

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

SUMPTER, OREGON, FEBRUARY 7, 1900.

NO. 22.

FIGHT FOR A FRANCHISE

TWO PARTIES WANT TO BUILD ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Portland People go on a Still Hunt for Valuable Privileges; But Are Not Still Enough—Local Combination Head Off the Play and Declare They Will Win—Just Who the Outsiders Are is Not Known Definitely.

Thursday and Friday of last week it was known to a few interested parties that an ordinance would be introduced at the meeting of the city council Saturday evening, granting a franchise to construct and operate electric railway lines through the streets of Sumpter.

This would materially interfere with the plans of General Warren and his associates, who for months past have been working on a plan to build a system of electric roads to the surrounding mining camps. These gentlemen at once began to devise ways and means to head off this move by outside parties.

With this end in view, a petition was presented to the council signed by Charles S. Warren, W. L. Vinson, T. K. Muir and W. C. Calder, asking for a franchise covering certain portions of Mill, Granite, Cracker and Austin streets and Bourne avenue. The petition stated that they already own a right-of-way to Bourne.

An ordinance was introduced granting an exclusive franchise over all streets in Sumpter to Lee McGrew, requiring that work of construction be commenced by July 1 of the present year and that the line on Granite and Mill streets be finished by January 1, 1901. These are the important points of the ordinance; the instrument is a long one and goes into minute detail.

No one in these parts seem to know who Lee McGrew is. His attorneys, Stott & Shelton, say that he is from Portland, is an experienced electrician and has been in Sumpter two weeks. They decline to say who is back of him in this enterprise; but declare that the general impression, that Little & Bell are his associates, is not true, and to a representative of this paper these gentlemen also denied the accusation. Mr. McGrew has not "seen" THE MINER and a reporter failed to find him and secure even an interview.

The affair has aroused much general interest in the community. Mr. McGrew's plan of action was evidently to railroad the ordinance through the council before any adverse interest should become aware of his presence here or his designs, which was a shrewd plan, all right enough, but it failed. He has a fight on his hands now and it will be a hot one if prosecuted. Sam Stott says his client will win out. On the other hand, the local combination is confident that the McGrew crowd wont be in the running; that an ordinance to be introduced Saturday evening granting the franchise to residents of Sumpter will eventually pass. This opinion is based on promises of a sufficient number of aldermen.

Fraternal Union of America.

A lodge of the Fraternal Union of America, one of the new and popular beneficiary orders, has been organized in Sumpter by District Deputies Jonathan and John Sturgile, with forty-five members. The lodge is known as Sumpter

Lodge No. —, F. U. A. Saturday evening in Ellis hall lodge room there will be a semi-public installation of these officers: E. C. Steffen, fraternal master; George Baker, justice; Frank Shaver, secretary; J. L. Sullivan, treasurer; Mrs. E. A. Spalding, mercy; Mrs. Barbara Duckworth, truth; V. R. Mead, protector; Miss Josephine Stadman, guide; Mrs. V. R. Mead and T. D. Taylor, stewards; J. O. Lockhart, guard; W. A. Green, sentinel; Dr. C. M. Pearce, physician; Miss Carrie Spalding, musician.

Free Coinage Wonderfully Rich.

V. A. Shilling returned yesterday from the Free Coinage, which property shows up better and richer with every blast. He brought down with him a bottle of concentrates, he having taken the rock from the ledge, crushed and panned it himself, a quarter of which is coarse, free gold. Mr. Shilling declines to make a public statement regarding what he proposes to do with all his money when he finally cashes in. He left for Portland on the 12:45 p. m. train yesterday.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Franchises Asked for—Building and Sewer Permits Granted.

At the meeting of the city council Saturday evening building permits were granted to J. T. Parkinson, W. H. Gleason and I. Williamson.

A permit was granted Messrs. Looney, Robbins and Potter to construct a private sewer from their property on and near the corner of Granite and Center streets, along Center street to the main sewer in the alley between Granite and Sumpter. A number of permits were granted to build side and cross walks.

The committee on fire and water reported that the water company makes a charge of six dollars for tapping the main and fifteen cents a foot for service pipe to the curb, allowing a rebate of fifty cents a month on water rates until the bill is paid.

The health officer was instructed to get bids on furnishing medicine for city patients. The judiciary committee was instructed to see what can be done towards inducing the county to reimburse the town of Sumpter for taking care of county patients. The city attorney was instructed to draft an ordinance requiring all physicians to report all cases of contagious diseases.

At the request of the city attorney the empowering ordinance was laid over for one week, after passing to its second reading.

The amendment to the flume ordinance, making it include the entire town, was passed.

An ordinance was introduced granting to Lee McGrew an exclusive franchise to construct and operate electric railway lines through the streets of Sumpter. A petition signed by Charles S. Warren, W. L. Vinson, T. K. Muir and W. C. Calder asked for a similar franchise. Both were laid over until the next meeting.

Reports of town officials were filed and bills amounting to about \$700 were allowed.

Hilgard-Granite Road Survey.

President Smith, of the Hilgard, Granite & Southwestern railway, reports that Engineer Clark's surveying crew is now at the mouth of Fly creek, nineteen miles from Hilgard. The minimum grade is 27 feet to the mile, and the maximum, which is for a short distance only, is 74 feet. From present indications the distance from Granite to Hilgard will be under fifty miles, which is somewhat shorter than first estimated.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

WILL MAKE MORE BEER

Columbia Capacity Increased—Another Brewery.

