

# The Sumpter Miner

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J. W. CONNELLA

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There are several townships of excellent timber lands near Sumpter not included in the forest reserve, that offers an opportunity for some one to make a big cleanup.

AGAIN much is being published about prospectors charging exorbitant prices for their claims. There is no method of settling this matter and discussion is worse than worthless. A prospect is worth all it will sell for; the owner alone can decide how little he will take and the would-be buyer how much he will give. These two individuals must decide every case.

This town has been full of people from many states in the Union during the past week. Most of them are here on still hunts for mining properties. It is next to impossible to secure information as to what they are doing until the papers in the particular case are put on file, for there is no brass band accompaniment to the preliminary stages of a mining deal.

SOME days since the Baker City papers exposed one of the most contemptible cases of "knocking," which prevented the sale of meritorious mining property, that has yet been made public in eastern Oregon. And now it is announced that this exposure has occasioned a reconciliation between the owners of the mine and the men who did the dirty work to prevent its sale. And that is a queer condition of affairs, reflecting discredit on both parties. An honest man who is endowed with even a little bit of sense will not be reconciled to one who has done him a premeditated, selfish injury, employing methods that render the tactics of a sneak thief honorable, in comparison.

IN GENERAL, ore deposits represent a process of concentration of mineral matter either by chemical or physical means—that is, they are unusual localizations of certain minerals, thinks Mining and Scientific Press, which are often found disseminated in smaller quantities in many common rocks, and they differ from the same minerals situated in other conditions only in their degree of concentration. There is a superficial alteration of nearly all ore deposits. The typical unaltered condition of gold in nature is in association with iron pyrites in quartz, and the effect of surface oxidation on such a deposit is first to convert the iron pyrites into hydrated oxidized iron minerals, which permeate the quartz, turning it into a rusty brown mass. The next stage is the gradual leaching out of the iron minerals by the action of surface waters, while the gold which was originally in the iron pyrites mostly remains, though it may have been partially dissolved in one or more several ways. Sometimes gold occurs in the form of telluride instead of iron sulphide, and in such cases superficial oxidation causes the tellurium to be oxidized and the gold to be set free from its combined state. When such deposits as those described are eroded the particles of gold separate from the quartz and are concentrated in the streams as placer gold.

ONE of the most noticeable features of mining during the present year is the fact that people are rapidly acquiring

a quite thorough and very general knowledge of mining and mining matters. While this is largely due to the large number of excellent periodicals which devote much attention to the industry, it is principally because of the interest felt by people themselves. The time was, and not many years ago at that, when the conception the average eastern investor had of a mine was limited to various dark and devious tunnels far beneath the surface, where the miners spent days and nights in the densest darkness, or else he had an idea that the work was done on a magnificent scale and that the necessary buildings to carry on the industry represented the highest types of modern architecture.

Those false notions have been dissipated and now 99 out of every 100 know what a mining property looks like and what development work means. The yarns which the wily sharks formerly disseminated are no longer accepted unquestioned, and he who would have any success whatever in interesting investors must make no mistake in descriptions or in arguments. The result is that nowadays the fakir is put to telling downright lies in order to arouse any interest whatever, and he isn't usually successful in very extensive prevarication before he is brought up with a round turn quickly tied.

All this is to the advantage of legitimate mining, and the more education the people receive in these directions the better will it be for high-class propositions, as well as for themselves. In the circular of one fake company recently sent out, reference was made to "the mass of bullion beneath the earth." That might have interested easterners a few years ago, but in these times they know better.—Journal for Investors.

### Western Mining Exchanges.

There is more interest in the east in mining than ever before in the history of the country. Mining is regarded more as a legitimate business, and where the easterner thinks that he is assured protection and a run for his money he is investing it in mining. We believe it is time for the westerner to make a decided and consistent effort for recognition by the large eastern exchanges—particularly by the New York Stock Exchange. A listing generally of good stocks of all the western camps would be an endorsement for these stocks which would create a demand, and consequently make prices. The eastern exchange is big enough and strong enough to sustain prices. The smaller exchanges dealing in specialties would still be necessary. The prices on these boards would be stronger accordingly. The western broker would cooperate with his big eastern brother and would also be more prosperous. Work to the end of listing western mining securities on the eastern exchanges, particularly the New York institution, and such an interest will be created in mining that the western mining industry and the western mining stock business will experience a boom as never before.—Colorado Springs Mining Record.

Something to depend upon—Giant powder.

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