

## The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
C. H. MARSH AND J. W. CONNELLA

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A FOOL friend is far more dangerous than either a false, treacherous friend or an open enemy—especially if that fool friend chances to be what is known, from long custom, as a newspaper.

IN RESPONSE to a request for a copy of Professor Lingren's report on the geology of the Blue mountains, H. C. Rize, chief clerk of the department, writes THE MINER that the work will not be ready for distribution this year.

THE correspondents of outside papers at Baker City are again engaged in firing their paper wads at Letson Balliet, a man who is doing more to develop the mining resources of eastern Oregon than a carload of his detractors. Another thing about Balliet, is that he is operating no wild cats; his mines are bullion producers.

MANAGERS of the country fair to be held in Portland next fall are already beginning to work the country press for free advertising. Their bait is free admission tickets. No effort is made to conceal the hook, and yet these jays of "journalists" are falling over each other in their wild rush to get a "comp." It does seem as if a large majority of the fish, one of which species is said to be born every minute, somehow get into the newspaper business.

IT IS unfortunate that local improvement districts cannot be organized and bonds issued under the provisions of the new city charter. Property owners cannot pay for extensive public improvements all at once, but they can do so if the cost of such work is spread over a number of years. Some plan ought to be formulated whereby the whole city can be bonded for much needed improvements and their benefits so distributed that all will get a square deal and a sufficient number of property owners satisfied to guarantee the passage of a bonding proposition when put to a vote.

THERE is a spirited race between a half dozen mining companies operating in this district, with headquarters in Sumpter, as to which will pay the first legitimate, earned dividend. The race will be won by one or the other in less than twelve months from this date, and that will mark a new era in the history of eastern Oregon mining. Its effect will be entirely beneficial. Millions of gold have been taken from our mines in the last twenty years, but not one dollar's worth of it has been spent to advertise the country, and but little of it has been used to induce other capital to invest here. This notorious fact is undoubtedly the greatest handicap the eastern Oregon gold fields have to contend with.

THE MINER has been shown a letter written at Bakersfield, California, in which it is stated that the late boom, based on oil, is a thing of the past, that the camp is as dull as a New England village, and that business matters are positively depressing. This condition of affairs was brought about, apparently, in a day. For some time past it has been almost impossible to secure transportation for oil to market. Operators finally became convinced of the fact that the Standard Oil company was pursuing its

usual tactics in crushing a possible competitor, they threw up their hands at the silent command of this gigantic corporate robber, and all the business activity that had characterized the camp for months past was dead and buried in the same grave with its citizens' hopes. The Standard Oil company has the power to accomplish just such results, and the pious, superstitious old fraud at the head of this great organization apparently delights in that kind of sport. If the company's business pull is not sufficient to do these things, bribery, arson and murder are resorted to, as has repeatedly been proven.

Such a fatal body blow can never be landed on the mining industry. Mining for the metals, gold, silver, lead and copper, when found in conjunction as in eastern Oregon, can never be monopolized, can never be controlled by a trust; nor can the royal occupation be suspended by the edict of any man or corporation. True, the Smelter trust is attempting to take it all from miners in certain districts, notably those producing lead ores in Colorado, but this will prove to be merely a temporary annoyance. The business of mining makes men independent in spirit, bold in action; its great prizes stimulate their intellectual efforts and they will not submit to the impudent demands of any trust. If some other method of treating the ores effected cannot be devised, mine-owners will unite and build smelters of their own. The business in none of its branches can be shackled, not even by that malevolent financial wizzard, Morgan.

The present excitement over oil speculation is already doomed to a brief career, while mining can never lose its power over men who have once experienced its fascinating spells.

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THE OCUList

Has established headquarters in Baker City, at Room No. 14, Lyndale Block, and will be there at least one week in each month, and at Sumpter at least two days in each month. Watch for local notice of arrival.

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