

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

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A REVIVAL IN REALTY.

NEVER SO ACTIVE AS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

Sumpter Townsite Company Advance Prices Ten Per Cent Tomorrow—More Sales This Month Than During the Previous Three—Many Individual Transfers—Army of Buyers in Town With Plenty of Money at Their Command.

Not in the history of the camp has there been so much activity in the real estate market as during the past ten days or two weeks. The town has been full of buyers with much outside money at their command, who have quickly picked up at good prices every desirable piece of property offered for sale.

Tomorrow, February 1, the Sumpter Townsite Company, Limited, will advance the price of all its property ten per cent. This is the first advance the company has made since placing its additions on the market last September, while the prices of lots everywhere else have been jumping up at a head reeling rate. The company has sold more lots for more money during the present month than during the three previous ones, the active life of the corporation.

Some of the more notable sales this week are fifteen lots in block 27, First addition, to McCoy & Richardson, of Walla Walla; ten lots in the same addition to William Mason, of Portland; all of blocks 14 and 25, and half of blocks 13 and 35, same tract, to Albany, Oregon, parties, through S. N. Steele, formerly of that place, but now located here; all of blocks 17 and 19, First addition, to a lady who came here from the east to invest; two lots each in blocks 1 and 4, South Sumpter, near the railroad crossing on Mill street, to a syndicate of traveling men, for all cash, and many single lots.

Fritz & Dwyer have made a number of sales recently. Perhaps the most important was that of the steam laundry, on south Mill street, for \$2500. Yesterday the south half of this lot they sold again. For themselves they bought the west 22½ feet of lot 15 blk 2, on Granite street, next to the Denny lodging house, from Charles Booth, of Butte, on which they will build at once.

J. G. Fritz, of Everett, Washington, who reached here about a month ago from Cape Nome, with a pocket full of soft money received at the Seattle government assay office in exchange for more of the northern dust than he could carry—and he can lift a cow—has bought the east twenty-five feet of the lot on which the Sumpter Hardware company's store is situated. He paid \$2250 for this property and knows that he secured a bargain. He will erect a two-story building there and occupy it himself.

O. C. McLeod & Company are doing a thriving business in general real estate and mining brokerage. Among other transactions the past week, they sold the lot and building now occupied by the blacksmith shop next to the electric light plant. H. M. Olsen, of Portland, was the purchaser, and will either remodel the present building or erect a new one at an early day. They have leased for two years the 14-foot space on Granite street, between the Magnolia and Mercer's drug store, to T. H. Dunphy, on which is now being erected a building to be used as a saloon. The same firm has also arranged

to put up a substantial building on the north half of the lot adjoining Basche's brick, for L. Q. Swetland, who holds the lease. This will be occupied by a clothing house from Portland as soon as completed. Mr. McLeod will improve the 11x24 feet adjoining his Mill street office, with a building to be used as a cigar store, work beginning this week.

More "Oregonian" Duplicity.

Dr. Brock, city physician, was called by the Portland Oregonian to the telephone office Thursday night, and interviewed over the wire, regarding the report that a smallpox epidemic is raging here. The doctor told that paper that there has been no case of smallpox here, and consequently could have been no death from that disease. Notwithstanding this official denial, the Oregonian published in its issue of Saturday an alleged telegram from Sumpter stating that there were a number of cases here, and that strict quarantine regulations were being enforced.

ANOTHER SHIPPING MINER.

Standard Group Has Good Values in the Three Workings.

Zoeth Houser, of the Standard Gold & Copper Mining company, came in from the Standard group on Dixie creek today, and reports active and satisfactory mining there. Active work was begun last November, and at this time the development consists of three tunnels, one of which is in 100 feet, the other two 50 feet each, and a 40-foot shaft.

They are at present working in good shipping ore, of which they have a carload sacked ready for shipment as soon as the road will permit hauling it out. Mr. Houser says the average assay values will run \$50 per ton in copper and gold. A sample shown THE MINER man resembled the ores of the Le Roi, War Eagle and other mines of the Roseland, B. C. district.

In thirty days the Standard people expect to be taking ore of good shipping values from three different workings on their property. Mr. Houser is anxious to see the new smelter in operation here, as they can at once become one of its patrons.

Power House Smokestack Falls.

A rope guy gave way while the big 65-foot smokestack for the new electric light plant was being hoisted into position Saturday, and the stack came down with a thundering thud. No one happened to be under it, otherwise there would have been human flapjacks lying loose. A corner of J. W. Jett's residence was nipped by the fall, but no serious damage resulted. The big stack was successfully hoisted Sunday.

Lumber and Fuel Company.

The Blue Mountain Lumber and Fuel company, another of W. L. Vinson's enterprises, is announced by a large sign over the doors of the latter's offices on Mill street. His saw mill on the north edge of town has turned out large piles of lumber and his men have cut and piled about 1500 cords of fire wood, which, with the slab wood from the mill, is now on the market.

Transformation Scene.

