



THE SUMPTER MINER

THIS OLD CAMP "LOOKS GOOD."

GREAT ACTIVITY IN EVERY INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS.

Fortunes Have Been Made in Mining—Residents Inspired With Faith in the District—Investing Their Money in Mines and Real Estate—Many Buildings Being Erected and Wages High.

This camp and district "looks good"—never better. People who have lived here before and since the kindergarten boom of three years ago and have accumulated a little money by hard work or close application to business, are investing their own money in real estate and mining property. This new condition of affairs has developed recently and rapidly.

There has never been really a dull period of sixty days duration in Sumpter or the district since the short-lived, feverish activity in the winter of 1899 and 1900—the conservatives who have acquired the habit of speaking of the "reaction after the boom" to the contrary notwithstanding. That incipient boom made this country, and it is not a "marker" to the one that has already been inaugurated and will reach full, rounded proportions of maturity within a year or eighteen months—but this is a diversion.

Heretofore everyone has been enthusiastically willing to aid in inducing others to invest, even if they received no immediate benefit, knowing that they would get their reward indirectly. This spirit of loyalty to the region has worked for the general good in a curious way. People here have striven to sell mining properties to outsiders that they wouldn't think of buying themselves; either for the purpose of earning a small commission themselves, or maybe merely to help out a friend. In a dozen or more instances that the writer can recall, the buyers have made money already; in several cases fortunes of considerable magnitude have been realized. Even now one hears stories of big bets overlooked. One man will tell you of a claim he could have secured a year ago for \$140, or, perhaps, fifty pounds of powder, a pair of overalls and rubber boots, that couldn't be bought today for \$25,000. Another bemoans the fact that he located a certain piece of ground and lost it because he failed to do the assessment work, that was sold day before yesterday for \$12,000.

Such cases as these are multiplying, day by day. They could possibly have but one effect, and that is to inspire residents of this section with faith in their own country.

This has been accomplished and the

inevitable gratifying result is immediately apparent. Two months since **THE MIXER** commented on the budding activity in Sumpter real estate, occasioned by a demand for lots on which to build comfortable homes by residents of the camp who have been living in either rented houses or in shacks. Now, note the close connection between cause and effect. Today carpenters are receiving four dollars a day and there are not one half enough of them in town to supply the demand. The homes are being built on the lots bought sixty and less days ago. There is more building in progress in Sumpter today than ever before in its history, and the houses are all of a substantial, permanent character.

"If our mines are good, our real estate is better," has been accepted as an axiom in mining camps for fifty years. If real estate values are permanently established it is, therefore, proof that the surrounding mines are all right. Sumpter's present prosperous condition establishes the reputation of the gold fields of eastern Oregon, for the mining interests center here, almost exclusively. Baker City is the storm center for politics, the headquarters of the agricultural interests, and is a good town of its kind; but it is as different from Sumpter as a Wilamette town is from one on Puget sound, as Portland is from Seattle.

With all this activity in mining, real estate and building, commerce necessarily shares in the general awakening. Mayor Robbins stated to the writer yesterday that the deposits in the First Bank of Sumpter are double what they were one year ago, more than \$100,000 in excess. Business is brisk, and there are said to be a half dozen men in town this week looking for store rooms, men with ample capital who wish to engage in the mercantile business here. Offices are also much sought after by professional men and brokers. At least two more assay offices will be started here at an early day, and soon three or four mining operators will move here to do business. One of these new firms is preparing to plunge and will set a pace difficult to keep up with. **THE MIXER** knows that \$15,000 has been appropriated for advertising purposes.

Encourage them all to come. They will do well and help us to do better.

Organizing Labor Unions.

A meeting of the bartenders, cooks and waiters of the city was held last evening in Judge Felix' office to organize a union. The following officers were elected: C. S. Sheppard, president; J. Fogarty, vice president; Miss Jessie Blackwell, secretary and treasurer; Harry Moore, chaplain; L. A. Cronk, inspector; Charles Glaseock, outside guard; Miss Laura Hinton, W. H. Carter and Harry Moore, executive committee. J. H. Buck, organizer of the American Federation of Labor for eastern Oregon and western Idaho, has been in town organizing the laboring men and expects to form unions among the carpenters, blacksmiths, printers and others.

