

CENTER OF ACTIVITY.

Eastern Oregon Mines Will Occupy That Position.

Secretary F. J. Hard, of the Oregon Mining Stock exchange, who returned recently from an inspection trip through eastern Oregon, as a result of his observations, is more strongly than ever convinced that the gold fields of eastern Oregon will some day be the center of mining activity of the civilized world. Being a mining man of experience, and having seen about every mining camp of any consequence between Mexico and the Klondike, Mr. Hard's observations carry weight.

In speaking of his recent trip through eastern Oregon, Mr. Hard this morning said:

"Very few are aware how rapidly interest is increasing in Oregon's great mining district. A light winter and little snow has enabled prospectors to remain in the hills; also much open work that ordinarily would have closed down, has been kept going. Otherwise, reports of new finds would have been in.

"Baker City and Sumpter, but for the open winter, would be in a whirl of excitement as is common in mining towns, where men gather to tell of their hopes and expectations, how wide the vein is and how much it is going to run the next ten feet, etc. Many of eastern Oregon's miners are too interested and too busy these times to come to town, and their stories will not be told until severe winter drives them in.

"Baker City and Sumpter are certainly solid towns, and only to watch the merchants moving their wares, to see the machinery and carloads of freight in the warehouses, convinces one that something is going on. The presence of well known mining men in great numbers, from Colorado, Montana and Utah is a guarantee of substantial mining for the districts. Strikes, bonds and actual sales seem to be the topic of the day, and one looking on would surely forget that he was in a mining camp away out in Oregon. In fact, one acquainted in these older mining camps feels quite at home, and is frequently saluted by old time friends and mining partners.

"I was glad to notice a spirit of kind words, and the idea appears to be prevalent that there is room for all, which insures progress on all sides and a mighty opening up of the earth's riches extending throughout this immense mineral belt, comprising both Baker and Grant counties, and extending from Quartzburg, the home of the Copperopolis, throughout the Cable Cove and Cracker Creek districts, eastward through the Cornucopia and Snake river sections, which connect with the Seven Devils district of Idaho.

"Among those we heard mentioned was H. S. McCallum, manager of the Mammoth and Bald Mountain companies, who is today proving by the large amount of work on this promising property, that he is a hustler and a good man for the camp. Tom Bessler, the well known champion driller, has a contract on the Huronian Mining company's property, which is located close to the Bald Mountain group, and is pushing work with his usual vim, and promises to make a big mine for the company. The Gem mine of Sparta, going into the hands of Denver people will, without doubt, be another move towards bringing the great rush that the coming spring is bound to see in that section. The mines of eastern Oregon are rapidly forging to the front. They cannot help doing this, as their merits command attention."—Telegram.

P. Basche's Freight in 1900 Was \$30,000.
To give an idea of the amount of freight received in Baker City and the amount of

business done during the short space of twelve months, a Democrat reporter called at the hardware store of P. Basche, one of the leading business houses of the city, and requested that a few figures be furnished from the past year's work. That is, from January 1, 1900, to January 1, 1901. On turning to the books the reporter was informed that the house had, during the dates mentioned, received 74 full carloads of freight, amounting to 2,447,021 pounds; by local freight, 733,756 pounds, making the total number of pounds received, 3,180,777. Allowing 30,000 pounds to the car, it would make 24 cars by local freight, or 98 full cars of freight during the year, or an average of over eight cars per month. The amount of money paid out on freight bills alone by this business house during the year, was \$20,035.41. These figures are for the Baker City house and not taking into account the Sumpter branch house, to which thousands of pounds were shipped direct during the year. When a person stops to contemplate these figures it gives one an idea of the enormous business done not alone by this house, but by the city.—Democrat.

Free Reading Room Statement.

The committee having the Sumpter free reading room in charge wish to submit to the public the following report up to January 1, 1901, and also to return their thanks to the people of Sumpter for the many favors extended them in their work. Especially do we thank the following named persons for their help in getting the hall ready for occupancy: Messrs. Cowden and Hillier for carpenter work, Shaver, Crandell and Houseworth for papering, and D. Copping for painting. And we thank all those who have donated papers and magazines. It is requested that all persons hereafter donating reading matter of any kind will register their name and article contributed, in a book kept for that purpose, so that the management may be able to keep track of the society's property:

RECEIPTS.

Oct. —, from White Cross society \$32.00
Sep 10, sale of prize cake..... 11.30
Nov. 17, proceeds of ball and supper 50.50
Total.....\$94.70

DISBURSEMENTS.

Nov., McFadden for stove, etc.....\$ 6.95
Dec., rent and draperies..... 15.00
Case Furniture Co..... 33.30
W. R. Hawley, mdse..... 2.70
R. Riley, wood..... 3.00
Window shades, etc..... 1.00
Sawing wood..... 1.50
Mrs. Hickok, sundries..... 4.30
F. G. Shaver, labor..... 2.00
Sumpter Lumber Co..... 3.85
Subscription for magazines..... 10.20
Total.....\$83.80

Balance on hand January 1, \$10.90.

COMMITTEE.

Those who know the comforts of a good hotel, always patronize The Capital; Mrs. G. B. Tedrowe, proprietor.

B. L. McLAIN

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CAPITAL HOTEL

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O	DELIVERY TO ANY PART OF THE CITY		
D	Lumber For Sale Mining Timbers to Order		
	CLOSING OUT STOCK OF SHOES AT COST		
	Sumpter Lumber Company		
	J. B. STODDARD, Mgr.		

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Are You Seeking Substantial Investment?

If you prefer legitimate investment to speculation and gambling, I can offer you a few first class mining propositions, from a prospect to a well developed paying mine. I can advise the purchase of a first class mining stock that you can buy without risk and with a certainty of early and substantial returns. The Sumpter Mining District is rapidly opening the eyes of the mining world. A long identification with the district enables me to give reliable information and advice as to investments. Expert examinations of and advisory reports on any mining proposition. Correspondence solicited.

W. H. W. HAMILTON, Mining Engineer, Sumpter, Oregon.