

IMPENDING

REALTY BOOM

Expert Examines Sumpter and
Pronounces Favorable
Judgment.

Attorney C. H. McCulloch says that the story published recently in THE MINER on the activity in the local real estate market had an immediate beneficial effect. It brought one outside buyer here within a week after its publication, a man who makes a specialty of real estate investments. He studies conditions, analyzes indications and draws his conclusions as to future possibilities. This veteran in the business experted this camp, pronounced the proposition all right and will take advantage of favorable opportunities offered.

As a matter of fact, several gentlemen who have devoted years to the study of town lot booms have expressed the opinion to the writer that Sumpter is ripe for quite a little flurry in the real estate market. But these "booms," as they are generally designated, are the result of careful culture and nursing, intelligent and persistent advertising, which must be done by the organized, united effort of its citizens. Sumpter has no such wet nurse, no commercial or business body to advance its interests, and apparently never will have. Its citizens and business men are all making some money, doing just about so well, seem to be satisfied with present conditions and it is a clear case of "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

Notwithstanding this state of affairs, the town was never before so prosperous. It is almost impossible to rent a dwelling house here and positively impossible to secure one with any desirable modern conveniences. Any one who would build such could rent a dozen of them in twenty-four hours and receive an income therefrom that would net him twenty per cent on the investment.

This demand for houses is what has created a demand for lots; people are building their own homes because they can't rent them, although they could use this money to better advantage in some mining enterprise. And so it happens that there is a strong probability of a more or less well developed town lot boom here, without the aid of a board of trade, a committee to promote publicity, or even a townsite company. The great strides that have been made in the development of our mines during the past two years, the vast quantities of gold that is being taken from the surrounding hills, is forcing a boom on us, in spite of our masterly inactivity, and far famed mossbackism.

DOWN ON BURNT RIVER.

Great Pomeroy Dredge Will Soon Resume
Operations.

The great Pomeroy dredge, now lying in a scooped-out lake or basin of Burnt river, near Weatherby, may not be idle much longer. The huge boat, with its ponderous machinery, is in charge of George Moore, a veteran miner, who was profitably busy for years in placer mining on Chicken creek. The dredge looks unique amid the trees, its huge twin smokestacks, rising high above the foliage. The boat is 107 feet long and forty feet wide. The forty buckets, on an endless chain, scoop up the gravel to the bedrock, dumping the stuff into a great steel flume, which is 160 feet long.

The steam power of the dredge also operates a complete electric lighting plant, so that the gold washing work has been carried on at night as well as by day. The work has been prosecuted in from twenty-four to thirty-two feet depth of

water.

In sight of Weatherby a strike of a rich four-foot ledge has just been made in the Granite Mountain claims, of which M. N. Thompson is superintendent. Superintendent Knight is in charge of a promising property, owned by Walla Walla capitalists and equipped with a two-stamp mill. The Dana, Superintendent Gleason, and the Weatherby-Bonanza each have five-stamp mills, operated by gasoline engines. The Interstate and the Little Hill, the latter equipped with a two-stamp mill, are promising properties. Frank Jenkins is superintendent of the Little Hill.

It is said the William Weatherby placers, on Chicken creek, operating from two to three giants, have had a paying run this year.

Wood & Eastbrook, veteran miners of California and Oregon, are opening up what promises to be good gold diggings a few miles above Weatherby, on Burnt river.

Near Durkee the Gold Ridge and the Gold Hill mines each have ten-stamp mills. The properties are well known as being among the best developed quartz mines in the Northwest.—Democrat.

IRRIGATE DEAD OX FLAT.

Plan to Put Water on Thirty Thousand
Acres of Land.

The Artesian Springs Water and Land company is the name of a corporation which will be the means of providing homes for hundreds of people, and cause thousands of dollars worth of property to be added to the assessment roll of

Malheur county.

About four years ago S. J. Stark and sons began the construction of a system of reservoirs about ten miles above Vale for the purpose of storing the flood waters of Willow creek. These gentlemen soon discovered that the enterprise was too large for private effort to handle successfully, so in January, 1901, formed the corporation above named.

From the beginning, four years ago, the Starks and the company have together expended about \$7000 in construction work, which has resulted in building a supply ditch one and one-half miles long, four feet deep and fifty feet wide, and two dams at Spring Cove, one of which is 400 feet long, ten feet high and sixty feet wide at the bottom, and the other is 150 feet long and twelve feet high.

When each of these dams is completed to fifteen feet in height, and the supply ditch constructed a mile and a half more, which work will be done this fall, the reservoirs will have a capacity of 500 acres of water, ten feet deep, and it is confidently expected that this amount of water will be stored during the coming winter, and the water used for irrigating purposes next year.

The company has already contracted to supply water for about 2000 acres for next year, about 1000 acres of which is along Willow creek and Malheur river, and 1000 acres on Dead Ox flat.

It is estimated that 17,000 acres on Dead Ox flat and 12,000 acres near Vale, on Willow creek and the Malheur river, can now be irrigated from the reservoirs now in course of construction, and the other reservoirs which will be built adjacent thereto.—Vale Gazette.

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