

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

G. H. MARSH AND J. W. CONNELLA

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$9.00
Six Months 5.00

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

THE hills are calling to the prospectors and they are now preparing their outfits for the spring campaign against the hidden treasures. Soon the "floaters" will desert the camps for the mountain wilds.

THE Oregonian is receiving from the republican press of this state copious doses of its own favorite medicine. The Oregon Thunderer is being called all kinds of horse thieves and liars by the yed-in-the-wool, blown-in-the-bottle republican papers, on account of its recent editorial utterances in opposition to the trust-breeding tariff. None of them are, however, attempting to answer its arguments; but are pursuing the Oregonian's tactics when dealing with the currency question and the imperialistic tendencies of the present national administration.

THAT sensational story published in the Boise Statesman Sunday, relative to the alleged mysterious death of a nine-year-old girl at the Virtue mine last July, in which it is charged that she was foully, beastially murdered, was so coarse a piece of work that it would discredit itself in the mind of any intelligent reader. The average man is not a brute; only in rare cases of rank moral degeneracy will a man criminally assault a child. The Statesman attempted to make out a case of a conspiracy against some of the most reputable citizens of this county to shield some imaginary fiend. The idea is unspeakably repulsive, the story impossible.

A SPECIAL to the Herald from Washington says that instructions have been cabled by Secretary of the Navy Long to Rear Admiral Remy, commander-in-chief of the Asiatic station, authorizing him to enlist 500 natives of the Philippines for service on board the former Spanish gunboats and other small vessels which are to be maintained exclusively in the Philippines. These men will form the nucleus of an important service composed solely of enlisted men. Rear Admiral Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, believes that besides resulting in the government obtaining efficient service, the employment of natives will spread respect for the American flag and create a strong feeling of loyalty.

NOWHERE else in the west could so rich a mining region as that of the eastern Oregon gold fields have remained undeveloped so long. People on the outside pay little or no attention to this state; it is damned by the mossback hoodoo. But still, gratifying progress has been made in this district during the past two years, thanks to mining men who have come here from other states. As a matter of fact, so many mines have been added to the list of producers in that time, that all doubt as to the great value and permanence of the ore bodies here has been swept away. There is now no fear of investing money in development work, and it seems to be a safe prediction to make that within five years there will be more dividend paying mines within a radius of forty miles to Sumpter than in an equal area anywhere else on the globe.

UNION county officials have decided to contest the segration of the Panhandle from that county, to be annexed to Baker,

as provided for by a bill which was passed by the last legislature. The plan adopted is to have the county clerk refuse to make a transcript of records pertaining to property in the territory involved and thus force Baker county to begin the legal fight with mandamus proceedings. It is unfortunate for both counties that this policy of resistance has been adopted, because it will very probably result in much unnecessary expense; unnecessary because it will unlikely result in defeating the provisions of the measure. This volunteered opinion is based on the alleged errors of the bill advanced by Union county's legal advisers, which are transparently merely flimsy pretexts. Take this for one: "That it was passed contrary to the will of the people most concerned." Who ever heard of a legislature enacting a law that could not be similarly criticised? Other grounds for the contest are that all the taxes on the assessment roll due for 1900 are transferred to Baker county, instead of being left with Union, which had already incurred the expenses for which the taxes were levied; that it is the duty of the school superintendent to divide the school fund of 1901 with that part of the county annexed to Baker; and that an act of the legislature fixing the proportion of taxes for the next five years requires that Baker shall pay .0195 per cent, while Union pays .0262.

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