

THE SUMPTER MINER

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ACTIVITY IN MINING.

MORE IN THIS DISTRICT THAN EVER BEFORE.

Another Representative of Capital, Despairing of Buying a Mine, Will Develop Prospects—Confidence and Faith of Mineowners in Their Properties Contagious and Whets the Appetites of the Prospective Buyers.

During the past month there has been more activity in mining matters in the Sumpter district, and those lying on the west and north and south, than at any time during the past year, when the "boom" in this section first began.

In every column of THE MINER for weeks past there has been recorded deals in mining properties that a year ago would have startled this whole section, and which today are only worthy of passing comment—receiving a paragraph in this, the leading paper in the district. This is indeed an encouraging sign.

It is not the intention here to repeat and summarize these important transactions. Many has been mentioned in detail during the past few weeks, and others are spoken of in the paper today. These facts are recalled merely to emphasize the remarks of a gentleman who reached this camp ten days since from California. Last evening he said to a MINER man.

"I have been in most of the mining districts of the west looking for properties for a San Francisco syndicate, but this is the toughest proposition I ever tackled. Talk about 'all mines having been made to sell,' these people out here don't believe that unrefuted truism. They think it pays to hold and even to work them.

"I have had considerable correspondence with different parties during the past three months and so was not looking for a needle in a hay stack on my arrival, but knew exactly what deals to tackle. My honest opinion is that there is not a developed property in the district that can be bought within twelve hours. It would surprise you to learn how many of what you call the big mines are now under bond. Others that I have learned are not bonded, I have been unable to tie up, for the reason that there are other parties negotiating for their purchase.

"All this gives the prospective buyer confidence in the district and whets his appetite for a property, withal. Of course, the men who own the mines know what they have and their confidence and faith in their holes in the ground are tested and proven genuine when they refuse to accept bona fide, munificent offers for their properties.

"I have read considerable about a man named Conroy, representing Pennsylvania money, making large purchases here. He undoubtedly has, and good ones, too; but he has put in more than a year doing it. The people whom I represent wouldn't stand any such delay as that. If I can't close a deal in thirty days, the deal is liable to be declared off. This merely illustrates the difference between eastern and western methods of doing business, and I'm not sure that all the advantage lies with our system of rushing things through in haste and regardless.

"I have about made up my mind to do as I am informed Captain Wood, of Chicago, was forced to do; develop a lot of prospects under bond, having been unable to buy a mine. I have heard of him be-

fore and he knows his business. His action in this case shows it. He has spent a whole lot of money sinking profitless shafts, but it all doesn't amount one tenth of what he would have had to pay for a mine. And if he hasn't a mine over on Quebec mountain, I don't know a good thing when I see it.

"Having reached this decision, the reason for my request not to have my name mentioned in this connection is apparent. Every claim owner in this district would want to do business with me, and I prefer to do business with only a dozen or so of my own selection."

Sam Stott's Leg Broken.

From exchanges it is learned that Sam Stott had his leg broken at the encampment in Salem Sunday. His friends here have had no word from him and are anxious to learn the details. His partner, Lieutenant Shelton, is with him and, as a matter of fact, he is surrounded by friends. One account of the accident says: Sergeant Sam R. Stott, of the Sumpter Rough Riders, was riding near the street car track when his horse shied, stumbled and fell, breaking Stott's leg just above the ankle. The injured man was taken to the hospital where he is receiving the most careful attention under Major Whiting, brigade surgeon. The injury will probably prove nothing more serious than that of putting Stott out of service during the encampment. He was formerly a lawyer in Portland but is now a practicing attorney in Sumpter.

J. Nat Hudson Will Take a Rest.

Colonel Jay Nat Hudson has quietly folded his tent, figuratively speaking—packed and shipped his Boulder printing outfit, literally speaking, and quit Granite. He made no definite announcement of this intention in the last issue of the paper. He says the proposition was not a money maker and he is not the kind of patriot to work for the public good for glory only. The Colonel has stored the material in a building which he owns here, awaiting an opportunity to fill a long, urgently felt want somewhere in Oregon. In the meantime, he will practice law, giving his brain a rest. This Granite experiment has demonstrated the futility of trying to run a paper in a town, refusing all local business.

Machinery for the Golconda.

A carload of machinery from the Risdon Iron Works, San Francisco, for the Golconda mill was unloaded here this week and hauled to the mine, where it is being installed under the direction of B. L. McLain, the millwright who has built nearly all the mills in this district. Mr. Leland, representing the Risdon company, is now at the Golconda. He is a relative of John F. Leland, the well known mining man of this place.

Development Work Contract on the Ibez.

Development work on the Ibez is being pushed continuously. A contract has been let to Thomas Bessler to sink 130 feet, which will give a depth of 400 feet to the mine. Mr. Chapman stated to a MINER reporter that another 100-foot contract would probably be let on completion of the present one. Mr. Bessler also has charge of the work at the Grand Trunk near the Ibez.

The half way house of C. H. Barnard on the Bourne road is a well conducted, respectable place where ladies or gentlemen can stop for ice cold refreshments and lunches.

