much more work on it, there being eighty feet of tunnel run on the ledge showing a pay streak six to fourteen inches in three feet of gangue matter between the walls. The values in this run \$32 to \$40.

North of the face of the tunnel an open cut of ninety feet on the ledge and a fifteen-foot shaft shows ten inches of good ore between walls three and one-half feet apart. Still another shaft twelve to fifteen feet deep and north of the cut shows ore of the same class. The vein has also been uncovered for several hundred feet, making prospects of almost certain merit, and as the new operators are men of good business judgment and sufficient means to carry out their ideas as to development, it is likely that good reports will come from the Byson property in a short time, as work has already been begun.

All Dealers Report Big Holiday Trade.

All merchants report having done an immense Christmas trade. Those who had for sale fancy goods which are disposed of principally for holiday presents, though they made the mistake of ordering too cheap a grade of goods, have done a big business, and will continue to do so until after New Year. In the postoffice especially did the extra work of the holidays come near swamping the regular business. Many packages were forwarded and received. Every available place in the little office was full of parcels too large to get into boxes, and to go through the lot to find the right one was something similar to finding the needle in the haystack.

Reported Rich Strike on the Bonanza.

There have been a number of reports in circulation during the past week or ten days relative to a rich strike in the lower levels of the Bonanza. No reliable information can be secured from the management. The Baker City Democrat makes this indefinite guess at the situation: "It is reliably stated that the December output of the Bonanza mine will be the greatest in the history of that big

property, which in one instance recently cleaned up in one month nearly \$100,000. As an assurance that all precious producing records of this mine will be eclipsed this month, it is known that the ore bodies which have furnished the mill for weeks past is as rich or richer than ever were uncovered in the mine, certainly more extensive. This rich ore is from the 700-foot level and is proof of the fact that the ore veins in the Bonanza increase in width and richness as depth is attained. It is now the intention of the management to gain 300 feet greater depth and operations to that end will soon be set in progress."

Sudden Death of J. W. Mead.

J. W. Mead, cashier of the First Bank of Sumpter, died at the hospital in Baker City Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, of pneumonia. He was taken sick only the previous Thursday, and because a nurse could not be secured here, his physician, Dr. Pearce, advised that he go to the hospital and accompanied him there. The doctor says that when he left him there were no dangerous symptoms, and the patient was feeling unexpectedly cheerful. Messrs. Calder, Goss, Bellinger, Gray, Griffin, Durgin, Dagonny and Marsh went to Baker yesterday to attend to the shipping of the body to West Liberty, Iowa, the deceased's former home and where his mother now resides. Owing to the delay in the arrival there of the train, they reached the depot just in time to see the O. R. & N. east-bound train pull out with the body aboard. Mr. Mead was one of those unobtrusive, substantial men who have not a wide circle of acquaintances, but who was trusted and admired by all with whom he came in contact. To these the unexpected news of his death was a painful shock. He was about forty-five years of age and had no family or relatives in this state. Before coming to Sumpter some months since, he resided at La Grande.

W. L. Vinson Will "Cut Things Loose."

W. L. Vinson reached Sumpter Thursday from Portland, accompanied by Mrs. Vinson. They left again Friday for Seattle, where they will spend the holidays with friends, returning here early in January. Mr. Vinson says he will then "cut things loose" and remain in Sumpter most of the time, giving his personal attention to his addition, mines, electric light and water systems.

Greenhorn District Prosperous.

Taylor Althouse, a pioneer of the Greenhorn district, was in town to enjoy the holidays. He has five claims there, known as the Silver Star group, which have quite a reputation, and from all accounts possess large parallel veins carrying high values both in gold and more particularly silver. He reports the district as very prosperous, there being more men at work there now than ever before.

Electric Light Machinery.

The two large boilers for the electric light plant, which arrived some days since, have been unloaded in the rear of the power house, and will soon constitute the most powerful "boiler battery" in eastern Oregon. Other machinery for the increase of capacity and improvement of the service will soon be installed.

For Sale.

Desirable home property. Call on Mrs. L. Hunstock, Cracker street.

Every piece of type in THE MINER plant is new and strictly up to date. A back number job can't be done in this office.