

**VIGOROUS MEASURES.**

**Special Meeting of the Council on Fire Matters.**

The town council held a special meeting Saturday forenoon. Mayor Gleason announced that it was called for the purpose of protecting the town from what seemed to be an effort to burn it.

The council approved of the mayor's action in appointing six extra watchmen temporarily.

Mayor Gleason, Aldermen Stinson and Parkinson were appointed a committee to employ detectives to run down the fire bug and keep cases on suspicious characters.

The marshal was instructed to round up the vags and run them out of town. It was further ordered to have the reservoir and the conduit patrolled.

A. W. Ellis offered the front peak of the opera house for a fire alarm bell tower. Tom McEwen offered to send teams to the saw mills and get lumber for the belfry. Both propositions were accepted.

The council extended formal thanks to the Sumpter fire department, giving A. A. Hammond especial mention, to the Baker City department and to the Sumpter Valley railroad; the latter two for assistance offered.

A. A. Hammond was appointed city attorney.

**WHAT THE PRESS HAS DONE.**

**Eastern Oregon's Mining Activity Result of Newspaper Publicity.**

The general interest in the mining districts about Sumpter and Baker City, Oregon, as indicated by the daily and weekly papers cannot but affect all industries gathered within the boundaries of these two districts.

We note in the papers great strikes of ore, valuable not only in quality, but in quantity also. Further, there seems to be any amount of capital pouring into these districts and investments are chronicled day by day of thousands, tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of dollars, the last named being an investment that makes it a gala day.

It is also very plain to the observer that these strikes and investments are bringing great numbers of people into the districts. Towns are being laid out and plats of land sold to these newcomers. Now, all of these things are in evidence in every issue of the papers represented in these districts.

There is no question but great mining activity exists and the mining resources of Oregon are enough to arouse highest enthusiasm; but if the papers had been dead or indifferent to progress, if they had been selfish in their expression, and "damned with faint praise," the efforts of owners and managers of mines, Sumpter and Baker City would not be in the edge of the boom as they are now.

The press should be substantially rewarded by the prosperity as it now exists in those places.—Seattle Mining Review.

**Black Pine Placer Yield Rich Returns.**

J. M. McKee was in this morning from his Black Pine placers about two miles and a half from Granite and showed us a small flask containing the result of three days clean-up from the sluice boxes. It was a very coarse grade of gold dust, rather inclined to be flaky, and had evidently not moved far from where it originally lay in the quartz ledges. There was \$250 worth of it, and it is a demonstration of the fact that the placer miner need not go to Nome for gold when he can find it right here in the midst of civilization. There are thousands of acres of placer ground only a little farther away from Granite that will pay big wages,

but they are in small gulches of not more than an acre or so in extent. Much of it will pay well without piping and by simply shoveling into the sluices. Mr. McKee has located the ledge from which this gold came and of course thinks his quartz claims a very valuable property.—Granite Boulder.

**Mining Conditions Have Improved.**

James Hutchinson, general manager of the Trade Dollar company, is in the city, en route to his home from a week's trip to Baker City and vicinity. He visited the mining camp at Sumpter. He says there are a number of paying properties being worked there with ore being shipped every day. Everything appeared to be prosperous. Taking it all in all, Mr. Hutchinson said the mining situation in eastern Oregon was very much better now than it was two months ago. Mr. Hutchinson said there was great activity in mining in the vicinity of Baker City. Many mines were being discovered and bonded. On a previous trip two months ago Mr. Hutchinson had noticed large numbers of miners and laborers standing around the streets. He stated that he was agreeably surprised to find all this had been changed. A larger number of mines were being worked, the output was increasing and the miners are all evidently at work.—Boise Statesman.

**The States' Write Up of Sumpter**

The State for March, containing the article on Sumpter, reached here only last week. The story is well written, by L. Bush Livermore. It deals almost exclusively with the mines of this district, following one of the writer's characteristic sketches of the rapid growth of this camp. The illustrations are good but few in number. The cover is truly artistic, and was designed by Francis M. Curtiss, of Tacoma, an artist of ability, who has had excellent training under the best masters. It pictures a trail through a mountain forest. Printed on the yellow cover in red are the words "Golden Sumpter in the Blue Mountains."

**Orvill-Brown Wrestling Match.**

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to wrestle two best in three, catch-as-catch-can, no holds barred, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) aside, winner to take everything. The match will take place in Ellis opera house on the evening of May 19, 1900. Both men shall be in the ring at 9 o'clock sharp. We hereby sign and agree that Joseph Schmidt shall be final stakeholder for this match. The last \$150 to be put up the day of the match.

JACK ORVILL,  
W. T. BROWN.  
Sumpter, Or., April 18, 1900.

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