

THE SUMPTER MINER.

VOL. I.

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SUMPTER IS ON A FIRM FONDATION.

J. HOBSON GIVES THE TELEGRAM A SENSIBLE INTERVIEW.

Growth of the Town Is Solid and Substantial—Every Business House Is Making Money—Contiguous Mines are Being Worked Scientifically and Successfully—Small Producers Can Sell Their Ore to the Smelter Here.

While in Portland a few days since, J. Hobson, of the Mercantile company here bearing his name, in an interview with a Telegram representative, gave such a sensible, correct statement of the situation in Sumpter, that THE MINER feels justified in reproducing a portion of it and giving it this prominence in these columns. The Telegram says:

"The prospects for Sumpter," continued Mr. Hobson, "were never brighter than at the present time. The mushroom growth characteristic of all boom towns has, in the case of Sumpter, settled into solid, substantial progress. Like other boom places the collapse which, always follows would have paralyzed Sumpter's industrial life, but for the fact that the resources of the surrounding districts justify its growth. The town has shed its boom covering, and is now working upward from solid hardpan. Every business house is doing well. There are no empty buildings. At the present time the town is large enough for the development of the trade district tributary to it, but as further development work is done on prospects, and more producing mines are added to the list, there will be a demand for more business blocks. And the determined manner in which large investors are installing heavy machinery and sinking on the ledges is evidence to justify the prediction of shrewd mining men that that is a rich mineral belt.

"In the Golconda, Bourne, Cracker Creek and Cable Cove districts mines are being worked scientifically. The promoters are not merely scratching the surface and then floating stock, but are spending fortunes in drilling to great depths, where they know lie quantities enough of ore to pay them a hundred fold on the investment. All these districts are tributary to Sumpter. Some of them have enough ore in sight to last 50 years. It is only a question of blocking it out by tunnels, shafts and crosscuts, so that it can be easily knocked down for the mills.

"But there are any number of small investors with first-class prospects who have not the money to spare for such extensive development work. In the district are men who have been slowly developing their claims for the last 15 years. They knew that the gold was there, and that some day they would receive a reward for their labor. Some of these men have enough ore on the dump to pay them for the development work and furnish enough capital for further development. They sacrificed everything to their faith in the country, and are now in a position to reap the reward, for a smelter has been established at Sumpter with a capacity of 40 tons per day, and they can turn their ore into money as soon as they desire.

"In connection with this smelter, I may state that Portland people are not alive to

their interests. The same thing has been said often enough, but it should be dinged into the ears of your people until they begin to realize the world of wealth there is in the hills of eastern Oregon. Sumpter people held back, thinking that a smelter was to be located here. But the time came when the mining interests demanded something to treat its ores, and in answer to that demand a smelter was built. It is the pyritic process, such as was proposed to be established in Portland, and there is enough copper in the ores which it will smelt to pay the cost of smelting.

"However, there is still plenty of room for a smelter in Portland—in fact, for several. The Sumpter smelter will be kept busy handling the ore of the immediate surrounding districts. It is hard for mining men and business men who know the value of the mines of Oregon to understand the apathy of Portlanders in this direction."

EFFORT TO PARDON MINERS

The Held-up Gamblers Who Had Fleeced Them.

An effort is being made to secure the release from the penitentiary of W. P. Mulligan, William Murphey and Ed. Kelly, sent up from Baker county, in February, 1898, to serve five-years sentences under charge of robbery, being armed with dangerous weapons. Sheriff A. H. Huntington, Senator William Smith and Charles F. Hyde, of Baker City, have written letters favoring their pardon, and petitions have been forwarded to the executive office, signed by ten of the jurors and a long list of the citizens of Baker county. The jurors signing the petition are: B. R. Angell, foreman; John Rohner; J. M. Burnside, A. Case, William Defreese, T. B. Mascher, Alex. McQuowen, W. A. Owen, H. Locken, D. C. Perkins.

The jurors state that a verdict of guilty was returned reluctantly and that, under the evidence submitted in the case, such a verdict should not have been rendered, but under the court's instructions, they felt constrained to do so and, therefore, recommend that a full pardon be granted to the defendants.

The circumstances under which the crime was committed, as set out by the petition, show that the defendants were miners, and at the same time the trouble occurred were taking a layoff in the town of Bourne. It was immediately after pay day, and they fell in with some crap gamblers, their grievance was talked over and they decided to return and demand their money. The gamblers were overtaken between Bourne and Sumpter, when a row ensued, which resulted in one, Estes, being shot. Estes, who was the complaining witness, also signs the petition for their pardon.—Press dispatch from Salem.

Masonic Delegation to Baker City.

A large delegation of Masons went to Baker City yesterday afternoon to attend some sort of a jollification there last evening. The fun must have been rather furious, for they were expected home this forenoon, but failed to show up. Those who have hearthstone angel alliances here have a job on their hands to explain why they couldn't get up to catch the early train.

Willis Kramer, of Douglass Co., arrived Tuesday. He is interested with Miller & Aiken in mining properties here. He recently bought into the Juniper, near the North Pole, and is negotiating for other interests.

