

# THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

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## SUMPTER VALLEY RY.

### WILL EXTEND TRACK SEVERAL MILES TO TIMBER LANDS.

**New Steel Rails to be Laid Between Sumpter and Baker City.—Possible Changes to be Made in Local Yards and Depot Site.—Engineering Feats Will Determine These.—Claims to Own Auburn Street.**

Officials of the Sumpter Valley railroad have been surveying in the vicinity of the depot and along its tracks to the south half a mile, for a week or more past. Of course, they look wise and say nothing, knowing that to be the accepted method of giving a con game support to that kind of look.

To let people know they were in town, getting ready to carve a fleshy swine in the other end, several people have been notified to get off what the company claims to be its right of way. Among these are said to be the officers of the Sumpter Transportation company, who have been informed, so the story goes, that about half of their barn, corner of Sumpter and Auburn street, is on railroad property. According to this claim, Auburn street, for more than a block, also belongs to this slim gauge railroad company. As a matter of fact, people in Sumpter are uncertain as to whether they own their souls.

J. B. Stoddard was in Baker City Monday and had a talk with President Eccles, who informed him that the road is soon to be extended beyond this point. He stated further that twenty car loads of steel rails have arrived, which will be used to replace the two streaks of rust between here and Baker City; that rails for the extension will be shipped as needed.

Regarding local changes, all that Mr. Stoddard would reveal concerning his talk with Mr. Eccles is that some engineering difficulty is anticipated in crossing the divide to the west; that if this can be overcome, the depot and yards will be removed to the twenty acre tract about half a mile south of the present site. But if this can not be accomplished, then the track will be extended across Powder river from its present terminus on Cracker street, and the obstructing hill "switch-backed."

According to the best information THE MINER can secure, the road will do just what its officials announced last fall would be done; a logging road ten or a dozen miles in length will be constructed this season. Some months since, the Oregon Lumber company, which is about the same thing as the Sumpter Valley railroad, through its employes, gobbled up a large tract of timber land out Clifford way. The road, which was originally built as an adjunct of the Oregon Lumber company's saw mills, and has been operated primarily as a logging road ever since, being run not only on narrow gauge tracks, but narrow gauge policy as well, will merely be extended to this recently acquired timber.

The idea of the road, under its present management, entering the field for general traffic in territory to the west and south of here, where broad gauge railroad men are contesting for supremacy, is ridiculous.

**Shirt Sleeves Yesterday; Fur Coats Today.**  
Yesterday was summer weather; the temperature was pleasant, the sun shone

warm and bright, enticing the prospector to the hills, the lazy man to the trout streams. This morning the ground was covered with two inches of snow and the alleged beautiful has been falling all day. Mercury stands below the freezing point; overcoats, furs and arctics have been called into service again and the fuel dealer is giving the ice man the horse laugh. The sooner who put on their new soda water and ice cream suits weeks ago, are sewing buttons on last winter's corduroy pants and the lining in the sleeves of their discarded heavy coats. It may not be exactly a case of Time turned back in its flight, but surely the seasons have somehow slipped a few cogs—backwards.

### Utah Capital Looking for Investments.

G. W. Hall, who represents a syndicate of Utah capitalists, came here some days since for the purpose of buying the electric light plant; but found that he was too late, that others had secured it. He is so favorably impressed with the town and country, however, that he is determined to get in on the proposition somehow, and is looking for other investments. He would like to buy the water works, but it is not known whether or not it can be bought.

### GROWING INSTITUTION.

#### Columbia Brewing and Malting Company's Business Rapidly Expanding.

One of the most successful enterprises in Sumpter today is the Columbia Brewing and Malting company's plant on Mill street, where the management has recently been making large additions to and improvements in the buildings, machinery and apparatus for the manufacture of the popular beverage.

A new two story building for fomenting quarters and tank rooms, has been completed, in which is being placed six 40-barrel, the same number of 100-barrel vats, known as storage tanks, in addition to the former spacious ones which had become too small for the large business this company has built up since John Armbruster has been at the helm. Another building will be added at once, for the ice plant, which will when completed make a continuous structure covering 50x100 feet of ground, three stories high. Still another building has just been erected on the opposite side of the alley, in which the bottling works with modern machinery, which has been ordered and is on the road, will be installed. It will also be used as a keg house, in which four carloads of various sized new beer kegs and barrels have been unloaded. Here also is room for six horses, as the company will put on its own wagons for the delivery of its product in Sumpter and the towns west of here, where it is now supplying nearly the entire trade.

The output of this model institution will be 600 to 800 barrels of beer per month and if the demand is greater, the capacity will be again enlarged.

The progress made by the Columbia people since John Armbruster assumed charge, is little short of wonderful and shows him to be a master of the business, in which he has had a long and extensive experience, but there is probably no reason why, with intelligent application, together with ample capital with which to put in modern appliances and secure the best of materials, the Columbia beer will not make a name for its self equal to any other in the market.

