

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
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The Harriman-Vanderbilt railroad system has issued a "Pathfinder" folder for the Union Pacific, which contains seven pages of agate type, descriptive of towns along the lines of the O. R. & N. in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. This descriptive work was done by Colonel P. Donan, who has no equal in this sphere of literary effort. The company issues 500,000 copies of these folders every month, 6,000,000 annually. And that is advertising which counts, which amounts to something, especially as in this case, where the matter is compiled by a man who understands the business, who is an artist, a specialist in this line. Isn't it about time the Portland Chamber of Commerce was "endorsing" this gigantic proposition to let the world know there is such a state as Oregon—yes, and the man behind the pen?

Now the small-bore papers all over the Northwest are shuddering with moral shocks and throwing fits on account of the municipal corruption in Seattle, revealed to public gaze by the recent killing of the chief of police of that town by the boss gambler. All this stuff is transparently dishonest. The city government of Seattle is no more corrupt than those of other towns approaching it in size, Portland, Spokane and Tacoma, and the papers that are pretending to be so dreadfully shocked know this statement to be true. They see an opportunity to preach sermons on morality, think their readers want something of the kind in this connection and are merely supplying a demand. Men around newspaper offices know better than most people that there is no such thing as honesty and purity in municipal politics, after a "push" has secured control of the machine, "squared" the newspapers and feel secure in its title to "what there is in it." And a city government is always just as good as its citizens deserve. Wherever "business interests" rule, there crooked work flourishes. There is not only no sentiment in business and commerce; but scarcely a trace of patriotism or honesty.

As was expected by THE MINER, the Lawton Standard makes no attempt to defend its attitude of hostility to business activity, generally designated as a boom, but dodges around the issue in this wise:

"THE SUMPTER MINER is one that believes in the boom principle. It is of the opinion that a frail structure of straw is of more utility than one built of brick on a good staunch stone foundation. It believes in drawing the long bow and inducing capital to invest by hook or crook. No matter what the result to the investor—whether the investment pays or causes his financial ruin, THE MINER man wots not. A sheep has been shorn and the wolves' appetite for the time satisfied."

It is scarcely necessary to point out the fact that the Standard's transparent error lies in its supposition that every boom is a "frail structure of straw," and that business stagnation, Oregonian dry rot is a structure of "brick on a good staunch stone foundation." THE MINER's contention is that eastern Oregon is a great, rich gold mining region, where

money can be profitably invested, and it wants a whole lot of capital to come in, buy and develop mines, increase local commerce, build up the camps, create a hot, exciting boom. The charge by implication that this paper is given to "drawing the long bow," is not founded on fact, as readers of both THE MINER and Standard know. Without keeping up a noisy, continued story series of exclamations relative to its reliability, THE MINER has at least won the reputation of being sincere in its statements.

But the Standard makes a vague reference to vacant buildings and idle quartz mills, as results of the late lamented boom. That is a vague generality that would win the heart of a "conservative," but would have no weight with a man who knows how to take a fact and draw a conclusion. There are in Sumpter today, perhaps, a dozen vacant buildings, business houses and residences. During the few months of business activity in this camp there were more than two hundred buildings erected, more than 94 per cent of which are either yielding the owners a big interest or are occupied by owners who are engaged in profitable occupation. The per centage of idle quartz mills is not so great by two-thirds. THE MINER simply claims that it is better for all concerned that Sumpter should have grown thus rapidly in six months than so slowly in six years; because life is too short to practice the Standard's stagnation theory.

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