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DOUBT HAS VANISHED.

BRIGHT FUTURE OF SUMPTER AND DISTRICT ASSURED.

Facts and Figures Are Not Adequate to Demonstrate the Great Progress Made—Things Not Tangible Tell the Story—Spirit of Confidence and Hope Pervades the People—Knockers in Disrepute.

During the past few weeks THE MINER has published some statistics regarding the various improvements that have been made in Sumpter during the past year; facts and figures relative to the lumber industry; about the stocks of goods carried by local merchants, the vast amount of freight handled by the Sumpter Valley railroad and the Sumpter Transportation company; especially pertaining to the large consignments of mining machinery received here and distributed through this and adjoining districts.

These statistics have been compared and contrasted with similar facts representing business conditions of the previous year, all demonstrating that wonderful strides have been made in this town and district during the past twelve months. These material facts furnish tangible proof of progress to outsiders, and are perhaps necessary for that purpose.

But to those who reside here and keep in touch with the spirit of industrial movements; have some personal knowledge of the work being done in the mines and of the personnel of the men who are engaged in these various mining enterprises, all these figures are not necessary to convince them that this is a better, almost a different, country from what it was a year or eighteen months ago. They know that the most encouraging evidences of progress and improvement noticeable on every hand can't be tabulated, can't be expressed in either figures or a few concise words. They know that it is impossible to estimate the amount of development work done in the district during the past season, and that on the result and extent of that work the continued prosperity of Sumpter and the eastern Oregon gold fields depend.

To fully realize what the future holds for this region, one must know, not one or two, but many prospectors and mining men, who are actually engaged in the fascinating work of uncovering and blocking out gold-laden ledges; must talk with them as a brother, and learn of the true condition of affairs. He who has done this is inspired with hope and confidence.

It is because we who are here have done this very thing, unconsciously maybe, that the old spirit of doubt and fear has vanished. It is a noticeable fact that no one any longer discusses the possibility of eastern Oregon mines ever proving to be failures. Their permanent worth has been proven to the satisfaction of the most skeptical. As a natural result, Sumpter's bright future, which is dependent upon the neighboring mines, is a thing assured. It will always be a good trading point and will grow in response to that law that cannot be repealed—it will supply the demand. That some other town will spring up and usurp its place as the trading center for this and adjoining dis-

tricts, is also one of the too timid theories advanced a year ago, that is heard no more. Nature has guarded against such an event, by so constructing the surrounding topography that all roads lead to Sumpter.

But best of all, public sentiment has changed. The mossback, who persistently predicted the failure of every enterprise started, is a dishonored prophet. The knocker is in disrepute. The dog in the manger is ostracized. People are working together for the general good, knowing that they will come in for a share of the benefits to be derived.

The proposition is all right.

Liberty Bell Company Elects Officers.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Liberty Bell Consolidated Mines company, held at its offices in the Basche block Monday, these directors were elected: C. C. Basche, Nat Cooper, P. E. Poindexter, Robert W. Henry, Joseph G. Hurt, G. H. Wilson and J. Clifford Bowen. The directors elected the following officers: President, Claude C. Basche, manager Basche Hardware company; vice president, Nat Cooper, manager B. Basche & Co., Mining Supply Co.; secretary, Joseph G. Hurt, treasurer Basche Hardware company; treasurer, Roy H. Miller, cashier First Bank of Sumpter; general manager, Paul E. Poindexter, mine operator. The properties of the company include the Leviathan, Little Gertrude, Hardware and B and B quartz mining claims, situated in the Alamo division of the far famed Red Boy district. Three distinct, well defined ledges course through the limits of the claims, and may be traced for a distance of 1,000 feet on the surface, from 14 to 30 feet in width. An average sample from the croppings yielded \$7.28 in gold per ton. The development consists of a 30-foot shaft sunk at the junction of three ledges, a working tunnel 5x6½ in the clear, in on ore, six sets of timbers in length, numerous cross country trenches, open cuts and adits thoroughly prospect the width and value of the veins.

Encouraging Outlook for Prairie City.

Elmer E. Cleaver passed through town Monday on his way to Prairie City, to look after business connected with the townsite company coming up on the first. Lon Cleaver is now in Chicago working in the interest of that section and reports that the outlook is encouraging. E. E. returned last week from Portland. While there the Oregonian published a two column interview with him on the John Day valley and tributary country, in which he stated that his greatest handicap in talking on the subject is in the consciousness of the fact that if he tells the simple truth about the resources of the region, the uninformed would conclude that he was drawing the long bow. For this reason he has to select facts of so mild a type that they won't strain the credulity of the average reader.

Work in the Cable Cove District.

Eugene Bartholf came in from Cable Cove district Monday. He is engaged there driving a 100-foot tunnel on the Evening Star, for its new owners. He brought in some rock, taken near the surface, that assays better than twenty dollars. It is characteristic of the district, being an iron pyrites. This property is only 1400 feet from the famous Gipsy King group. He reports heavy snow at that high altitude, and packing in supplies is very arduous work.

Prompt attention to orders for cut flowers and floral pieces. City Green House Baker City, Oregon.

MOVING MACHINERY.