The Columbia Brewing and Malting company has been incorporated by John Armbruster, William Stinson and A. W. Ellis, with a paid up capital stock of \$25,000. The company owns the plant now in operation on Mill street, known as the Columbia brewery.

The object of incorporation was to secure mere capital and enlarge the plant. The whole establishment will also be remodelled. A stone addition will be erected, to be used as an ice house and cooling rooms. The capacity of the brewery will be increased to 1000 barrels a month. This establishment has made money since the day it turned out its first keg of beer.

It is also reported that the old Parkinson blacksmith shop, on Cracker street, will be enlarged and a brewing plant installed therein. The report seems to be reliable, but THE MINER has been unable to find among the wilderness of strangers now in Sumpter the parties who are promoting this enterprise.

Opening of the Golden Eagle.

The Golden Eagle hotel opened its doors to the public Monday, and to a good business, of course. The furniture and fixtures in the house are new from top to bottom, and everything is comfortable and convenient. The dining room is large and well lighted, the cuisine is unsurpassed and the service excellent. Dinner is served at 6 o'clock, which has proven to be a popular change from local custom, as there are many people here who have been accustomed to this meal schedule and can't become accustomed to the noon dinner. Messrs. Gellatly and Fowler, the proprietors, are evidently hotel men of experience and their success here is assured.

Baker County's Assessed Valuation.

The assessed valuation of Baker county for the year 1899 was \$2,775,790. There are single mines here worth that amount of money. By far the greatest values rest in its mines, which will never be assessed at their cash value. Many of these are not patented and are, therefore, not assessed at all. The products of the county this year, mines, farms and ranges, will equal the entire assessed value of last year. Baker County's indebtedness is only \$126,474—this last statement being made on the authority of the Democrat.

Representing Wolff-Zwicker Iron Works.

Franklin Riffle, manager of the Wolff & Zwicker iron works, of Portland, was in the city last week looking over the field here for selling mining machinery. Mr. Riffle is a civil, sanitary, hydraulic, consulting and mining engineer of many years experience, and under his management the Wolff & Zwicker company is manufacturing up-to-date mining machinery, which is finding a ready market in the West.

Sam Stott's Running Record.

Sam Stott has the reputation of being the slowest individual on earth. Yesterday afternoon, however, he was fifteen minutes late in arriving at the depot in Baker City and found the logger had left. He didn't feel like walking to Sumpter, so made a dash and caught the train before it reached the tank. A. W. Ellis is

authority for both of these statements, and what he says, goes. Speaking of this, Mr. Ellis said that Sam Stott was designed by nature for a runner; that he has a reach surpassing that of any sprinter who ever went on the track, and that if he would only work up a sufficient motive power, would be a world-beater.

E. C. Finch Returns to Sumpter.

E. C. Finch, a successful mining man well known throughout the Northwest, who was in this district a number of weeks last summer, arrived in town today from Portland, where he has been for several months past. He was one of the purchasers last fall of the Intermountain, a developed mine with hundreds of tons of ore on the dump. A few men have been at work on the property all winter. Mr. Finch is here to stock the mine, work it with a large force of men and arrange to treat the ore. He will be here several weeks.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVE.

Numerous Residence and Several Business Lots Change Hands.

Little attention is paid here to deals in residence lots, scores of such sales being made every day. The Sumpter Townsite company continues to make large sales in their additions. Two blocks in the First addition were sold yesterday to Roseburg parties. Activity in the real estate market increases in intensity daily.

In business property, however, every trade is watched with interest by all brokers and buyers. The latter continue to bid against each other whenever a desirable lot is put on the market, and when it is known who the lucky one is who secured it, the others kick themselves for not having offered more. Several important deals have been made during the past few days.

Mohr & Mayer sold the J. Duckworth property on Sumpter street, 50 by 100 feet, to J. L. Abrams and C. E. House, of Spokane, for \$3300. One year ago this same lot changed hands, the price being \$275.

Last Saturday Mrs. Laura Lockhart sold the lot on the corner of Mill and Auburn streets to Mr. Griffin, of the hotel bearing his name, for \$3300, McLeod & Co. negotiating the transaction. Yesterday the same firm sold the rear end of this lot, 26 by 45 feet to Crandall & Irwin for \$1550. A two-story frame building will be erected here at once.

Fritz & Dwyer sold for the Townsite company to Fred Ritchie the east twenty-eight feet of the lot on Granite street, where THE MINER office formerly was. Mr. Ritchie's original intention was to erect thereon at once a building, to be occupied by himself as a liquor store, but he has an opportunity to get quick action for his money and may sell.

Will Develop the St. Anthony.

W. C. Koester and William Kickhafer, of Milwaukee, friends of Dr. G. S. Wheeler, the mining expert, who have been in this district for some days past, leave today for home. They will return later, having while here become interested in the St. Anthony Gold Mining and Milling company, which owns a property in the vicinity of the Red Boy. This mine has a 60-foot ledge which carries values from four to ten dollars, the ore being easily and economically mined. The property will be developed at once.

Fire Meeting and Drill Sunday.

The fire department will be called out on a general alarm Sunday morning next, for drill and a subsequent meeting.