

NOW IS TIME TO COME.**Hundreds of Prospectors Leaving for the Hills.**

He who wrote: "The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la, have nothing to do with the case," knew nothing about the affairs of a mining camp. Here they have everything to do with it—the all absorbing, mind centering, energy arousing, hope fed case. It is when the flowers bloom in the spring, along the banks of limpid streams and high up on mountain sides that the prospector gets his outfit together, packs his burro and starts out in search of the gold ledge—the most fascinating calling that has ever engaged human effort.

That is the life, the soul of a camp. The developed mine has little or no interest for the camp, except on pay day; is a chestnut, a sure thing. It is the new find that makes another millionaire which arouses all the interest, absorbs all the earnest thought of a mining community, the motive power that moves others to play at this laborious game of chance, with no limit on the stake to be won; yes, and lost, which in itself, adds to the interest. All this takes the place of the spring religious revival and the chance of a good "stand" of corn in the older communities, where life is not usually wildly exciting, and the always same human emotions are not stirred as violently as here.

But to return to the text and give it local practical application, the flowers are blooming in the Sumpter district and hundreds of prospectors are out in the hills. It was not so a year ago, when there was ten feet of snow on the ground. This is an unusually early spring, but it is spring as sure as continued warm weather, blooming flowers, budding trees, mating birds and the trend of young men's fancies constitute that season, and there is no going behind these returns of Nature.

Except on the northern slopes snow has already disappeared and prospecting is pronounced by those who have tried it, to be possible and unattended by any unusual inconveniences and hardships. The two or three hundred prospectors who have been spending the winter here have left town and their absence is felt; makes a perceptible difference, a demerit in the crowds on the streets in the day time and in the resorts evenings. One straw that indicates whether they have drifted is found in the fact that during the past week THE MINER has sold over 500 quartz location blanks and 200 placer certificates.

This is written for the benefit of those at a distance, who are waiting on the season, to come here. There is no use of waiting longer. And don't take time to buy your outfit there, for you can get it just as cheap and a whole lot better adapted to your wants here in Sumpter, where immense stocks of goods are kept by the merchants familiar with the trade.

Work Resumed On the Badger.

A. B. Benneson, president and general manager of the Badger Mining company, owner and operator of the Badger and other mines at Susanville, recently came from San Francisco on a visit to the mines. In speaking of his organization, he is quoted as saying that all trouble among the stockholders in his company had been adjusted and its properties would be operated at once on an extensive scale. In fact, that a resumption had already taken place and no complications would likely occur to interfere with his company's plans to work its mines, both quartz and placer, for all there was in them. The operations of the company at Susanville is superintended by Alfred Brile, a well known and competent mining man. The Badger mine, which prop-

erty has been the seat of operations for some time, has produced fully \$85,000 of rich ore. The most of this amount has been expended in wages, improvements and for other work in developing the property. The property is yet all right, and with the assistance of the Stockton, Gem and Princess, will be the means of Susanville experiencing a boom some day. —Long Creek Eagle

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN ROAD.

To Be Completed to Shaniko April 15—
Passenger Service May 1.

E. E. Lytle, of the Columbia Southern, has stated that his company now has 400 men at work laying track. They are progressing at the rate of 4500 to 5000 feet per day. "We expect to have our line completed through to Shaniko by April 15," said he. "Commencing May 1, we shall establish passenger train service between Biggs, on the O. R. & N., and Shaniko. Our train will connect with the O. R. & N.'s morning train, to be put into service on or about that date, running out of Portland.

"This will enable mail to reach the interior districts twenty-four hours earlier than at present at The Dalles. It will shorten the old route from The Dalles to intermediate points sixty miles, displacing stage lines to that extent. Daily stages will be put on at Shaniko to Prineville and intermediate points, via Canyon City.

"Our company will establish its repair shops at Shaniko. We have had drawn already plans and specifications for a passenger depot and freight house.

"We believe that our line is opening up territory directly tributary to Portland—a territory rich in mineral resources and a great stock country as well. Trade that would naturally drift southward, providing facilities were afforded, will certainly come to Portland. There are rich mines along the John Day river where ore is now accumulating that will go to Tacoma and San Francisco. Just as soon as Portland establishes its proposed smelter this will go there. It will then be possible to make a rate as low as \$2.—East Oregonian.

Rapid Rise of a Man in Sumpter.

Charles H. Chance, son of Dr. George H. Chance, is here on a visit from his present home at Sumpter. Mr. Chance has not only built up a large law practice in eastern Oregon, but has also become heavily interested in the mines of Oregon's Eldorado. He is secretary of the Successful Mining company, owning the Majestic group of claims, between the famous Cougar mine and the Mastiff group, in the Granite district. While this property is yet but little developed, Mr. Chance has great hopes for it, believing that it will prove equally as rich a mine as the Cougar, for which \$250,000 has been refused. At the Mastiff mine, Mr. Chance also reports a strike was made last week of \$600 ore. Mr. Chance is also interested in the Erie Mining company, owning two promising claims on an extension of the Bonanza ledge. Mr. Chase has been in Sumpter since the first of the year. He reports activity in every mining camp and the town of Sumpter growing.—Portland Telegram.

Gold Dredging in Eastern Oregon.

A press dispatch from Portland quotes E. H. Cooper, consulting and prospecting engineer of the Pomeroy Gold Dredge company, now operating on Burnt river, as saying that he thinks there is a great future in eastern Oregon for gold dredging. He has prospected twenty miles of river channels in eastern Oregon, and he says every one of them will pay to be worked.

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