Handsome lot of Dickens' vest chains for men at F. C. Brodie's jewelry store, Opera House block.

SUMPTER STREETS LIGHTED TONIGHT.

With Ten Arc Lamps of 2000 Candle Power Each.

Sumpter will be lighted tonight with ten arc lamps of 2000 candle power each. These lamps have been placed at the corners of Auslin and Mill, Auburn and Mill, Auburn and Bonanza, Granite and Columbia, Granite and Mill, Granite and Center, Granite and Cracker, High and Cracker, High and Mill, Sumpter and Center.

According to the contract with the council this much needed street lighting service was to have been commenced May 15, but a serious accident occurred to the arc dynamo, to repair which two months has been required. Starting in at this particular time, when the moon is at its full, these lights will not be properly appreciated, but they will have their turn at popularity during the dark, rainy nights of next fall.

President Cannon, of the Light and Power company, returned from Portland to Sumpter Monday. Since then he has been so busy at the power house that only this noon did he find time for a breathing spell. While taking this rest, a MINER man slipped up on him, and learned that he has not been east during his absence, but has been busy at his headquarters in Portland. He will leave for the east, however, in a day or two on business pertaining to that electric railway proposition, a franchise for which has been asked for from the council. This is the nucleus of a gigantic scheme, in which the O. R. & N. is said to be interested, but about which THE MINER is under bond not to print a word, or give a suggestion.

PLACER PROPOSITIONS.

Eastern Oregon Offers Some Excellent Opportunities.

Neil J. Sorensen, of Sumpter, president of the Oregon Placer & Power company, who owns 200 acres of rich placer ground in eastern Oregon, is in Portland, says the Telegram.

Mr. Sorensen says that the idea that eastern Oregon offers only quartz propositions is erroneous. The divide between Sumpter and Granite, he says, offers the best of inducements to miners. There is an old river channel, which in some prehistoric age by an upheaval of nature was hoisted up near the top of the Blue Mountains. This river bed has been traced for miles, and every foot of it contains placer gold. It was the scene of a great excitement in early days, 30 or 40 years ago, when men, working with pan or rocker, took out independent fortunes. The historic Downing placers were located on this same river bed.

"The cleanups of early days are even now being repeated," said Mr. Sorensen. "At Winterville, Austin bought a claim last fall for \$3000. He made a cleanup a short time ago to pay for the ground, and see what he is doing. He took out \$4500. And he has enough ground to keep him busy the rest of his life. This \$4500 all came out of a spot 80x80 feet. So you can see there is some good placer ground there.

"My company will work the 200 acres it owns on a large scale. We are working now, putting in pipes and giants, and when we get to going I do not see why we should not take out \$40,000 or \$50,000

per year. We bring our water about six miles, and have 1000 inches with a pressure of 218 feet. This is ample for the work.

"There is plenty of activity throughout the whole of the mining country. In the Cracker district extensive development work is going on. The Ibez mine is developing on an extensive scale, and the proprietors are figuring on putting in machinery. They are taking out rich ore.

"The Bald Mountain and Mammoth, on the same vein, are being developed extensively. Superintendent McCallum is the general manager in charge of both properties. He is a thorough mining man, and knows his business perfectly. The Free Coinage and Anna-Lulu, of the Uunpqua group, are on a side vein, in which rich strikes have been made recently.

"Over in the Granite district the story is the same. The Cougar mine made a big cleanup last month, and two or three right around the Cougar are doing extensive development work. The Red Boy has commenced to sink a shaft 1500 feet, and has machinery on the way. Another company is running a 2000-foot tunnel to tap Quebec mountain.

"The whole country is alive with men, and a wonderful amount of work is going on. I have heard that stories are being circulated to the effect that eastern Oregon is dead. I can tell you that more is being done there than the outside world has any idea of.

"I think the Oregon Mining Stock exchange, recently started in Portland, will have a generally beneficial effect on the mining industry of the state. I believe this is the opinion of mining men generally.

Sale of the Comstock Group.

C. W. Canfield says he has bought from John Adams the Comstock group of mines, situated on Huckelberry mountain, six miles south of Sumpter. This group consists of the Comstock and the Paymaster. The property has a tunnel and some open cuts and about 600 tons of ore are said to be exposed. There is some conflict of statements regarding these claims. Wallace & Hart say they have a bond on the property.

Connecting the Two Mitchells.

M. A. Butler, of Baker City, was in Sumpter one day last week. He is the law partner of ex-United States Senator J. H. Mitchell, and is interested with J. H. Mitchell, the mining man, in the Virginia, a very promising property over in the Greenhorn. This has resulted in much confusion and some annoyance to all parties concerned.

Ask for the Columbia beer, brewed in Sumpter.

Columbia beer, brewed in Sumpter, is second to none.

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

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

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

Quartz and placer location blanks of the most approved form for sale at THE MINER office.

Go or send to the City Green house, Baker City, for choice carnations; thirty-five cents per dozen. Roses fifty cents per dozen.

"The Portland", conducted by Gus Woodward on Mill street, is fully a representation of its name. A visit will convince you of this.