

**SPRIGGS SPEAKS
ABOUT SUMPTER**

**Entertains a High Opinion of
This District.**

Former Lieutenant Governor A. E. Spriggs has just returned from a trip to Sumpter, Oregon, where he accompanied General Charles S. Warren. In a talk with an Inter Mountain reporter at the Butte today, Mr. Spriggs said many nice things about Sumpter district.

"There are fifteen dividend paying mines within a radius of twenty-five miles of Sumpter," said he, "and two of them are down about 1200 feet. They have recently put in modern machinery that is the best that money can buy and the veins are said to be as rich and in every way as good at that depth as above.

"We were above Sumpter about twenty-five miles, on what is known as Greenhorn mountain, and happened to be present upon the opening of the new hotel, which was also called the dedication of the new camp, town or city, of Greenhorn.

"One year ago this part of the district was practically abandoned, but since then paying prospects have been found until there are now more than fifty mines where pay ore is being taken out.

"The new town of Greenhorn is but forty days old; that is, it was only thought of forty days ago and there are now about thirty buildings and more than fifty more in course of construction, besides many tents and not less than 300 miners working in the immediate vicinity.

"Our pleasure, or rather, our night's rest, was somewhat broken," said the governor, "by the dance and the many things things that go to make up the dedicatory services conducted in true Oregon fashion.

"Among other things, there was a dance in progress which lasted until we left and many games of chance which we, in our old wicked, gambling days made it a penal offense to play. From my bedroom I could see the stars through the roof, the trees and the beautiful scenery through the sides and by looking over my pine bedstead in one direction below, I could watch the changes of fortunes at the gambling tables, and in another the beautiful glide of the undulating, delicious waltz.

"The hotel consisted of but little more than enough framework to hold up a tent, but I have no doubt that it will soon be finished up to be a comfortable place.

"I have great faith in Greenhorn and the Sumpter district," concluded Mr. Spriggs.—Butte Inter Mountain.

HANDLING HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

Disaster at Daly-West Calls Forth Description of Miners' Habits.

Denver Mining Reporter, editorially discussing the Daly-West and eastern coal mine explosions, has the following comment on the reckless carelessness that too often characterizes the daily habits of the ordinary miner:

"We have had to record this month two mine disasters, each of which caused the loss of many lives and the destruction of much property. A large percentage of the casualties is undoubtedly caused by gross carelessness on the part of the men themselves and in defiance of regulations. The spirit of fatalism which grows upon men, after they have faced death in hundreds of different ways, especially from powder, is the

cause of many of these disasters. The man handling powder has probably dropped it seen it burn and do other strange things without exploding, until he has developed a contempt for its offensiveness, until some day, when the conditions happen to be just right, he is hurried into the beyond without a second's time for reflection. He knows that it will explode under some circumstances; so does the coal miner know that a naked light in fire-damp means his extermination; but so accustomed to the presence of these chances of immediate death does he become that he will take chances that seem like deliberate suicide.

"The old practice of crimping caps on a fuse with the teeth is becoming obsolete, most of the advocates of this handy and effective method having bitten the wrong part of the cap at some time. Black powder will not stand flame, but the glycerine compounds are subject to all sorts of vagaries, and when pure are comparatively safe. Impurities, such as water and acid left in it in its manufacture, cause it to decompose and may bring on an explosion without any outside disturbance. Blasting caps are the most dangerous of all the explosives used. They will not stand squeezing, concussion or flame, and too much care cannot be exercised in their use; yet the early day miner would take a stick of powder out of his boot, a cap and match from his vest pocket, a piece of fuse from his hat and then he was ready to put in a shot without the trouble of having to move about and find these various articles. By the time he had crimped the cap on with his teeth and lit the fuse without noticing whether his partner was ready to pull him up or not, he had done all that human agency could do to exterminate himself, thus proving that an easily avoidable risk, taken often with impunity, is utterly forgotten or ignored until the inevitable occurs.

"It is only when a disaster of high proportions startles us that public feeling is aroused and investigations are made. It should be the rule to investigate the cause of every mine accident, not only to determine the responsibility, but to impress upon the miner the importance of carefulness and to educate him. Education in mining methods means the personal safety of the men underground, and until they learn the necessity of protecting themselves, mining will continue to be an extra hazardous occupation."

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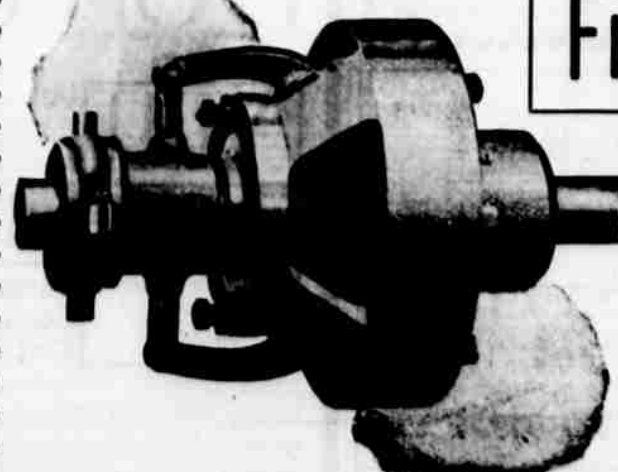
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