The Columbia beer, brewed in Sumpter, is today as good as any made.

CITY WATER SYSTEM.

Best In the State For Both Owner and the Public.

Few people realized the value of the Sumpter Water company's plant until after Friday night's fire. The buildings were fairly drowned with water from four hydrants.

At the tap of the fire bell the superintendent of the Water company turned the small creek, which is about one sixth of the company's water supply, into the large million-gallon reservoir, which gives a verticle pressure over the city of 220 feet, or about ninety pounds pressure to the square inch.

After the four hydrants had been pouring volums of water on the fire for one hour, the water had risen three feet in the reservoir. It will be readily seen that if every hydrant in the city, of which there are twenty-eight, were turned on at once and at the same time, they could not consume the water.

The Sumpter Water works is not only one of the best water plants in the Northwest, but is also one of the best paying investments in this state, it being a gravity system, costs practically nothing to operate, which leaves almost its entire revenue as net profits.

W. L. Vincent, who built, owns and operates the plant, served this town well and wisely when he carried to a successful issue this semi-public enterprise. His friends are glad, too, that he owns so valuable a property. The system has been thoroughly tested and proven its value.

LATEST FIRE NOTES.

Adjusters at Work on the Losses—New Locations.

W. W. Alversson, special agent and adjuster for the Atlas Insurance company, and C. R. Thompson, of the German-American, reached Sumpter Monday, to adjust the losses for all the companies. They are at work on this job, but have only finished with the First Bank of Sumpter and the Robbins & Scriber buildings. The loss on the former was fixed at something over \$600, the principal damage being to plate glass windows and the metal cornice, from heat; the latter is a total loss, insurance \$2500.

The Hobson Mercantile company has rented the large store room in the Jones & Gagen brick block, next to the Sumpter Townsite company's office, and is moving its remnant stock in today.

Carl Adler has taken temporarily one of the store rooms in the Transportation company's block, on Center Street; but has not decided yet where he will reopen business permanently.

J. W. Cox & Co. are also in this building for the time being. They will doubtless rebuild on their own property; as will Robbins & Scriber probably also.

The committeemen appointed by the firemen to solicit contributions for a bell, collected \$245 yesterday. They met with such flattering success that they decided to secure enough money, if possible, to buy a ladder truck also. About \$700 will be required for both the bell and truck. An effort is being made to have the hospital funds turned over to the fire department.

Killed the Dog That Bit Him.

Yesterday afternoon a man, whose name is not known, led a dog into the "Mon-

tana Headquarters" saloon. While there the dog bit J. Schmidt on the leg. Schmidt followed the man and dog to the depot and killed the latter, shooting it twice. This was just before the train arrived and the platform was crowded. Considerable excitement was occasioned among bystanders by the shooting. A traveling man, who declared one of the balls went between his legs, was frightened out of his selfassurance. The owner of the dog left on the train and no complaint or arrest has been made.

Colonel Donan Will Write of This District.

Colonel P. Donan was in town last Thursday securing data for a revision of his booklet on the "Gold Fields of Eastern Oregon." He says the O. R. & N. can trace so much benefit directly to the advertising it has done during the past year or two, that it has decided to do more, on a much larger scale in the near future. With this object in view, the matchless services of Colonel Donan have again been engaged, and he will inform the whole civilized world about the unequalled resources of the territory through which the road runs; especially of the rich goldfields of the Sumpter district. And he will write the story, too, in such a way that all the world will read it; be interested, startled perhaps at first, but finally convinced.

Sumpter's Registration 938.

On another page of THE MINER today the qualified statement is made that the total registration for Sumpter amounted to 927. This was written yesterday and the returns were not complete. At noon today all are in, which increases the number to 938. Of these E. L. Manning secured 486, Stott & Shelton 219, E. C. Steffen 148, C. H. Chance 55, C. W. James 31. E. L. Manning advertised in these columns that he was doing this kind of business and as a consequence took more than half of the entire number, with five other hustlers as competitors. The moral to be drawn from these facts is that it pays to advertise in THE MINER.

Unexpected Death of a Child.

Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow, of McEwen, brought their baby here today for medical attendance. They had scarcely reached Dr. Brock's office when the child died there. The parents evidently did not know how sick it was, and were grieved beyond measure when death came. Mrs. J. H. Robbins and Mrs. Brock dressed the little body for burial and it was taken back to McEwen for interment on the evening train.

Mrs. Tedrowe in Charge of the Capital.

Several days since some trouble occurred with the Capital hotel help, while Thomas Kilpatrick, the lessee, was absent from town. Mrs. Tedrowe, the owner, is temporarily in charge again. Mr. Kilpatrick is daily expected back from the coast, when the whole matter will doubtless be satisfactorily adjusted.

Go or send to the City Green house, Baker City, for choice pansy and daisy plants.

Sumpter souvenir spoons. F. C. Brodie, watchmaker and jeweler, Opera house block.

Go to Fenner & Worthington for all kinds of engineering.

Ask for the Columbia beer, brewed in Sumpter.

Keep your money in Sumpter and drink Columbia beer—a home product.

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