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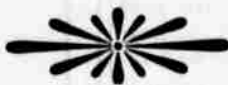
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SUMPTER, OREGON.

## UNDERTAKING

— IN ALL ITS BRANCHES —

### "DEMOCRAT" MEN IN SUMPTER.

#### What They Learned During a Brief Stay Here Monday.

George B. Small, one of the publishers, and W. C. Cowgill, city editor of the Baker City Democrat, came out on the Monday forenoon train, secured Tom McEwen's swellest rig and best driving team and went out into the hills, somewhere, returning home in the afternoon. The Democrat of yesterday morning was full of news of this district, but said not a word of the special object of the trip. They also refused to divulge this secret to a representative of THE MINER, and, from a sense of professional courtesy, this paper refrains from making a guess on the subject, though it would like to make a trial at calling the turn, on the usual two for one basis. Among other items of interest, The Democrat yesterday published the following:

The new aerial tramway at the North Pole mine, which is used in delivering the ore from the mine to the mill, is now in full operation, and is being watched with great interest by all mining men in the district. The tramway consists of a steel cable with a hemp core. It is 8000 feet from the mine to the mill, the endless cable thus containing 16,000 feet. Steel buckets with a carrying capacity of 225 pounds each are suspended from the cable by horizontal clamps a distance of 105 feet apart, there being 150 buckets in all. The cable moves at a speed of 180 feet per minute, and is partly propelled by gravity and partly by water upon the mountain at the mine. As the buckets laden with ore swing around the circle into the mill shed, they are automatically dumped, the ore falling into the bins below.

It is a remarkable fact that the cable has been so tightly stretched that not-

withstanding the great weight upon it there is little or no sag in the line between the supports, which are nearly 200 feet apart. This method of transporting the ore is so much cheaper than the old way of hauling it down the mountain in wagons that it is estimated by the management it will pay to use it, even if they have to string a new cable once a year, the cable costing about \$2000. It is believed, however, the cables will wear much longer than that, barring accidents.

Only a few days ago A. J. Tadlock struck a ledge of free gold ore on his two claims near the celebrated Red Boy mine, assays from the surface rock giving returns of \$40 to the ton. The ledge is a wide one and the ground has as yet scarcely been scratched. Last night negotiations were under way between the owner of the property and a Pennsylvania syndicate for the sale of the property at the price of \$85,000. It is understood that a bond on the property will be executed this morning at that figure and time be given in which to do development work. There is more activity in Sumpter now than there has been in a year past. Rents are better, real estate is in demand, surrounding prospects are passing into the class of mines and many of them will be equipped with machinery before the snow flies. Several large producing mines are under negotiation for sale, and it is believed that the season will close with the largest record of transfers and development of mining property in the history of the district.

The report comes from Whitney of a startling find of gold that has set that town wild with enthusiasm. Whitney is the terminus of the Sumpter Valley railway recently completed, and is the center of a rich mining and timber country to the southwest of the Bonanza mine. The story is that while some

workmen were excavating yesterday morning for the foundation of the new city scales, they struck into an ore ledge just below the surface of the ground so rich in free gold as to astonish the oldest prospector. It is estimated that the rock goes \$500 to the ton. The news soon spread and crowds of people soon gathered to inspect the latest addition to the town's wealth. What will be done with the find is a matter of speculation as yet, but it is understood that the owners of the property, town or no town, will at once commence development work on the ledge.

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