

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

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IT IS now announced that the Federal court in San Francisco will try Judge Noyes for contempt, in the McKenzie receiver case, in which Cape Nome mining claims were involved. It is a long shot gamble that the Judge will be convicted. The "other fellows" have evidently captured the court, which has shown a spirit of unmistakable vindictiveness throughout the entire proceedings in this case.

UP AT Republic, Washington, a few days since, some fairly rich placer diggings were discovered, and one of the old fashioned, wild, soul thrilling stampedes ensued. Here, every few days well authenticated rich strikes are reported. Last week a \$2,500 nugget was found in the John Day valley. Within the city limits of Sumpter a couple of men are taking out placer gold in paying quantities while merely prospecting the ground, several large nuggets having been found during the past few days. And yet there is not a ripple of excitement. Everybody knows that the gold is here and there and apparently everywhere; but no one seems to care, so long as they are getting three square meals a day. This condition of affairs is supposed to be what the "conservatives" term having "gotten down to a business basis," and rejoice thereat. One year of real life, excitement and boom would be worth more to this camp than a decade of this "business basis" buncombe.

THE MINER regrets to note the attitude assumed of late by that usually fair and always otherwise excellent newspaper, the Baker City Democrat, on the subject of mining promotion. During the past week or ten days it has repeatedly stated, and positively, that there is some rank wildcatting being carried on in eastern Oregon, and it urges legitimate mining operators to organize for the purpose of protecting themselves and the public generally from the nefarious schemes of these alleged fakirs.

This kind of printed stuff does infinite harm to the industry at large and is of no benefit to anyone on earth. It plants the seed of suspicion in the public mind and the strictly legitimate mining enterprises that are honestly endeavoring to raise funds for the development of mines through the sale of stock are injured equally as much as the alleged wildcaters. It is the easiest thing in the world to stop the sale of stock in a mining company by arousing suspicion as to the bona fide character of the company offering the shares, and just such statements as the Democrat has been publishing recently will do the business to a finish.

If the Democrat wishes to enact the role of guardian for the public, and knows of any dishonest schemes being worked, on its wards, its duty, both as a newspaper and in this self-assumed role, is to plainly and unequivocally expose the frauds; "name names," and not subject all the operators in the district to the taint of suspicion and thus injure their business. So far as THE MINER is concerned, it is not aware that any fraudulent practices are being resorted to for the purpose of selling stock and feels quite sure that not one of the mining promoters who make Sumpter their headquarters are operating on other

than strictly legitimate lines. The truth of the matter is, that in nearly every company here that has offered its shares for sale, hard working prospectors and miners own the control, who are selling stock for the purpose of raising money with which to buy grub and powder and tools for themselves, who are down in the ground working day and night, sustained by the hope of earning a competence. The men around town who are handling this stock are brokers, whose profit, aside from meal ticket commissions, lies in the unsolved problem as to whether or not the prospect will ever be a mine. No people on earth have a stronger incentive for persistent, honest endeavor than these two classes of mining men, and to deliberately throw obstacles in the way of their success is nothing less than a crime against the common good of the community. They have done more during the last two years to demonstrate the fact that Oregon is a mining region of real merit, than did their mossback predecessors for a quarter of a century.

Such are the men who are operating from Sumpter. Of course, THE MINER doesn't pretend to "keep the case" on the Baker City push; but there are surely honest, intelligent men there also, on whom this heavy handicap of suspicion should not be forced.

As to the plan of organizing the "legitimates" into a protective league, if any such move is consummated, THE MINER unhesitatingly advises its readers to steer clear of that more-holy-than-thou aggregation of reformers. Men who are making a success of mining have their hands full of their own business and have not the time to regulate the affairs of their neighbors. Furthermore, men who go into a movement of that kind have at least one eye peeled for the main chance, and in this proposition the one and only chance is the unloading of a gold brick themselves, under the usurped character of monopolized honesty.

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