The old Red Front store building formerly occupied by W. C. Calder, is undergoing the complete remodeling process; nothing except the bare walls and roof remaining, but when J. N. Cox & Co. have carried out their intentions, there will be added to the list of Sumpter liquor houses one of the finest equipped places ever opened here.

PLAN FOR SEWERAGE.

Importance of Inaugurating This Work at Once.

Some weeks since THE MINER called attention to the importance, almost necessity, of constructing a system of sewers in this camp before the spring thaw. The idea met with instant approval and has been extensively discussed since that time, citizens and property holders generally favoring the proposition.

Members of the town council have considered the subject unofficially and are of the opinion that something should be done in this direction at an early day. They are, however, handicapped for the immediate present by a lack of sufficient funds in the treasury to prosecute the work. This condition of affairs is due to the fact that large expenditures have recently been made, including the payment of the bonus for the construction of the water works.

According to state laws and the town charter, the municipality cannot vote for bond for this purpose without a special act of the legislature. The legislature does not meet for a number of months, and to wait that length of time would defeat one of the most desired objects; that of securing good sanitary conditions for the coming spring, when thousands of newcomers will arrive. No feasible solution of the difficulty, based on private enterprise, has been submitted.

One alderman has suggested that the more necessary part of the work be done in March, the city agreeing with the contractor to pay him in April, at which time a large proportion of the taxes now due will probably be collected. It is true that the revenue secured from this source will not be sufficient to construct a system such as the camp will eventually need; but this preliminary work can be so planned that it will constitute a part of a comprehensive, servicable system to be completed later, and the money thus expended will not be wasted.

If this suggestion of the alderman can be acted on, it will be a wise move on the part of the council to take steps to that end at once. The money will be wisely expended, not only as a means to insure the health of the town, but it will add many times its amount to the money invested here by people from a distance.

Whist Club Entertained.

The members of the Sumpter Whist club were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cassidy, Friday evening in their pleasant apartments at the home of Postmaster and Mrs. Kahler, corner of Columbia and High streets. Several friends besides the original club members helped to make the evening enjoyable. The first prizes were carried off by Mrs. G. W. Jett and M. E. Thornton; the booby prizes being captured by Mrs. C. E. Steffen and E. L. Manning.

Charity Ball at Bonanza.

Mrs. E. V. Hall and Mrs. Edna Higginson are in town today from the Bonanza, disposing of tickets to a lunch and ball to be given there, in Geiser hall, on the evening of Thursday, February 8. The object of the entertainment is a charitable one, for the benefit of a worthy couple who have been sick for weeks. The few ladies of this camp have had many cases of sickness to attend during the past few weeks, and not until now

have they asked for outside aid. Bonanza is a large and liberal patron of Sumpter and Mesdames Hall and Higginson should and doubtless will receive generous treatment from the citizens of this town in this matter. A party of ladies and gentlemen has already been formed to attend the ball and others will doubtless go.

Baker City Wants Elk Creek Water Right.

The Baker City council held a meeting last evening to take action on the purchase of the Elk creek water right, and the water committee was authorized to secure an extension of the option from the Nelson Placer Mining company at an extra cost to the city not to exceed \$150, in addition to the purchase price of \$10,000.

ANGUS McQUEEN TALKS.

Tells of Oregon's Need of a Smelter and Government Assay Office.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated at Portland yesterday, says: Angus McQueen, one of the best known mining engineers on the Pacific coast, has great faith in the future of the mines of eastern Oregon. He said today in conversation with a party of mining men:

"Eastern Oregon, where I am interested in a great many properties, is, in my opinion, the greatest gold producing section in the United States. It is a shame and almost a disgrace that there is no smelter, United States mint or assay office in the entire state of Oregon. Oregon is losing credit of more than 25 per cent of its output of gold annually because there is no assay office or smelter in the state. Miners send their quartz, matte and dust to the Boise assay office, to San Francisco or to Puget Sound, and sometimes over to Colorado. Those states can get credit for that much increase in their gold output which really was produced in Oregon. Portland would be a good point if not the best for a smelter and an assay office. There ought also to be an assay office in Sumpter to catch the output of the Chinese placers, as well as to furnish a convenient means of exchange for the constantly increasing amount of gold bullion from that camp.

"Oregon's representatives in congress do not seem to realize it, and the people of the state seem to be asleep over it, and do not appreciate the magnitude of the gold belts of the state and their great importance in the near future. I should think that the chambers of commerce of Portland and Baker City would join hands in this matter and send a delegation to Washington and so strongly present the case that congress will be obliged to give us an assay office. With an assay office there would no doubt be smelters both in Portland and Baker City."

Red Men Entertain.

The Red Men had one of their regular monthly social sessions at Ellis opera house last evening, one of more than ordinary pleasure to the members and their friends who attended. A supper was served, with plenty of "venison," and other Red man delicacies.

First Miners Union Organized.

The first branch of the Miners Union to be installed in Oregon was organized a few days since at Cornucopia, with fifty-three charter members. Now look out for a rupture in the heretofore monotonous existence of camp life.

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.

Neill Mercantile company has all kinds and sizes in rubber foot wear.