Hauling to the Columbia, Bald Mountain and Red Boy.

There has been a great movement of mining machinery since the roads have been sufficiently improved by the heavy fall of snow to permit the comparative easy hauling of heavy loads.

The monster sinking pump for the Columbia mine arrived last week and has been transported to the mill. It is the heaviest pump in the district, weighing 34,000 pounds, and has a capacity of 600 gallons a minute from the 500 foot level. The Columbia people are adding to their plant and keep it well in the lead with up to date machinery and equipment. During the coming year they will sink their shaft an additional 100 feet. The deepest level is now 625 feet.

Friday of last week two car loads of machinery arrived for the Bald Mountain company. This is a portion of the equipment for the 20-stamp mill which it is now erecting, the Joshua Hendy Machine Works, of San Francisco, being the manufacturers.

Yesterday-five four-horse teams and wagons, loaded with the Red Boy deep sinking plant, left for the mine. The lightest load weighed 6500 pounds and the heaviest 8000 pounds. The immense drum shaft with its stationary attachments, weighing 13,000 pounds, will be loaded tomorrow or next day.

Woodmen's Annual Masquerade Ball.

The local lodge of Woodmen gave its annual mask ball New Year's eve at the opera house, which was, as usual, well attended, consequently a financial and social success. The majority in attendance were in costume, of which there was too great a variety to attempt a description. It can be safely said, however, no jollier time was ever had by the dancers. The evening entertainment was interspersed with tableaux, presented by members of the lodge in costume and the paraphernalia of the order, under red light effects. At midnight a scene was given representing the passing of the old year and the entrance of the new, illustrated by an old man who was discovered as the curtain arose and who slowly made his exit from the scene, to give place to a pretty little child who greeted the audience with "Happy New Year." The picture was applauded, as it deserved to be. The lady friends of the order outdid themselves with delicious cakes, coffee and other refreshments. The floor was in excellent condition, as usual; in fact there is no better in eastern Oregon, a fact conceded long ago.

Municipal Affairs.

At the meeting of the city council Saturday evening, little was done except the granting of liquor licenses, fifteen in number. This is a reduction of three from the last quarter. A special meeting will be held tomorrow evening to further consider the new charter, which the legislature will be asked to grant. J. H. Robbins will be installed as mayor, Ed Rand as marshal, J. B. Stoddard, T. D. Bellinger and H. B. Griffin as aldermen next Tuesday evening. E. L. Manning, recorder; W. R. Hawley, treasurer, remain in the same positions. A. W. Eills, William Stinson and W. W. Looney are the hold over councilmen. The latter has left town and his chair will be de-

clared vacant. The names of several gentlemen are mentioned for the place. It is said that Al Hillier can have it, if he does not wish to remain as health officer. It is generally thought that C. H. Chance will be appointed city attorney, and it is conceded that a better appointment can not be made.

Child Born With the Century.

The first twentieth century girl born in Sumpter arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hurt at one minute past twelve o'clock New Year's morning; weight seven and a half pounds. Dr. Brock was in attendance. Joe seemed to have learned, somehow, that something of the kind was on the program, so took to the woods early in the evening and every detective in town failed to get a clue to his whereabouts. He returned home before morning, however, and is now clamoring to "hold" the little lady, which privilege is firmly withheld by those in command. Both mother and child are doing well.

Local Monte Carlo.

The new resort to be known as the Sullivan house, corner of Granite and Cracker street, is approaching completion and will be formally thrown open to the public soon. The Sullivan boys have made important changes in the old corner and will have a modern Monte Carlo institution when it is complete. A circular bar fifty-seven feet in length, virtually provides two separate places for their patrons comfort. Their aim is to offer the best merchandise in the line, comfort and entertainment to all.

Bond on Golconda Forfeited.

It is reported that the bond held by Frank J. Watson, of Portland, on the Golconda mine, has been forfeited, and that Spokane capitalists who mean business are now negotiating for the purchase of the property. It is perhaps well for the district that Spokane instead of Portland men should get control of this valuable mine, and it is hoped that the deal will be consummated. The price at which the Golconda is said to have been bonded to the Portland people is \$800,000.

The Olympia Reopened.

E. E. Hauser is busy these days arranging the interior of Henry Finger's former liquor house on Center street, of which Mr. Hauser is now proprietor. The newly remodeled Healy building permitted the raising of the ceilings, thus making a material improvement in the appearance of the rooms, as is noticeable to all patrons at first glance. The same high standard of goods which made the Olympia popular will be maintained and every comfort provided for the old and new trade.

Dancers, Attention!

Professor Nichols, of Baker City, will be at the opera house tomorrow (Thursday) evening to conduct a dancing school. The success of the school in the past insures a pleasant time this week.

The Capital hotel, under the management of Mrs. Tedrowe, serves special Sunday dinners. Families should take advantage of this. Best table board in town. Try it.

Wanted—A position as stationery engineer by a man of experience. Address Engineer, care THE SUMPTER MINER.

Dunphy & Gertridge's Club saloon is the popular resort for mining and commercial men.

The best is always cheapest—buy Giant powder.

Always reliable—Giant powder.