

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

SUMPTER, OREGON, MAY 2, 1900.

NO. 34.

OFFICIALS NOT CONDEMNED.

Contemptible Tactics Adopted By "Our E. C."

"SQUARING" ITSELF.

If You See It in the American It Is a Fake—Begg Signatures to Endorsement and Distorts Interviews—Not a Spontaneous Ovation—City Officials Need no Defense.

Last week the Blue Mountain American, a paper, much the larger portion of which is printed in Portland, but which is issued with a Sumpter date line and entered in the postoffice here, devoted its limited home filled space to a laborious failure to make it appear that the citizens of this camp endorse its idiotic policy. That some sort of endorsement was needed, no one will deny, and itself admits by this desperate attempt to "square" itself with the town and place a prop under its tumbling fortunes. Its excuse for so doing, to conform to a journalistic custom, is as silly as the statement is false. No such custom prevails.

Had the American confined itself to inducing others under false pretense to toot its horn, this would have been none of THE MINER'S business and this paper would have paid no attention to the frantic effort at vindication. But when it fraudulently secured these words of approval for itself, it also rung in condemnation for city officials. Citizens who have been placed in this false light, wish to be set right before the public, wish it to be stated that they had no intention to reflect on either the intelligence or the integrity of the city council, and at the request of many of these THE MINER now gives a brief history of the American's troubles, motives and methods, without further personal embarrassment to those whose names have already been connected with the unpleasant incident, against their wishes.

Every one knows the ease with which signatures can be obtained to a petition or like document; that the great majority of people will sign anything from a request for the appointment of a road supervisor to a prayer for the pardon of a convicted criminal, without giving the matter a second thought. Seymour Bell, in explaining why he signed this paper, when the subject was under informal discussion at the council meeting the other evening, said: "I signed it, like I do everything else that is presented to me, when no money is asked for. I paid no attention to the stuff that was in it." At the same time Attorney Shelton declared that he had been misquoted, the whole tenor of his remarks perverted; in fact had been made to say exactly what he refused to state, at the persistent pleading of an American representative, "False in part, false in all," is a legal maxim, pertaining to evidence, which is applicable to this case. The American's employes of lightning rod agent characteristics went around town, begging for signatures, purloining interviews and secured both in this way, which were exploited as a voluntary, enthusiastic ovation to that publication—and no one was deceived.

The occasion for all this was the bad

break made by the paper some weeks since in publishing a sensational, false story regarding the sanitary condition of Sumpter, apparently designed to injure the town and keep away those intending to come here. Companies that were sending away a hundred or more copies of the paper as advertising matter stopped doing so, knowing the evil effect it would have where the animus for the publication of such rot was not known. Now representatives of these companies are apparently worked into endorsing that move. This has been followed up since by equally unfounded statements that the town is in the hands of criminals, intimating that life and property are not safe here. In both cases the inference is made that city officials are criminally negligent of their duties, at least, and leaving the matter open for the uninformed to conclude that they were "standing in" with doctors, undertakers and robbers.

But that which has been particularly irritating in the course of the American is the plan adopted of making a great outcry about some needed measure or improvement after the council has taken action in the matter, wait a week and then noisily proclaim that the "reform" was accomplished through its mighty influence. It is hard to believe that a man would resort to such contemptible tactics; it looks like the petty strategy of a spiteful woman. In the case of the sanitary measures enforced, the council had issued the order three weeks before the American made its first move. Regarding the paving of streets, THE MINER had published the whole story of the property owners' definite intention before the idea worked its way into the American office. As a matter of fact, the council discussed the question last fall, when the American was still snarling about "penniless schemers," and vainly regretting the fact that they were already getting three square meals a day. There seems to be good foundation for the statement repeatedly and positively made that the paper was bought for the purpose of "bearing" the proposition, to prevent a boom, because its owners had not acquired all the property coveted hereabouts.

So far as a defense of the mayor and council against these insinuations is concerned, Messrs. Gleason, Ellis, Stinson, Looney, Healy, Parkinson, and Hillier need none. They are all largely interested in the town and its prosperity, are themselves large property owners and have worked for the interest of the town without pay. Take the whole history of this municipal government and not the shadow of a suspicion of jobbery can be found. No other town is so free from this taint. If they err, it is on the side of caution and economy, but no error of this nature can be charged to them when the vital interests of the town are at stake.

If you see it in the American it is a fake.

W. M. Robinson Found Guilty.

Some days since W. M. Robinson, temporarily in charge of the Star hotel, dumped a lot of garbage on the bank of Powder river, at the Granite street crossing. This being a violation of a city ordinance, Al Hillier, in his capacity of health officer, ordered him to remove it, which he refused to do. The officer had the refuse removed and the offender arrested. Then W. M. Robinson tried to evade the consequences of this violation of municipal law by tendering payment for having the stuff carted off, but this smooth game didn't work. Recorder Manning fined the offender ten dollars and costs, amounting to about seven dollars. He fought the case and, of course, had to settle with his attorney. Al Hillier attends strictly to his duties and plays no favorites.

