

## STREET IMPROVEMENT

### GRANITE AND MILL WILL SOON BE PLANKED.

Covering the Principal Business Portion of Town—Property Owners to Pay for Work Direct—City Engineer Now Making Estimates.

The owners of property on Granite street, between Mill and Cracker, met Thursday afternoon to discuss some plan for improving that thoroughfare, the old main business street of the camp. All present were in favor of doing something of the kind. J. H. Robbins, John Gagen and F. H. Neil were appointed a committee, with full power to act, to investigate the subject and take such steps as they might deem best.

These gentlemen have two plans in mind; one to plank the street with 2x6-inch lumber, the other to cover it with gravel. They have authorized the city engineer to make estimates of the cost of each. Owing to the fact that a great deal of excavation will have to be done in case gravel is used, this will make an expensive process, and it is thought by those who have had experience in road building that plank will be preferable in other respects. It will last about five years and the street will be practically free from mud.

The committee has interviewed all of the property owners along the line of the proposed improvements and, with two exceptions, they have signed an agreement pledging themselves to pay their proportion of the cost. The two exceptions noted expressed their approval of the enterprise and gave verbal promises that they would do their share, but did not care to bind themselves by a written agreement. The street will undoubtedly be planked, work beginning at an early day, surely as soon as the frost gets out of the ground.

F. H. Neil, who owns property at the corner of Mill and Granite, is taking the lead in a similar move to improve Mill street also, from Granite to the railroad track. He stated to a MINER representative that he is meeting with much encouragement and little or no opposition and that there is now scarcely a doubt that this street will also be improved. This will cover the four principal business blocks of the town.

#### Baker City Iron Works.

The Baker City iron works, operated by George F. McLynn, is being enlarged by the addition of a 25x42-foot building and otherwise put in the best running order, to accommodate the heavy business in sight, much of which comes from the Sumpter country. The Sumpter Valley Railway company is just now having all its engines repaired and put in order at these shops, necessitating the employment of a large force of men, among whom is noticed the Teidman brothers, of Tacoma, one of them being foreman of the foundry department, and Frank Brooks, one of the best machinists in the country, is in charge of the machinery department. This institution enjoys a monopoly in its line, receiving all the repair and iron work from Sumpter, the Grande Ronde Lumber company at LaGrande, everything from Weiser, Idaho, Elgin, Oregon, and other points near by.

#### Richer Than the Famous Comstock.

John S. Vinson, who recently disposed of his general merchandise store in Milton, has just returned from a trip to the Sumpter mining district. Mr. Vinson is very enthusiastic over the possibilities of the mineral belt. He says there are a number of men doing well in that section

working their claims with clumsily constructed arastras and that the section of country in which paying dirt can be found is almost illimitable. Mr. Vinson is of the opinion that as soon as the richness of that section becomes generally known that a tremendous rush to the gold fields of eastern Oregon will follow, giving an impetus to the mining industry of this state not excelled by the miners' Mecca of Cape Nome. "All that is necessary for the incredulous to do," says Mr. Vinson, "is to visit the section in which I have been and see for themselves. Most anywhere in the Granite section a man can find gold and silver bearing rock." The many friends of Mr. Vinson will be pleased to hear of the mines in which he is interested exceeding in richness the famous Comstock in the palmy days of Virginia City.—Pendleton Republican.

#### DEATH OF JOHN V. BLACK.

##### Good Man Dies Suddenly Under Peculiarly Sad Circumstances.

John V. Black, formerly of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, died at 12:45 a. m. on the eighth instant. Mr. Black came to Sumpter about July 1, 1899, and was in the employ of T. D. Bellinger & Co. from his arrival until his demise. He had the implicit confidence of his employers, and all who became acquainted respected him for his manly worth. Those who knew him best, loved him most and appreciated his sterling qualities. His kindness and generosity won those who knew him well. He was always ready to cast the mantle of charity over the foibles and errors of others, and with a free and feady hand to assist the worthy needy.

He was buried under the auspices of the order of Red Men, of Sumpter, of which he was a respected member, as was evidenced by the splendid manner they returned dust to dust, from whence it came. His memory they cherish, and his soul they committed to the great spirit that gave it. May his ashes rest in peace and his memory never grow dim to those who knew him.

It was pleasant to see such a fine procession of some of the best and most highly respected citizens. It is evident that the Red Men have come to do good in Sumpter; they soothe the pillow of the sick and comfort the sorrow of the stricken.

Mr. Black was to have been joined in the holy bonds of matrimony this week to a very estimable lady, Miss W. Wichman, and they were to run the lodging department over the Magnolia. The heartfelt sympathy of all is extended to this lady and his sorrowing mother, away back in Ontario.

The funeral services were delivered by the Rev. James Byers, of the Presbyterian church of Sumpter.

Robert Buchanan, the eminent tragedian, will open an engagement of six nights at Sumpter, March 10, at Ellis opera house, supported by a strong and well balanced company.

The Mint saloon, corner Center and Sumpter streets, serves the best brands on y of wines, liquors and cigars.

The celebrated Jed Clayton brand o whiskey at the Mint saloon, corner of Center and Sumpter streets.

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Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained

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