

# The Sumpter Miner

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The News published at Whitney for several months, has been moved to Bourne, and is improved by the transfer, though a good paper always. This is the third paper that has starved to death at Whitney, the town that is owned by the Sumpter Valley railway, heralded at the terminus of the railroad and designed, created, called into existence for the especial purpose of making a deserted village of Sumpter.

The story in the Baker City Herald of yesterday, to the effect that a man who had been working at "one of the upper camp mines," had been sent by Sumpter authorities on a crowded train to Baker City, while suffering with a fully developed case of smallpox, is utterly without foundation. In the first place, the man is not a miner, but a bum; had never worked at any of the mines in the district, and came to Sumpter for the first time, only three days before, from Baker City. In the second place, he had not the slightest symptoms of smallpox, though he acknowledged that he was suffering from a chronic disease, that caused the eruption. The Herald usually displays more sense than to publish so sensational a story without some facts on which to base it; one, too, that will unquestionably result in injury to both communities. It was just such irresponsible sensationalism indulged in by the Blue Mountain American three years ago, that worked such disastrous results in eastern Oregon.

The council of the institution of mining and metallurgy, London, England, in dealing with the term "ore in sight" decided as follows:

1. That members of the institution should not make use of the term "ore in sight" in their reports without indicating, in the most explicit manner, the data upon which the estimate is based; and that it is most desirable that estimates should be illustrated by drawings.

2. That as the term "ore in sight" is frequently used to indicate two separate factors in an estimate—namely (a) ore blocked out—that is, ore exposed on at least three sides within reasonable distance of each; and (b) ore which may be reasonably assumed to exist, though not actually "blocked out"—these two factors should in all cases be kept distinct, (a) is governed by fixed rules, whilst (b) is dependent upon individual judgment and local experience.

3. That in making use of the term "ore in sight" an engineer should demonstrate that the ore so denominated is capable of being profitably extracted under the working conditions obtaining in the district.

4. That the members of the institution be urged to protect the best interests of the profession by using their influence in every way possible to prevent and discourage the use of the term "ore in sight," except as defined above; and the council also strongly advise that no ambiguity or mystery in this connection should be tolerated, as they (the council) consider that such ambiguity is an indication of dishonesty or incompetency.

Several days since Superintendent Thatcher, of the Bonanza, returned from trip east. On arriving at Baker City, range to stay, he failed to dodge the res-

porters, stranger and, still condescended to talk to one of them, representing the Democrat. The drift of his remarks was to the effect that the east is being flooded with wildcat mining stock from eastern Oregon, which is injuring legitimate mining in this district. Mr. Thatcher declined to mention names, to designate the untamed felines—and that fact constitutes THE MINER's reason for mentioning the otherwise unimportant incident. In promulgating such a statement, without giving the name of the alleged dishonest mining company, thus casting suspicion on all that are selling stock, he did this district more real injury than a wildcat could possibly do. Now, if Mr. Thatcher is on the square, let him tell which company he considers a wildcat, clearing the others from the imputation. THE MINER will publish his statement, not omitting the name of the company. Is it the Red Boy, the Golconda, the Cracker-Oregon, the Oregon Monarch, the Gem, the Constellation, the Blue Bird or the Excelsior? It is up to the man who displays such a sensitive solicitude for the reputation and welfare of this mining district to fish, cut bait or get out of the boat.

There is not another paper in eastern Oregon, other than the Democrat, that would have published such a slanderous insinuation. It is on a par with two old she gossips who, after abusing their neighbors, emphasize the injunction: "Now, for goodness sake dont say I told you."

As a matter of fact, every mining company that is offering its stock for sale publicly, advertising the same widely and whooping it up for the gold fields of eastern Oregon, has done and is doing every month more good for the mining interests here than the Bonanza company and the Democrat have for twenty years. The present great activity in the mining interest is proof of this statement—it has been brought about during the past three years by the promoters. For twenty years previous to that time the whole proposition was stagnant, owing to the dog in the manger, secretive policy of the "big mines," and would have remained so for all time to come had they been relied upon to tell the world of the great gold wealth lying dormant, undeveloped and unknown here.

All the ladies of Sumpter and vicinity are invited to call at Mrs. Chipp's Millinery Parlors, opposite Basche's, and inspect her new line of fall and winter hats, opening beginning September 17.

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