POST OFFICE LOCATED.

Goes in Transportation Co's Block on Center Street.

As stated in these columns some weeks since would be the case, the post office will be moved into the Sumpter Transportation company's block on Center street.

Yesterday Postmaster Jewett closed the lease for the north corner store room, on the alley. The lease runs for four years, consideration not made public.

The place is not yet ready for occupancy, but will be at an early day. The postmaster says he will move in at the earliest possible date; just when he can not now state. It will be fitted up with every convenience. The much needed space for handling the large and ever increasing business of the office will also be provided.

MORE CANADIAN CAPITAL.

Organization of the Ottawa Exploration and Development Company.

The Ottawa Exploration and Development company was organized here Monday. The incorporators are H. W. Miller, M. E. Bain and M. Holmes. The officers are all selected from the directors, who are James Tierney, president; W. H. Miller, vice-president; M. Holmes, secretary; M. E. Bain, treasurer; J. B. Tierney, superintendent and manager; Judge Newbury, attorney.

The president of the company lives in Arnprior, Ontario, and is a member of the Canadian parliament. The superintendent and manager is his nephew, a mining man of experience who has been operating in British Columbia. He arrived here a few days since from Rossland. H. W. Miller, vice-president, is a resident of Roseberg, this state, and for some time past has been opening up the Umpqua mine. He is reported to have large and substantial financial backing. Other officials are well and favorably known in Sumpter.

The company has three properties in view, for which negotiations are pending. It was thought that a deal for one of these would be closed yesterday, but some hitch in the proceedings occurred and the transfer has not yet been made. As soon as it is, however, arrangements will be made to begin development work.

W. C. CALDER RETURNS HOME.

What is Being Done in Portland in a Mining Way.

W. C. Calder returned home yesterday, after having spent three weeks in Portland and several of the valley towns. The primary purpose of the trip was business connected with the Inter-Mountain mine. He reports having accomplished the desired object and is, therefore, well pleased and very sanguine regarding the future of this district.

His business there necessarily threw him much with mining men and he became familiar with their aims and the methods they are adopting to reach a definite end; both of which he approves. He says the Portland people are making an heroic effort "to get into mining right." In this, as in all other matters, they are extremely conservative and are moving cautiously. The Mineowners club is becoming quite a factor in the city's life. Two mining exchanges, to be operated on slightly different lines, have been organized. In both the central idea is to protect

buyers. On both boards, when a property is listed, its character must be known and will be made public; if it is a mine it will be advertised as such; if a prospect, that is what it will be called.

The Golconda company has opened handsome offices and considerable of its stock is being sold as a permanent, dividend producing investment.

In every valley town visited, he found that a local syndicate had been formed to work some eastern Oregon mine. In fact, apparently, every one either is interested or wants to become personally financially interested in some mining proposition.

WAR EAGLE DEVELOPMENT.

In Good Ore at Seventy Feet and No Hanging Wall in Sight.

J. J. Hennessy, general manager of the Gold Bug-Grizzly Mining company, came in from the mine yesterday and reports work in the tunnel making rapid progress, and that the ledge will be tapped within the next twenty days, as two shifts of miners are now steady at work.

Mr. Hennessy is also general manager of the War Eagle Mining company, operating in the Bonanza camp, where he has visited this week and is very enthusiastic over their property there. He says the tunnel at this place is now in seventy feet and is in good ore, with no sign of a hanging wall as yet. He claims the lead on this property to be not less than 100 feet wide, judging from the surface indications.

Their object in driving on the War Eagle is to demonstrate the real width of this lead and its values as depth is attained. If the ore values will continue to hold the present average that they will be fully satisfied, and Mr. Hennessy says he has no reason to doubt its continuance.

THE MINER man's interview with the above operator was a very satisfactory one and he regrets that every mining man in the country cannot know the golden opinions expressed by Mr. Hennessy, who is thorough enough in his business to recognize the opportunities hereabouts and as an evidence of this, he is not only taking up properties for himself, but is bringing in others, among his friends and acquaintances, who seem to share his opinion after being here a short time.

Vinson Addition Improvements.

The Sumpter Transportation company yesterday completed the purchase of a block of ground from Roy Miller, controlling the Vinson addition on the west side of the river, for a consideration of \$3,500. The company has the plans for building one of the largest structures of this kind in the state, or in the Northwest, and when completed will cover the stage and livery barns, blacksmith, machinery and wagon shops, harness and saddlery shops, feed stores, etc. The property faces on Granite street and Riverside avenue, being block 36 on the addition plat. The bridge is about completed and the approaches will be in a few days. Several other lots in this addition have been sold during the week, on which buildings will be immediately erected. It is learned from A. W. Ellis that another bridge further up the river, to be 24x200 feet, will be constructed in a few days, which will divert all the Bourne road travel over this same route.

Public Notice.

All citizens of Sumpter are hereby notified to have the taps made and connected with their premises by June 1, as after that date the privilege of more than one consumer to take water from the same tap will not be permitted.

SUMPTER WATER CO.

May 1, 1900.