The Sumpter Miner

J. W. CONNELLA

at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for

One Year Six Months ALWAYS IN ADVANCE

No word has been heard from the protest sent out from eastern Oregon good and plenty before it was sprung on port of the gigantic job, the transparent so enticing as is the Sumpter district.

And now President Roosevelt is advocating a constitutional amendment, as a cure for the dangerous trust evil. That remedy is of the same character prescribed by the doctors of the republican party for the greatest of all economic evils, a dearth of the circulating med- plicants expense of a trip to La Grande. ium, when they recommended an international agreement to secure the free coinage of silver. One is just as impractical, impossible as the other-and equally insincere.

THERE is not a mining district on the globe today in which there is the activity now visible on every hand in the gold fields of eastern Oregon. Big deals are consummated daily, rich strikes are reported from every direction, hundreds of thousands of dollars are being expended in developing promising properties, the outputs of the score of producing mines are increasing every monthand not a ripple of excitement is occasioned. This is the queerest mining district on earth, as well as the richest.

TEN thousand tons of steel billets from Europe have been recently delivered in Chicago, and structural iron and steel has also figured in its imports. It is claimed that prices, including freight charges and tariff duties, are not higher than those of the domestic article. Among the causes of this topsy-turvey reversal of things, says Western Mining World, are the shortage of coal supply, an unparalleled crowding of home demands, and the charge is made that the steel trust is making a tactical move to shut out competition from independent concerns manufacturing steel and iron. Be the causes, however, what they may, the fact as given stands for all it signi-Bes in the iron and steel market, at least for the time being.

According to the estimate of George E. Roberts, director of the United States mint, there was a decrease of \$504,000 in the gold production of 1901, as compared with that of 1900, though ten of the nineteen states reported on showed an increase, California leading with an increase of \$1,075,200, was followed by Ne-Dakota with an increase of \$301,900, Idaho with an increase of \$144,000 and Oregon with an increase of \$123,400. Alaska's production fell off \$1,285,300, and Colorado yielded less by \$1,129,900 than in 1900. The annual report of the minister of mines for British Columbia gives the production of gold in 1901 as \$5,318,703, an increase of \$506,508 over that of 1900. This is the largest production of gold yet recorded for British Columbia.

In another column of THE MINER IS printed an account of the troubles which the lead miners of the Coeur d'Alenes are having with the smelter trust. They are completely at the mercy of that powerful combination, that has no mercy, no souse of justice or equity; that is

dominated entirely by greed; have shut down their mines and are now caucusing with each other on ways and means for securing relief. While sympathizing with these unfortunates, gold miners of eastern Oregon are forcibly reminded of the fact that they have cause for self congratulation. The market and price for their product is fixed by a world wide, hungry demand. No possible, no conceivable combination of legalized pirates, such as is the smelter trust, can either regulate prices or dictate terms of treatment, for outside smelters never reagainst the creation of that forest re- fuse rich gold ores, and the owner of a serve. The deal was evidently fixed free milling property is the most independent man on earth. There is in all the public. The Baker City Democrat fields of human endeavor today no inis the only paper or person in eastern dustry so alluring with advantages as Oregon that has uttered a word in sup-gold mining, and no gold mining region

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