

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Discusses Drills, Apparatus and Alarm System.

The fire department held an interesting meeting Tuesday evening, the object of which was announced to be to discuss fire drills, apparatus and the care of the same and the installation of a fire alarm system. On roll call it was found that twenty-two members were present, out of a total membership of ninety.

It was decided to have a fire drill every Sunday forenoon and Tuesday evening. This week the drill will be Thursday evening, to avoid a conflict with other events. Much was said regarding new apparatus, but nothing definite was done. A number of members of the department were ordered to clean off Granite street, clean and dry the hose. Charles Liebstein, C. C. Basche and Harley Wood were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions for a fire bell.

And then something was said about asking the directors of the hospital to turn over the funds now in their hands belonging to that institution to the fire department. It was announced that the Red Cross society will donate \$30 towards the purchase of rubber boots and coats. J. H. Robbins and J. W. Scriber presented the department with \$50. Formal thanks were tendered for these donations and also to the ladies who served hot coffee and lunch after the fire Friday evening.

A. A. Hammond was offered an official position in the department, which he refused, saying that he preferred to serve as a working fireman.

Several members of the council were present, who manifested much interest in the proceedings.

Smelter More Benefit Than Railroads.

Speaking of the Sumpter Smelter, the Granite Boulder says: The success of this plant means more to this district than the building of all the railroads now talked of. It means that the prospector can sell his ore here at home and save shipping expenses that are prohibitory. In many cases he can make his prospects pay from the grass roots, where he would otherwise be compelled to work out for a grub stake. There will be a great stimulus to prospecting in this district when the miner can sell for money the ore as he digs it out. Ore running as low as \$17 can be mined near Granite and smelted at Sumpter at a profit, but it would have to run almost twice that amount to stand shipment to Tacoma. The smelter will put new life into the Granite and Sumpter districts.

Reflections of Jay Nat Hudson.

A little over two years ago when the writer was publishing the Sumpter News, there came a time in the early summer when business in all lines was distressingly dull. We talked with old experienced mining men from Montana, Colorado, Nevada and other mining states and several of them gave a number of apparently good reasons why the mining development of the Sumpter district would probably await the dim distant future and why Sumpter in consequence had seen its best days and would probably retrograde. We listened, not wisely, but too well, and temporarily left the town to engage in business elsewhere. Our listening, as aforesaid, cost us several thousand dollars, which we might have made as easily as it was made by others who stayed with Sumpter. We have recently heard the same song sung over again by several different persons, but such music, in the light of our former experience, has lost its charms for us. We came back to this district to stay and take our chances, and if in twenty years hence, some other sexto-

genarian may point us out to the stranger on the streets of Granite, as with silvered hair and feeble steps we pass along, and say, "That's old Nat of the Boulder. He has been waiting twenty years for this country to boom," then all right, so let it be. But we draw a brighter picture. In three short years Sumpter grew from nothing to 4,500 resident population, with paved streets and electric light and water works systems, the equal of the best in the Northwest. Best of all, the real estate boom has passed by and left Sumpter still enthroned as the Queen City of eastern Oregon; and on a business foundation apparently as firm as the Rock of Ages. Her present growth is steady and her brilliant future certain. The same that has happened with Sumpter, we confidently look for on this side of the mountains. The rock ribbed hills are thickly set with seams of quartz containing gold in countless millions and we hope and believe that they will soon attract sufficient attention to give us the music of the stamp mills from every gulch and mountain side and number the population of our town by the thousands.—Granite Boulder.

Captain Wood Back From Chicago.

Captain Wood returned Sunday from Chicago, where he went some weeks since to submit a mining proposition to his principals. When he left, it was stated that the deal would have to be closed before May 1. It is now understood that the bond was extended until June 1. The Captain declines to talk about the matter at present, though it is believed that the bond will be taken up. He and Mr. Campbell are now out in the hills, where the unnamed property is situated.

Everything Has Its Use.

The Portland Telegram of May 9 indulges in this fling at one of the Hanna-McKinley empire's most illustrious "statesmen," so-called:

"South Dakota druggists now give away a copy of one of Pettigrew's speeches with each box of insect powder sold. This is taking an unfair advantage of the insects, if not of the purchasers."

Colonel Donan kindly suggests that the only appropriate method of utilizing the Telegram would be to give a copy of it with every box of cathartic pills sold.

Postoffice Moved to New Quarters.

The postoffice was opened yesterday forenoon in its new quarters on Center street, the fixtures and effects having been moved during the night. The office is conveniently arranged, plenty of room being provided for handling the mails expeditiously and advantageously. The box area is materially increased, so that the demand can now be supplied, a condition not heretofore existing all winter.

Return Pocketbook, Keep Money.

A pocketbook was "lost" during the fire excitement Friday night. The "finder" can keep the few dollars it contained if he will return the book and the papers to this office.

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