

The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
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ONE evidence that the gold fields of eastern Oregon are attracting wide and favorable attention is found in the "Enquiry" columns of the financial papers. They are full of questions regarding different properties in the Sumpter district and of the companies that are operating them, the headquarters of which extend from Seattle to Boston. The replies to these queries are necessarily uniformly favorable. As a matter of fact, there is not a wild cat scheme being worked at this time, with a Sumpter district claim as the basis of operation. Every company that is selling stock has men at work on the property, honestly endeavoring to make a mine of the same. As the fame of the district grows, the fakirs will undoubtedly take advantage of the situation and fleece the lambs; but at the present time stock buyers have not that danger to contend with, so far as eastern Oregon is concerned. When money received from the sale of treasury stock is being expended in opening up ground favorably situated in a proven district, the stock is a good speculation. As for the stock in producing mines that is now being offered, it is as safe an investment as United States bonds, and is sure to pay two or three hundred per cent more profit.

SOMEONE named W. A. Ho has written a novel called Hazel Pierce, which A. Hargrove & Co., of New York, have been reckless enough to publish. The scene of the story is laid at Astoria, in 1885. It is very amusing, unintentionally so. The funny feature is found in the author's conception of the character, thought and speech of "aristocracy," a favorite word—and the idea that such can be found at Astoria, or Portland. The leading man is a high rolling rake, a native son of Portland, who blows himself like a horsethief, and the author never fails to mention the exact amount of the tip he gives waiters, bell boys and others. The heroine is the daughter of a sawmill man. She makes a New Orleans belle, who wandered into that port, look like thirty cents at every turn of the dizzy social whirl in that heretofore unsuspected exclusive social center, Astoria, the inner circle of which is composed of people engaged in canning salmon. At a drunken debauch on a trip down the river, a man from Baker City, owner of the rich Blue Bird mine, takes a hand in the revelries. As this was away back in 1885, it can't be the same Blue Bird that Wheeler & Co., of New York, are now financing. (See advertisement in another column.) The publishers state in their circular letter asking for a review of the book:

"The style is one peculiar to the author himself." That is a fact, and it will never be imitated. He need not worry about anyone ever trying to butt into his monopoly. The book is "so rotten that it is great."

THE Portland Telegram has replied to an editorial in THE MINER two week since, relative to the forest reserve job, but in this reply no attempt is made to refute the statements made by this paper. In fact, the Telegram gives its readers no idea of what THE MINER alleged. Its "conservative" spirit was shocked on account of THE MINER'S "intemperance of utterance." It objects to a plain, unadorned, possibly brusque statement of the case; it has no patience with other than its own style of expression, that of a sissy at a pink tea. In this matter the Telegram is ridiculous, imbecile, as it ever is.

No good can be accomplished by "roasting" the Portland chamber of commerce for indorsing the forest reserve, thus giving the promoters of this gigantic timber land steal standing before the Interior department; nor the Portland papers for defending the chamber of commerce's action, for hire. The proper, sensible thing for eastern Oregon to do is to fight back. There is no wisdom in submitting to such impudent imposition. And the opportunity is ready at our hands. Let the citizens of eastern Oregon urge persistently, forcibly upon their representatives in the legislature to vote against the bill appropriating a half million dollars for the fake fair which Portland is talking about giving in 1905. Such a bill will be introduced by the Portland delegation at the next session of the legislature. This will not be a case of "cutting off our nose to spite our face," and will serve admirably the purpose of impressing on the public mind of Portland the necessity of suppressing its fresh, meddlesome, half witted chamber of commerce.

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