

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

SUMPTER, OREGON, MAY 9, 1900.

NO. 35.

AN ISOLATED EMPIRE.

RICH COUNTRY LYING SOUTH- WEST OF SUMPTER.

Area of Two Hundred Miles Square—Rich in Minerals, Farm, Fruit and Grazing Lands—Railroads Now Sparring for Points in a Contest to Acquire This Territory—Heretofore Ignored.

Ben Campbell, general traffic manager of the O. R. & N., reached Sumpter Sunday from a long drive of about 400 miles through the country west and southwest of this central camp. He went over the line of the Columbia Southern to its terminus, and then down south, taking in the John Day country, many miles beyond, and all the vast region between here and Prairie City.

Regarding the specific object of this trip, of course, Mr. Campbell would not talk for publication. It is very probable, however, that his purpose was to secure information that would aid his company and its allies to spar for points intelligently in the contest now being waged for this territory.

Though he would say nothing about the purpose of his tour of inspection, he talked freely regarding the country; said it is today the richest in minerals, stock, grain and fruit of any equal area in the United States not traversed by a railroad. There are about 200 miles square of this inland, isolated empire, with no transportation facilities except horses and wagons. There are thousands of acres of land in a high state of cultivation, hundreds of acres of the finest orchards in the world, tens of thousands of acres of unequalled grazing lands, on which hundreds of thousands of cattle and horses are feeding fat. All this in the John Day country and beyond.

Between Sumpter and Prairie City is the richest of the eastern Oregon mineral belt. But in this territory there are enough producing mines to prove its wealth. All the hills are peopled with prospectors, who daily report rich strikes. The district is on the eve or the greatest era of activity recorded in the Pacific coast history. Railroads now building into the country will hasten development, and that means the rapid increase of wealth and population.

No section of the globe offers such rich promise for the farmer, stockman and miner—also railroads, and that is why the companies are so active in their operations to build into and corral this rich territory. Mr. Campbell left Sunday afternoon for Portland.

Colonel Donan Coming to Sumpter.

In a personal letter received yesterday by THE MINER from Colonel P. Donan, that gentleman states that he will be here today or tomorrow. He comes to personally gather information regarding this district. The O. R. & N. will soon issue revised editions of all the Colonel's entertaining booklets on eastern Oregon mines and mining regions, and to secure such data as he needs for this purpose is what brings him here. His writings have undoubtedly attracted more attention and induced more men and money to come into this country than any other dozen influences combined. As all the civilized world knows, Colonel Donan has a genius for word-weaving that no other writer in the English language can im-

tate or approach; a style on which he has a patent, issued by Nature, that protects his brain work from all infringements—though the product of his wonderful brain is often stolen. In the particular field of splendid descriptive work, "all mixed up with interesting facts and startling figures, he stands alone. Mr. Hulburt, of the O. R. & N., evidently recognizes this fact, and is fortunate in being able to command such talent. Heretofore Sumpter has not occupied a very prominent position in these publications, everything in the shape of a mine being "near Baker City." But after the Colonel has seen Sumpter and its surrounding mines, it can be relied upon that this camp will be given representation.

SALE OF FIVE CLAIMS.

Ottawa Company Buys Property Three and a Half Miles From Town.

The Ottawa Exploration and Development company bought yesterday from Hinton Brothers five claims, situated only three and a half miles from Sumpter, on the Mammoth road. In future they will be known as the Ontario group.

At present there is a tunnel on one of the claims 100 feet in and a 54-foot cross-cut, while all have been prospected with open cuts.

A force of men will be put to work at an early date, the tunnel driven further in and other development prosecuted.

The price paid for this property and the terms of sale have not been made public.

Mining Activity in Mormon Basin.

J. J. Kane, of Rye valley, is in town. He says that district is rapidly coming to the front. The Colts mine in Mormon basin is working fourteen men and has about 1500 feet of work done. They have sent one shipment recently to Tacoma and the concentrates ran from \$150 to \$175 to the sack of 110 pounds. Head & Voss, who have claims, just east of the Colts property, have been running a tunnel on the ledge, and at 190 feet struck an ore chute that ran from \$70 to \$125 to the ton, free milling ore. The placer diggings in the Basin are not doing much on account of the scarcity of water, although the ground is very rich. Three miles east of Mormon basin, to the foot of Humphrey gulch, is the H. B. Frans quartz lode, which shows ore running from \$10 to \$300 a ton in gold. Mr. Humphrey is running one giant on his placer up the gulch, with seven men at work, and expects to make the biggest clean-up this season of any in his past thirty years experience.—Granite Boulder.

Big Orders for Mining Machinery.

Mr. A. M. Grant, traveling representative of the Denver Smelter Supply company, is in the city. Mr. Grant has just returned from the mining sections of Sumpter and Granite and reports the mining prospects in these sections most promising. "The outlook for big orders in mill and mine machinery," said Mr. Grant yesterday, "is very encouraging. I am now figuring estimates on four or five mills that are to go into Granite, and one for the copper mines north of Baker City. There are many properties in need of mills and these will be supplied before the year is out."—Baker Democrat.

