

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.25
ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

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

THERE are two sides to the question of the prices asked for prospects. Of course, some claim owners place an exorbitant valuation on their properties, and as a result they will never make a sale; but there are many promising claims in this district that can be bought or bonded at reasonable figures and on liberal terms. This perpetual complaint of high prices come mostly from men who are operating on their gall and a shoestring.

THE MINER has been requested by several business men to agitate the matter of taking early action in arranging for a Fourth of July celebration here. This is a subject that should not require any newspaper urging, to get the business men to take hold and begin the work. If a few leading citizens, say T. D. Bellinger, A. W. Ellis, William Stinson, A. P. Goss and, of course, Mayor Robbins, will issue a call for a mass meeting, that meeting will be well attended and the preliminary work can then be arranged and the good thing pushed along from that start to the finish.

GRANTING the patent fact that the Northwest Mining News, published at Spokane, is the best exclusive mining journal in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia; still it has a serious fault that neutralizes much of the good that it might accomplish. The News is a chronic critic; making a specialty of insignificant details, frequently being what many would consider clearly in the wrong. In its last issue, for instance, it takes the ground that it is poor policy to advance the price of treasury stock from time to time, and terms that prevalent practice "buncomb." It is nothing of the kind. It is good business and strictly legitimate. All will admit that every dollar intelligently expended on a property, if it worth anything at all as a mine, increases its value. During the first stages of development the men who furnish the money are taking a long chance. If this early work demonstrates the probability of the existence of a valuable ore body, the percentage against loss is diminished and it is an entirely equitable proposition that subsequent investors should pay more proportionally for their interests in the company than did those who took more than the "gambler's chance" at the start.

THIS paper declines to accept the challenge issued to it by the Portland Telegram to discuss that hoary headed chestnut as to what constitutes a gentleman. It characterizes some remarks made by THE MINER last week on Oregon's needs, as "ungentlemanly," so the whole question would resolve itself into a rag-chewing contest as to the correct definition of that word—a profitless proposition, to say the least. Ignoring its puerile taunt that the editor of THE MINER can't write half as good an article on how to supply Oregon's needs as have been published in the Telegram, and conceding the accuracy of that crushingly humiliating accusation; still THE MINER presumes to call the attention of the Portland evening paper to the fact that the wisdom of this paper's humbly offered suggestion as to the state's greatest need is vouched for by an authority that the Telegram dares not question, an authority on

all subjects, human and divine, appallingly august and infallible. In opposing some kindergarten appropriation for a state-owned mineral spring asked for at the last session of the legislature, it being too small for a "cut-up" with the Willamette grafters, the Oregonian pertinently and pointedly remarked that Oregon needs not to prolong the life of its citizens, but to encourage the eventuation of numerous overdue funerals. THE MINER'S suggestion was to the effect that the bubonic plague would be a good thing, and it now offers the additional tip that the first experiment with this remedy for the state's dry rot, moss back damned malady, should be made with a bunch of its feeble minded editors, who are continually writing silly, platitudinous rot about "our splendid resources," and never doing anything to aid in their development.

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