COUGAR MINE WILL RESUME

Browne & Smith Solving Ore Treatment Problem.

Browne and Smith, mining engineers and metallurgists, have been retained by the Cougar Mining company, to solve the problem of treating the refractory ores taken from that mine.

The gentlemen have established the first completely equipped metallurgical laboratory in Eastern Oregon, in the Stage company's building, Center street. They there have everything necessary for the work, chemical apparatus, assay furnace and equipment, rock crusher and so forth. At an early day there will be installed a series of leaching tanks, with a capacity of 250 pounds of ore. This will enable them to make practical tests of ore treatment, after the method has been determined by fire and chemical experiments.

The firm will do no custom assaying, but will use the plant in their own work, as consulting engineers and metallurgical experts.

The Cougar has always been considered a great mine, with a big body of high grade ore, and the fact that it has been idle for so long has mystified the uninformed public. The property is equipped with a modern ten stamp mill and a cyanide plant. The fact that men skilled in the scientific treatment of ore have been employed to devise a method for economically saving the values, explains the long shut down. It is evident that some modification of the cyanide process must be devised.

Messrs. Browne and Smith say that so far as they have gone with their experiments, they anticipate no serious obstacles in solving the problem, and that when this is accomplished, the mine will doubtless resume operations on a large scale.

For the past two years it has been repeatedly said that the Cougar mine was about to be sold, for one, two, three millions; all kinds of money, in fact; but it is still owned by J. W. Larkin and associates, mining men living in Spokane.

Smelter Superintendent Arrives.

C. B. Neel, superintendent of the Oregon Smelting & Refining company, has arrived to take charge of construction and installation of the smelter here. He has been in Chicago and Denver, working with the engineers and manufacturers of the machinery, designing and planning all the machinery and arrangements of the plant. Mr. Neel is an experienced smelter man, a graduate of Chicago University and the Michigan School of Mines. He began his smelter experience with the Amalgamated Copper company at Butte, then was a foreman in the Boston-Montana plant at Great Falls, and later was superintendent

of the Boston-Wyoming smelter, where his efficiency brought him prominently before the smelter world. He will have entire charge of the plant here, both construction and operation. This is further evidence that the Oregon Smelting & Refining company understands its business and is going ahead intelligently. The smelter management would make no statement regarding its plans, but what is being done speaks for itself.

S. S. Start Home From Alaska.

S. S. Start returned yesterday from Alaska. He left here about two months ago, in company with his brother L. H., and J. F. Curtis, and proceeded to a point about 200 miles west of Dawson, where J. H. Gibson, whom they had grubstaked, had preceded them and located several claims. They went in to see if the proposition was worth working and were gratified to find the prospects very flattering. They secured more ground and expect to make a big cleanup next spring. J. F. Curtis remained in Alaska, L. H. Start has gone to Oakland, California, to spend the winter, and S. S. will remain here a couple of months looking after his interests in this district and then go to Iowa, where he will spend the remainder of the winter with his wife. He and his brother will return to Alaska in the early spring.

Injunction Against Building Reservoir.

Al Hudson came in a few days since from his Pine creek placers, accompanied by his wife, who has been staying out there for a month or so. Mr. Hudson has returned to the mine. He says a number of the individual claim owners along the creek had begun work on a reservoir in which to store the surplus water, so that the operating season could be prolonged. But a Baker City company has bought a number of claims near the mouth of the creek, secured an injunction against the proposed improvement and matters are now at a standstill.

Investing in Maxwell Stock.

L. C. Hodgson, of Laverne, Minnesota, arrived in town Friday and left Saturday for the Maxwell mine, in company with Otto Herlocker. Mr. Hodgson has recently purchased a large block of Maxwell stock, and came here to examine the property. They expected to be back in Sumpter today but will not return until tomorrow. After a careful examination of the mine Mr. Hodgson reports that he is very much pleased with the outlook for the property. Before returning home he will visit the Cracker Creek district.

Commercial College at Baker City.

Eastern Oregon Commercial College and School of Shorthand and Typewriting begins in Baker City Oct. 13, 1902. A complete course in bookkeeping, business arithmetic, shorthand and typewriting; also all the Normal branches. Tuition reasonable. Write M. O. Perry, principal, Baker City, for prospectus.