Don't forget to register.

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

"The Portland," conducted by Woodward & Hammond on Mill street, is a representation of its name. A visit will convince any skeptics.

REGISTERING RAPIDLY.

Nearly 800 Names Now On the Sumpter Books.

During the past few days local politicians have been working hard to get voters to register. Accompanied by notary public or other official, they have gone out into the highways and by-ways and talked persuasively about the priceless privilege of the American system of elective franchise, and the duty of all good citizens to exercise the right—incidentally, of course, ringing in a few remarks favorable to their favorite candidate.

This talk, or more probably this work, has had its desired effect, as the registration list has increased amazingly in consequence. Up to last evening a few more than 770 had registered in the North and South Sumpter precincts. Those who are engaged in this work say that the number will reach a figure somewhere between 850 and 900 by noon of the fifteenth of this month, when the registration books close. Were it not for the fact that so many men have left town for the hills during the past few weeks, this number would easily reach 1000.

Two years ago the vote in these two precincts amounted to only 212, when there was no registration law, and it was an easy matter to swell the vote, by a trick or two known to most political workers.

The state election takes place the first Monday in June, the fourth.

THAT MINNEAPOLIS COMPANY.

Says "The Miner" Has It Mixed Up With Another Concern.

THE MINER is in receipt of a voluminous letter from Frank E. Plummer, secretary of the American Mines Development company, limited, of Minneapolis, regarding some remarks made in these columns some weeks since about that company. He insists that it is not his company that the Republic Miner exposed several months ago. He says that company is known as the American Mining and Development company, and that both papers got the two companies confused. THE MINER only mentioned the Republic expose, incidentally. It criticised the Methods of the American Mines Development company, limited, and quoted some matter from the Mining Herald and Investors Guide, a paper taken up very largely with affairs of this particular company, to justify this criticism. Speaking of the property claimed to be owned in this district, the writer says:

"When a mining company sent the writer up in there several years ago to buy the Red Chief group of mines, for which I paid \$6500 cash, and spent several hundreds of dollars more in development work, finally losing the whole group, I secured the Angelo property that is over the range on Big Limber creek, owned, when last I heard of it, by Geo. Deems. But better than this property was the ledge I picked out at that time and have been watching ever since, and while, as you say in your paper, that many do not know about these claims, they will shortly, for if this option which we have can be closed, this company proposes to develop them with the money from the sale of our stocks, and the income from our copper and zinc properties, to dividend payers, which we believe they will be.

"Now, our representative was up there

at the time that article was written, and we have dozens of letters sent in from there. He was on this very mine, and will be in there again within a couple of weeks, for he is now at Mountain Home, Idaho, on his way to Sumpter."

"We can prove by letters, hotel registers and by your own friends in Sumpter that our representatives was in Sumpter, and Granite and other camps about there at the time this matter was arranged, and can show our options on these properties, which we hope to secure, so that the absolute evidence on these three points you make in that article should surely convince you that in simple justice you should right this, frankly, fairly and fully; and it should show you, too, that a damage case can be won."

THE MINER wishes to do no one an injury, especially any one who is planning to open a property in this district, but it does not see its way too clear to give an unreserved endorsement of this Minneapolis company, that advertises to own rich gold mines in the Sumpter district, on which the secretary claims that an option is held, which properties they "hope to secure." So far as a retraction is concerned, THE MINER refuses to make any, having made no charges, but merely pointed out some suspicious looking features. It is very probable that the two Minneapolis companies have become confused.

Illustrated Article on Sumpter District.

K. R. Casper, representing the Mining and Engineering Review, of San Francisco, as its traveling correspondent, reached Sumpter today. The paper will publish next month an illustrated article on the district. Mr. Casper will remain here for a week or ten days, visiting all the surrounding camps. He notices the fact that all roads in this district lead to Sumpter, and that in order to go from one camp to another, one must always return to this town. And that is what will make this the mining center for all time.

Colorado Man Locates Here.

A. H. Steele, an old Colorado miner, more recently from the Colville country, where he spent a year, has been in this district for four weeks past. All of this time he has been in the hills examining the country for himself. He is well pleased with it; says it is good enough for him and will remain here, making Sumpter his headquarters. He has sent for his wife and she will join him here in a few days and a home will soon be established.

Jubilee Singers and Rough Riders.

The Sumpter Rough riders, officially known as troop B, Oregon National guards, have arranged with the Fisk Jubilee Singers to give a grand concert next Tuesday at Ellis Opera house. This concert is for the benefit of the Rough Riders armory, and every citizen of Sumpter should chip in and help the boys along.

Two Jobs of Fine Printing.

THE MINER has finished within the past week a prospectus for the Diadem company and one for the Grizzly, both of which are as handsome specimens of printing as can be done anywhere. They have received more favorable comment than any jobs ever done in the county. For fine printing THE MINER office is the place to come in this camp.

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.