The City Green house, at Baker City, furnishes choice cut flowers.

Don't forget to register.

## LIGHT PLANT TRANSFERRED.

### Scrap For the Possession of Machinery.

The electric plant has been transferred to the new owners and they have organized the Sumpter Light and Power company, the incorporators of which are A. C. Little, S. H. Bell and Edward Cannon. The first named two are Puget Sound people, while Mr. Cannon is connected with an electric machinery house in Portland, which put in the plant here. His connection with the company means something, exactly what THE MINER doesn't know, and about which it will not make a guess today.

There was quite a disturbance created yesterday when these men started to move into the power house, the engine, fly wheel and other machinery belonging to the plant which has been out on the sidetrack for months past. The marshal appeared with attachment papers gotten out by A. P. Goss, for over \$1000 advanced the former management, and forbade the removal of the stuff. No attention was paid either to the legal document or the official warning. Then Attorney McColloch took a hand and tried to persuade them to "ring off," but he, too, was ignored.

Attorney Richards says this attachment will not hold, that all the property of the company was transferred to him more than a month ago and that he, in turn, executed a transfer to the new owners several days since.

Attorney McColloch stated last evening that he had not decided what course to pursue, as other attorneys were interested in the case, who would have to be consulted.

The new dynamo has arrived; but has not yet been moved from the car. When the plant will be in operation THE MINER will not venture another prediction.

### General and Mrs. Warren Return Home.

General and Mrs. Warren returned Saturday from Portland, where the former had been for a couple of weeks. He says the people of the Webfoot metropolis are slowly learning how to recognize a good thing when they see it and are therefore becoming interested in the Sumpter district. The general says the outlook here is better than it was two months since, that the correspondence of the Townsite company indicates that a large number of people all over the Ueion are contemplating coming here to reside and invest. W. C. Calder has not yet returned from the coast, but will probably arrive at an early day.

### Internal Evidence of Fraud.

The second number of the Mining Herald and Investors Guide, published at Minneapolis, has reached this office. The publication seems to be issued largely in the interest of the American Mines Development Company, Limited, a concern which the Republic Miner has been denouncing for months past as a rank fraud. It formally claimed to own rich gold mines, townsites etc in that district. Its gold quartz properties have now been transferred to this district, of which the advertisement says: "The gold quartz claims in northeastern Oregon. The Blue Mountain King and Queen, two claims located in one of the rich camps tributary to the now famous Sumpter

mining district. These claims carry a great ledge of base gold bearing ores their entire length and when developed will make one of the companies most valuable holdings." Who in this vicinity ever heard of the Blue Mountain King and Queen? This confident prediction of what future development will do for these unheard of claims, in itself, contains internal evidence of either the company's ignorance of mining matters, or its intention to deceive the public. The front cover of the Herald is adorned with the old Telegram cut of this camp and the first page of reading matter is an uncredited rehash of an old write up of the district. The paper claims to have a special correspondent on the ground. Who is he? The whole thing bears the imprint of fake and fraud, an effort to trade on the fame of the Sumpter district in an attempt to gull the public.

### Salt Lake Capitalists Want Mines.

P. J. Donohue, who bonded a company of Salt Lake capitalists on Saturday to take the Blue Robbin mine at \$70,000, is understood to be desirous of obtaining similar contracts on other pieces of mining property owned by Pendleton parties. The company Mr. Donohue represents is said to possess large capital and to be investing heavily in Eastern Oregon mining claims. The Blue Robbin property comprised three claims, and the company bonding it will at once begin development work to ascertain the value of the ore body, which is supposed by mining men to be large and of good average values.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

### Gold Bug-Grizzly Development.

J. J. Hennessy, general manager of the Gold Bug-Grizzly Mining company, came down from its property last evening and reports the quarters for the miners all completed. The building is 16x18 feet in the clear, making a good, comfortable home for the men. Regular development work, as mentioned in the last issue of THE MINER, was commenced last week and will be prosecuted in earnest all summer. A cross-cut tunnel is being driven to cut the lead at a depth of about 75 feet, at which point it is the intention to sink on the lead and do whatever necessary drifting is required to test the lead, before machinery is installed.

### Many Coming From Montana.

J. K. Pardee returned several days since from a trip to Montana, his former home. He says that many mining men from that section will come to Sumpter during the present season, but that they are in no hurry to start. Living in a snow country themselves they know how utterly impractical it is to try to form any intelligent opinion of a mining region while any snow remains on the ground. They also know that, in its uncertainty as to when and where it will be encountered, snow very much resembles gold.

### Notice to the Public.

All consumers of city water must make application to the office of the Sumpter Water company before the mains are tapped or any residence or business house supplied with water.

### SUMPTER WATER COMPANY

### Potatoes for Sale.

Lew Bros., of Baker City, have a carload of fine Early Rose and White Star potatoes for sale. Enquire at Sumpter Forwarding company.

Quartz and placer location blanks of the most approved form for sale at THE MINER office.

Don't forget to register.