

EASTERN OREGON GOLD FIELDS.

Baker City Chamber of Commerce Second Edition.

The Baker City Chamber of Commerce has issued its second annual edition of "Eastern Oregon Gold Fields," compiled by its secretary, O. L. Miller. It is a comprehensive, exhaustive write up of Baker county, giving much interesting and valuable information regarding other interests than mining. Stock, fruit and farming are all represented in the pamphlet. It contains about sixty pages, a map of the county, and is profusely illustrated with half tone cuts, that are not very good nor very well printed.

The book printed last year by the Chamber of Commerce, it will be remembered, made no mention of Sumpter nor of the Sumpter mining district. That was the Baker City policy at that time. That policy has been abandoned. This edition contains a page cut of the town and the following article:

"Nestled at the foot of the Elkhorn range of the Blue mountains, beside a swift-flowing mountain stream, the waters of which flow over sands laden with gold for nearly 100 miles, is a thriving and lively city. For many years the miners and prospectors of the Blue mountains have made this little camp their mountain home and headquarters, and the great boom in mines which has given Sumpter world-wide fame is not the result of a 'new strike' or a newspaper 'write-up.' For many years the mines of Cracker Creek, Granite, Bonanza and the Greenhorn districts have been shipping gold dust, gold bullion, concentrates and high grade ore. Few mines were worked by companies, and there was little or no stock for sale, and no one cared to advertise. But one rich dividend payer after another was added to the list of paying properties, until stories that read like fairy tales reached the busy world, and Sumpter at once became the scene of great activity.

"The little camp grew as if by magic, in nine months (June, 1890, till March 1900), from 500 to 3,000 population, with two banks, several hotels, two hardware stores, four general merchandise stores, warehouses, assay offices, repair shops, livery and stage stables, two newspapers, numerous lawyers, doctors, real estate and mining brokers, a large opera house, brewery and lumber yards, and almost all lines of trade and business are well represented. A first class gravity water system has been put in operation, and the city is supplied with spring water for domestic use and fire protection.

"The Sumpter Valley railroad is kept busy handling the immense freight and passenger traffic now necessary to supply the needs of this thriving camp. The mining districts directly tributary to Sumpter as a trade center are Cracker Creek district, seven miles north, where 25 companies are now operating, the chief producers being the North Pole, the Columbia, the Golconda, the IbeX and the Imperial; the Granite district, 14 to 25 miles west, where numerous mines are worked, and four new mills have been constructed during the past year, the chief producers being the Red Boy, the May Queen, the Little Giant, the Magnolia, and the Cougar; the Bonanza district, located 16 miles south, where the famous Bonanza mine, with 40-stamp mill is located, the most promising properties being the Empire group, the Black Bird, the Elephant, the Richmond, the Rising Sun, the Hall group and the Keystone.

"The mines of Greenhorn, Susanville, Quartzburg and Strawberry mountains lie farther on to the south."

Then follows a detailed description of

many mines in this district. Mr. Miller has done his work well. It contains much information of interest and value to residents, and is a splendid piece of advertising matter to send away from home. Price ten cents.

LEGAL LOCATIONS.

Notice Must Refer to Some Natural Object or Permanent Monument.

It is a very common thing for miners to make locations of mining claims which are legally faulty. For instance, a mining location which reads, "commencing at initial stake," thence around the claim putting a stake at each corner, and back to the initial stake is legally void. And yet this is the usual reading of mining locations.

Every person who undertakes to make a notice of locating a mining claim should first carefully read section 2324 of the revised statutes of the United States, for it means just exactly what it says, and there are many decisions of our courts which have upheld this particular wording.

First, the location must refer to some "natural object." That means that the notice must state that the point of discovery, or the place where the first stake is set, or the starting point of the line around the claim must refer to some natural object or permanent monument, which itself is not upon the ground which is claimed. So, the locator, (if there is no natural monument within a reasonable distance) should make a mound of stones, or blaze a large tree, or measure to the confluence of streams or gulches, or to some well known object, and should state in his notice the distance and direction of his first stake from such monument or natural object.

The purpose of this is to enable an outsider to identify the claim; to give him notice that it is claimed. The decisions of the land office and the courts are numerous upon this point, and they say that a stone monument, blazed trees, the confluence of streams, points of intersections of well known gulches, or of roads, or ravines, or prominent buttes or hills, or a stake set by a government surveyor, are and can be referred to as proper monuments. So, a good way, when there is nothing else, would be to erect a monument of stones, giving the distance and direction of the first stake from such monument.

Another important matter is to so mark the boundaries that they can be easily traced. A reference to stakes set on each corner of a claim fifteen hundred feet long and six hundred feet wide has been held insufficient as a means of marking boundary; therefore the locator should place intermediate stakes, mounds of stone, or blazed trees along the line, so that there will be no difficulty in readily tracing the line along with which the claim is made. This will give to all outsiders notice that the land is claimed and save trouble in case of any litigation.

A few hours care in marking the boundaries fully, and in making the proper reference to a permanent monument or natural object, and in properly describing the same in the notice of location will make the location valid, and possibly save much future litigation. A location which lacks either of these two important points is invalid.

The law reads as follows: "The location must be marked on the ground so that its boundaries can be readily traced." "All records of mining claims hereafter made shall contain the name or names of the locators, the date of location and such a description of the claim or claims located by reference to such natural object or permanent monument as will identify the claim."—Industry and Mining.

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.

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May 1, 1900.

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