

SUMPTER UNDERATED.

Views of a Spokane Capitalist Who Has Investigated.

"Yes, Spokane capital is going into other things besides mines in the neighboring tributary states," said Robert E. Strahorn, who has returned from his second recent trip to Sumpter, Oregon. "Of course, almost everybody knows that General Warren started Sumpter on the high road toward its recent boom, through his townsite operations. Then W. L. Vinson took in one of the finest electric light plants in the Northwest; later a large lumber mill, and finally supplied a \$75,000 gravity water system. Just now a Spokane gentleman is arranging to build a \$40,000 hotel.

"After having a mining man, in whom I have great confidence, look the Sumpter country over carefully, to satisfy me that certain of the tributary mines were permanent, I concluded to purchase the water works mentioned. Then making two trips with my attorney, R. J. Danson, to straighten out the legal troubles, we took all the bonds and stock, held a meeting of the company and were not too modest to elect a Spokane management. With a few finishing touches, which we are now giving, the plant will be a model one in every respect.

"The supply is derived by perpetual rights to all the waters of two clear, cold mountain streams about three miles above the city (absolutely the only supply available), which streams are consolidated and the waters led down through a main conduit 12 inches in diameter to a million-gallon reservoir blasted from the solid rock in the mountain side, 197 feet above and half a mile distant from the business center, through which it is distributed by about three miles of best quality 10, 8 and 6-inch steel mains and necessary laterals. The 30-year franchise and contract with the city is an unusually favorable one. On the other hand, the citizens are very proud of the plant, patronize it liberally, and with the extensions we are now putting in, the earnings promise to steadily increase.

"I looked over the country down there pretty thoroughly myself, and was constantly impressed with the fact that it is much underrated on the outside. Things do not move in Oregon as they do in our state, or northern Idaho, and if they were to discover a fraction of Sumpter's wealth in quartz in any corner of Alaska, Seattle could keep up that stampede for several years more at a stretch. Two or three great veins cut the country for miles, and at least half a dozen mills are demonstrating that they have unusually wide and continuous shoots of free gold ores of good average value.

"Some of the ores are fabulously rich, but these need not be taken into account. It is enough to know that several of the properties can save such values as \$10 to \$20 per ton in veins six to twelve feet wide to a depth of from 500 to 800 feet. Three new mills, from 10 to 20 stamps each, are being installed, and much heavy machinery is going in for deep sinking. This is on the prominent properties of proved value.

"There is also great activity in opening newer mines, some of which make very handsome showings. Some very fine copper ores are being found, said to run up to 20 per cent copper and a little silver and gold.

"Placer mining is yielding about the usual returns, and there is plenty of good ground there to turn out fortunes every year for a dozen years. A \$1200 nugget was found in one of the claims during our visit. This would create a stir in the Klondike, but not in Oregon, where min-

ing is conducted in comfort the year round, in sight of schools, churches, railroads, and all the conveniences that close contact with civilization brings.

"I have also been surprised at the other resources down around Sumpter. Fine farms and hay ranches, and in some cases even orchards, run right up to the mountains on which often at very low elevations are the mines. Stock-raising is a big business. One flock of 7000 sheep were grazing almost in sight of Sumpter, and a great cattle country stretches off south and southwest for hundreds of miles. Lumbering is another important industry. The Sumpter Valley railroad was extended 32 miles to tap the superb forests west of Bake City, and a number of mills, one with 150,000 feet daily capacity, all drawing their supply from the immediate vicinity of Sumpter.

"All these industries are building up a fine, permanent business at such towns as Sumpter, Prairie City, Granite, Canyon City and Susanville; the banking, forwarding and other heavy business naturally being done at the railway terminus at Sumpter. There is little being done in real estate, the boom period having gone by, and all hands now facing the proposition of developing the country on good, safe lines. Sumpter enjoys the unique distinction of being the only incorporated city of anything like 3000 inhabitants in the Northwest that has no municipal debt.

"Considering that it has a well equipped fire department, two paved streets, public schools, enjoys the luxury of such electric light and water systems as I have mentioned, and has made a start at sewerage, its city government could give ours in this part of the country some good pointers."

Railroad From California to Oregon.

Preliminaries are being arranged for the construction of a new line of railroad in Oregon, to extend from the Kalamathon, northern California, to Kalamath Falls, southern Oregon, a distance of 84 miles. W. W. Thompson, of Chicago, is one of the promoters. The road is to cost over \$2,000,000, equipped with first-class rolling stock and heavy locomotives. The capital is to come entirely from the east, the promoters denying emphatically any connection with the Southern Pacific, notwithstanding the reports that the big California system was behind it. Rights of way have been secured for nearly the entire distance, only a few small tracts which belong to estates being excepted. Condemnatory proceedings are to be instituted in regard to these, so no delay from them is anticipated. The survey of the line follows up the Kalamath river from Kalamathon to Jenny creek, and thence across some level table lands to the river again, by which it reaches its terminus at the county seat of Kalamath county. The road will open up one of the largest bodies of sugar pine in America, one tract alone embodying over 1,500,000 acres. Large tracts of rich farming land will also be brought into connection with the markets of the world. Kalamath county citizens have encouraged the building of the line by subsidies, in the shape of lands to the value of \$17,000, while much of the right of way has also been donated by land owners, who realize the importance of the enterprise. A big tourist travel is expected next summer, as Crater lake lies but a short distance away from the line; while some of the scenery in that portion of the Cascade mountains excels in grandeur and beauty that of any other portion of the continent.—Oregonian.

Water Notice.

The lawn sprinkling hours are from 6 to 9 o'clock p. m. Consumers are restricted to their own grounds, and will not be permitted to sprinkle the public streets. Running water through an open hose at any other hour than those mentioned, cannot be allowed. The water will be "shut off" whenever these rates are violated. SUMPTER WATER CO.

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