

The Sumpter Miner

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THE members of the inter-national mining congress, recently assembled at Butte, did a meritorious act when they selected L. K. Armstrong, of Spokane, as chairman of the executive committee. Mr. Armstrong has done as much, if not more, than any other one man to advance the mining interests of the Northwest during the last twelve years.

THE Thunder Mountain boom is over, and it really is amusing to read the diversity of opinions regarding the value of that comparatively inaccessible region that are expressed in interviews with different persons who have visited the noted mountain. The truth is, there is a great deal of uncertainty yet about the value of Thunder Mountain claims. Eastern Oregon has been proven a wonderful gold country. Stay with it, you cannot better yourself.

ONE by one those who occupied spectacular positions in the mining world are passing away. W. S. Stratton, who for a number of years has attracted more or less attention on account of his wonderful discovery and successful operations at Cripple Creek, Colorado, is the last to join the great and silent majority. As a rule, mining kings are noted for their excessive generosity and business enterprise, and the newspaper readers generally give a sigh of regret when they learn that one of these daring and nery souls has passed to the great beyond.

In the statement on another page of the production of the precious metals in the United States, during 1901, it will be seen that Oregon is only credited with \$1,188,100 in gold. It is evident to any one who has taken the least interest in the subject that these figures should be multiplied by three or four. Quite a quantity of Oregon gold is shipped direct to London, which prevents any state of the Union securing the credit. It is an open secret that one property in the Sumpter district, owned by London capital, produced in five months of the present year, \$300,000 per month, or a grand total in that time of far more than the state is credited with for the year that is past. Another fact, much of Oregon's wealth went to swell the reputed output of California last year, as a great deal of our metallic gold is sent to San Francisco.

SINCE President Roosevelt's recent tour of the country, wherein he did considerable "spouting" and suggested an improbable method of dealing with the trusts by amending the Constitution of the United States, many of his heretofore admirers regret that an assassin's bullet shot him into the high official position which he now, in a measure, fills. Mr. Roosevelt has always been known and regarded as an ambitious man. Many attempts have been made to shove him, but the element of luck appeared to be in his favor and he did not remain shelved. Elevated to his present position by a deplorable accident, he naturally desires to make a favorable impression on the voters of the country and thus secure a second term. To do this he is compelled to say something against the great combinations of capital and make it appear he is opposed to their methods. But the veil is too thin—it can easily be penetrated. What will convince the in-

telligent voter of the President's real intentions is action, not hot air.

THERE is not an industry that has benefited the west more than the business of mining. Here it not for this industry there would be no need of many others. Farmers would not till the soil of a considerable portion of the great west were it not for the markets created by the miners. Did the working of miners not attract the artisan, the mechanic, the merchant and many others to establish themselves in their different vocations, there would be few towns and cities and few happy homes where now they are numbered by the thousand. If the boundless west was turned over to the stockman, no doubt many fine flocks and herds could be seen with here and there a corral and a few tents, but mining makes broad cultivated fields a necessity. It causes towns and cities to grow and is one of the greatest factors toward spanning the continent and gridironing the country with railroads. Mining attracts more capital toward a section than any other industry. Capital is necessarily shy, and its owners desire to know all the facts before investing. Generally the first question asked is, what is the production? In Oregon this question can be answered by every branch of industry except mining. Those who have the advancement of this attractive feature at heart cannot answer the query. There is surely a way, and that way must be found.

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