

The Sumpter Miner

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SUMPTER'S first political convention will be twins. The populists will also meet here, at the time of the democratic convention. All are welcome.

PAPERS published in agricultural communities in this state are saying much of late about mines paying no taxes. They are exempt in order to "encourage infant industries," of course. Isn't that the accepted theory of our ridiculous old paternal government?

AN object lesson illustrating the fact that "all roads lead to Sumpter," was given last week. Two men were arrested in Grant county, and in order to take them to the jail at the county seat, they had to be brought here, eighteen miles east. Nature has done this for Sumpter. In mountainous regions roads must conform to the topography of the country.

AND now Salisbury himself admits that Consul Marcum's official letters were opened by British authorities in South Africa. He regrets that this "mistake" was made. This document was yesterday sent by the state department to the house committee on foreign affairs. This "squares" Marcum's statements and puts Secretary Hay in the position both of a liar and a traitor.

It seems to be peculiarly Oregoneseque for papers in this section not to give a fair, honest credit for articles taken from other papers. In many instances coming under THE MINER'S observation of late, no credit is given at all, while in most cases it is concealed in the middle of some long paragraph. In nine cases out of ten this credit is the important feature of the story, giving it a location. Just why editors should feel any reluctance to give proper credit, is difficult to conceive.

DURING the past week THE MINER has been shown several letters, received by people here from friends at a distance, expressing solicitude regarding their health, and repeating stories they had heard about the great amount of sickness in Sumpter. One letter from Spokane stated that it is reported there that people are dying here like hogs with the cholera. All these reports are entirely false, and it begins to look as if they were being circulated by those who seek to injure the camp.

"ARE you going to Sumpter?" is the catch line in the advertisements of merchants in several newspapers that come to THE MINER office. This is good evidence of the fact that this camp is the objective point of many people who are contemplating moving; the town is being talked about. These merchants, who study the conditions surrounding their business, follow up the enquiry with advice to buy goods from them before leaving for Sumpter. Of course, self interest prompts this suggestion. It is not a wise one for those who are coming here to follow. They can serve their own interests better by waiting until they arrive in this town before buying their supplies. The merchants here carry immense stocks of goods, know the needs of the trade and sell as cheap, if not cheaper, as the same quality of goods can be bought for elsewhere.

LAST week the Baker City Republican headed an editorial, "The Sumpter Tragedy," under which was a conglomeration

of maudlin mendacity and inexcusable idiocy. The paper advocated lynch law as a measure of public economy and advised that this summary method be resorted to, to clear the town of the sporting fraternity. The purpose of the heading was to make it appear that this is a tough camp, infested by criminals. As a matter of fact, at that time no homicide had ever taken place here, in the more than thirty years of the town's existence. It is undoubtedly the most orderly, law abiding mining camp on the continent. Since that time a man has been killed here. Both parties involved were recent arrivals from somewhere down the Willamette. They were partners and brought their business quarrels here with them.

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