

The Sumpter Miner

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If eastern Oregon could only have a reservation opening, a famine, with sky high prices for grub, and import a few Klondike hardships, it might secure a boom of the crazy stampede variety.

Press dispatches of last night state that an operation for appendicitis had been performed on the king of England and that grave doubts are entertained as to whether or not he will live to be crowned.

The president of the French Republic signed, last February, a new code of mining laws applicable to Madagascar, and it was published in the colony on the 29th of March. The changes introduced mainly refer to increased facilities in procuring prospecting and mining licenses, as also a wider choice in the selection of lands for extracting gold the precious metals, and precious stones. There are advantageous clauses relating to transactions by power of attorney and the transfer and mortgage of mining property.

A CONTRACT has been drawn, in legal form, pledging the signers for ten years to ship all freight over any road, steam or electric, that shall be built into this district from any point on the main line of the O. R. & N. During the next few weeks this contract will be circulated among business men of Sumpter and camps to the west, north and south, and all mining men in contiguous districts. That it will be signed very extensively, almost unanimously, there is scarcely a doubt.

The gentlemen who are engineering this movement are men who succeed in what they undertake; they are not of the kind who "flash in the pan." They feel confident that they can secure enough business to induce the O. R. & N. to construct the line. If they fail in this, they will organize a company and build a road themselves. This pledged business will certainly aid and perhaps enable them to float the bonds. There is not a doubt but what sufficient business will be pledged by responsible people to far more than guarantee the interest on the bonds, and that is the prime requisite in securing capital for such an enterprise.

Sumpter can be reached by three different routes, and right-of-way readily secured over either. In case that it shall be found necessary to operate the road by electricity, generated by one of the three big water power propositions that will be developed during the next few months, it will doubtless be by the company now planning to build the line from here to Cracker Creek and Cable

Cove districts. In that event, a right-of-way can probably be secured over the county road to Baker City. The Hildgard Granite road, of which a survey has already been made, could easily be extended to Sumpter. The O. R. & N. would doubtless prefer to build in from Haines, switchback between Rock and Little Cracker creeks and come down the latter and Powder river grade.

The origin of this enterprise is found in the dictatorial, vindictive, malice inspired policy of the Sumpter Valley railway management. For several years the people of this region, the business men of Sumpter and the mining men of this district especially, have been kept in a state of constant irritation through their dealings with this road. The recent action, curtailing the train service by half, aggravating and intensifying the inconveniences heretofore imposed, seems to have been the last straw that broke the camel's back, and the people who are paying the company hundreds of thousands annually have decided to offer that money to any one who cares to earn it—and it is an enticing purse to hang up for competition, too.

Not since the writer has been in eastern Oregon has he seen the long suffering, absurdly docile citizens of this region so wrought up and indignant as they are at present, their resentment being aimed at David Eccles, the alien owner of the road, the grasping, avaricious, ignorant dictator, who chooses to handicap and retard the growth of this rich region, annoy and hamper in their efforts the enterprising people who are endeavoring to develop it. A rebellion has been inaugurated against his imbecile reign that is going to eventually result in emancipation.

And there is not another paper in Sumpter or Baker City that dares to publish this truth.

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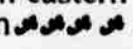
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