

The Sumpter Miner

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SUMPTER is revelling in ideal weather. The bright sunshine is rapidly melting the snow in the mountains and drying the roads.

THE town council is turning its attention to internal improvements; a wise timely move. It is hoped that a large measure of success will crown the worthy effort.

"OUR personal acquaintance with Mr. Fowler and his able work on the State, makes that publication one of the ablest on the Pacific coast," says the Baker City Republican. Rather a valuable acquaintance that. Would like to meet "Our" ourselves.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports that Bishop Hurst, of the M. E. church, New Jersey, is authority for the statement that when President McKinley leaves the White House, he will accept the chair of international law in the American College, Washington D. C.

AND now Shelton, the demagogue preacher who has been running the Topeka Capital as "Christ would run it," announces that the method is a failure from a newspaper business standpoint. Shelton can't do anything as Christ would, and this use of His name is rank sacrilege.

SPEAKING of the Porto Rican bill now before congress, a press dispatch quotes a cabinet officer as saying, immediately after a cabinet meeting held Monday: "The president will be satisfied with anything the majority in congress does. It is understood that the chief executive has now come to the conclusion that the best way for him to get out of the muddle, is to wash his hands of the whole affair."

SEVERAL outside newspapers have devoted considerable space during recent months to Sumpter and this mining district, notably the Spokesman-Review and the Portland Telegram. They are reaping their legitimate reward in a rapidly increasing circulation throughout this whole section of country. Sumpter's citizens are willing to do more even than this, to go down in their pockets and pay any reasonable sum for advertising. But when a single paper demands \$2,000 for a write up and another \$2100, that is extortion; looks very much like a holdup, and the chances are that the intended victim will not submit. That amount of money invested in the work of one of the local printing offices would do a vast deal more good. Advertising in outside newspapers is wanted and needed, but some of them have the nerve to demand the earth and the fullness thereof, which they will never get.

FOR some time past certain state papers have been casting insinuations and sneering at Paul Mohr's portage railroad down on the Columbia. Several weeks since there began to appear in The Dalles Times-Mountaineer some plain statements of facts regarding the work being done, accompanied by some red hot editorial comments on the methods and motives of those editors who had thrown their poisoned darts at the gigantic enterprise. There is but one writer on the coast who commands such heavy artillery as that which has been used to bombard these newspaper bushwhackers through the columns of the Times-Mountaineer,

and that one is Colonel Donan. Nor is there anywhere such a quick, accurate gunner. He has driven them into cover, made the whole outfit change their tactics.

QUITE a readable story has recently been published in several Northwestern papers, from their Sumpter correspondent, to the effect that "Old Felix," a Frenchman who explored this country so long ago as when the surrounding hills were holes in the ground, claims to have a patent to the townsite of Granite. One man in Portland, whose name is not given, read the article and hastened to the Telegram to inform that paper that the whole scheme is one devised here to injure Granite. Such is not the case. The people here don't want to injure Granite. If they did, they would work up a more skillful job to accomplish their purpose. No one believes that there is any flaw in the title to the Granite townsite; it comes direct from the government and that, in itself, ought to allay the fears of the timid prospective investor. As to the Old Felix story, it contains scarcely a trace of the probable; is so gaudy and gauzy a romance that it would be classified on sight as fiction. THE MINER repeats that Granite is all right, title and all.

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