

## The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
One Year ..... \$2.00  
Six Months ..... 1.25  
ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

PERHAPS the Boers are merely permitting the English troops to win a game, in order to keep them from becoming discouraged. Until the late reported victory by the latter, they have not entertained the south African Dutch.

IT IS stated that contracts will soon be let for the longest mining ditch in the world. It will be ninety-three miles long, beginning above Rogue river falls and terminating at Gold Hill, southern Oregon. It will drain 100,000 acres of good placer land and will cost \$700,000, a considerable portion of which amount is subscribed.

THE only objection that can be made to the weather this winter is that we should have known last fall what to expect. Had this knowledge of the future been vouchsafed to the citizens of Sumpter, those who arranged for extensive building operations in the spring would have had them completed by that time, ready to accommodate the crowd already rushing into this camp.

OVER on Puget Sound, during the boom days of a dozen years ago, when townsites were being platted at every steamboat landing, a "josh" bill was introduced in the state legislature reserving certain lands for agricultural purposes. Some such plan should be adopted up Granite way. It looks as if too much good mineral land thereabouts is going to be wasted to unnecessary townsites. Some land should be reserved for mining purposes.

EITHER Consul Marcum, late of Pretoria, or Secretary of State Hay have deviated widely from the truth, regarding those consular reports from the seat of the south African war. The consul says his official papers were opened by British authorities while in transit through the mails, and that he reported the same to the state department. The secretary declares that he never received such report. Marcum says Hay is in a secret alliance with England and sent his own son to Pretoria to promote England's cause against the Boers, in compliance with the terms of this alliance. The American people ought to learn the truth about this matter. The incident should not be closed as it now stands.

ONE of the Baker City papers has found a man who sees a dark, dull future for Sumpter and gleefully exploits him and his opinion under scare head lines. This prophet of evil omen says his name is J. N. Esselstyn and that he is a mining engineer from Salt Lake City. He declares that Granite and some other towns as yet unborn and not named, will distance Sumpter. Of course, as reported in the Baker City paper, that town is "the Denver of eastern Oregon," and will surpass in commercial greatness the Colorado metropolis in fifteen or twenty minutes.

The mining engineer's reason for consigning Sumpter to early oblivion is that his pay roll does not justify so large a town as is already here. The man ought to be loaning money at five per cent a month on chattel security. He is evi-

dently a sure thing proposition and can't conceive of a probability. He is also ignorant of the fact that it is during the development period of a mining district, when speculation and trading in properties are active that people flock in and thriving camps are quickly called into existence, causing a boom. After a mine is developed and becomes a dividend payer, the excitement, so far as that property is concerned, is all over, and is about as much benefit to a town as a saw mill employing an equal number of men. Then these sure thing people can begin to talk about their pay rolls, and figure on what population the wage earners will support.

At present, Sumpter has just entered upon the first mentioned period of her existence; hundreds are arriving daily to invest in mines and real estate, to engage in business and otherwise participate in the wonderful commercial and industrial activity now prevailing here. If what the experts unanimously declare to be true, that this is one of the greatest mining regions of the globe, then this era of speculation and development will continue several years. As long as it does continue, this town will grow and thrive, for it is the throbbing heart of all this business activity. When it comes to calculating what this mining district will do in the way of supporting a large city, on the saw mill basis, that is something that no man can do accurately, but if the experts' opinions are worth anything, this will be a big town, for all the mines to the west—and there is where the mines are located—are tributary to it. Nature has decreed so much, and when nature and the force of human circumstances and the effort of trained rustlers are united in an enterprise, then the object of their common purpose is as sure of attainment as death and taxes—even though the nauseating chestnut that "Baker City is the Denver of eastern Oregon," is dogmatically repeated numerous times daily by the touters for that provincial, mossback village.

### Voters Attention.

The voters of the North and South Sumpter precincts can now register at the city hall, E. L. Manning, city recorder, having received the registration books from the county clerk for that purpose.

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