

**FIRST NATIONAL  
BANK OF SUMPTER**

**Notice Received Monday That  
Charter Had Been  
Granted.**

Cashier Roy H. Miller, of the First Bank of Sumpter, received a wire Monday from Washington, D. C., stating that the treasury department had granted the charter for the First National Bank of Sompter. The First Bank of Sumpter will be merged into a national bank, under the above name.

The incorporators are J. H. Robbins, J. W. Scriber, R. H. Miller, E. W. Mueller and N. C. Richards, who will also be the directors. The officers of the new bank will be the same as of the old institution: J. H. Robbins, president; J. W. Scriber, vice president; R. H. Miller, cashier. The capital stock will be \$250,000.

Cashier Miller says the change will be made in about two months, probably the first of the new year. It will require six weeks to print the currency and perfect the organization.

Messrs. Miller and Scriber are also interested in the National bank that is being established at Canyon City, the charter of which was granted a month or more ago. Mr. Scriber, who is cashier of a bank at La Grande, went over to Canyon City one day last week to attend to some business pertaining to this institution. The first assessment on the stockholders has been levied and was paid several days since. The bank will be opened for business in a month or less.

**MINING HAS THE FLOOR.**

**Newspapers, Following Public Opinion,  
Are Featuring Mining News.**

Wheeler & Co.'s North American Miner, New York, for November is, as usual, full of good stuff about eastern Oregon mines. This issue contains pictures of C. H. McColloch, G. H. Tracy, Tom Gray and the Blue Bird dump. The following pertinent remarks are published, under the head line: "Mining has the floor:"

Do you notice the important position now given to mining and mining investments by many prominent newspapers? At least two of the great New York dailies devote large and specially prominent space to mining news, and from the press all over the country comes a more genuine and just recognition of the claims of mining, as one of the industries of first importance in this country.

Newspapers sometimes lead and sometimes follow public opinion. In this case they follow it. Mining has not been popular with the press, as a general thing. It was considered too good a subject to denounce because of the rascalities of some mining deals and the sharks representing swindling operations. The public has come to a realizing sense of the enormous importance of mining, both on account of the strong position it holds in respect to the existence and prosperity of other industries and especially its splendid dividend earning capacity in a time when investments for large and certain dividends are becoming fewer and more difficult to secure. And for this reason they have demanded from the public press a better news service and a more compelling recognition of the claims of an American industry of magnificent worth and swiftly growing importance.

Newspapers find it convenient and paying to have some intelligent com-

ment and appreciation of mining, not as subject for romance or a more or less funny or weird story, but strictly a business matter of deep interest to investors and the public. The better day for straight business mining—when it will not have to resort to a club or picturesque pyrotechnics to obtain capital, but when capital will seek it as the modern solution of the vexed question of how to invest well—is here. The industry with the public has "arrived."

**Mining Partner Not Liable for Debts.**

A mining partnership can exist only where several parties cooperate in working the mining property, mere ownership as tenants in common not being sufficient. In a mining partnership pure and simple one partner has no implied authority to borrow money on the credit of the firm, but his implied powers only permit him to bind his copartners by dealings on credit for the purpose of working the mine, where it appears to be necessary or usual in the management of the business. An agreement where certain parties furnish one of their number with a fixed amount of money, he to go to Alaska and prospect for a mine, and they during his absence to furnish his family with a stipulated monthly allowance for its maintenance, each of the parties to have a certain prescribed interest in whatever was found, could not be construed as binding the others for expenses incurred by the prospecting party for personal supplies after, or even before, the sum originally furnished had been exhausted. But, where a mining contract did not make the parties to same liable for supplies furnished one of the number, yet a letter written him by one of their number authorizing him to buy the supplies could not have the effect to bind the other parties, in the absence of evidence that they knew of or authorized its being written. Such letter would be admissible against the one who wrote it as to supplies bought from a party after such party had seen it; but not supplies bought before it was written. Gartney vs. Goeling, Sup. Ct. Wyo., 68 Pac. Rep. 1118.

**How to Amalgamate a Plate.**

To amalgamate a new copper plate, many miners first rub it with extremely fine brick dust, or very finely sifted wood ashes, then rubbing it briskly with a woolen rag dipped in dilute nitric acid—one part acid, nine parts water—until thoroughly polished, then repeatedly washed in clear water. A solution of cyanide of potassium may then be applied, after which prepared quicksilver is put on until the entire surface of the plate is thoroughly coated and is bright, soft and sensitive to the touch.

**Montana Group Sold.**

The Montana group of four quartz claims, located five miles northwest of this city, on the IbeX road, was sold last week to W. H. W. Hamilton, the well known Sumpter mining man, by the owners, L. Potter, J. B. Fryer and wife and G. C. Roberts. The property is developed by 200 feet of drifts and crosscuts, showing a vein forty feet in width. Values run from \$1.20 to \$73.98 per ton in gold. The price is reported to have been \$10,000.

**Big Strike on the Minneapolis.**

Superintendent Hengen, of the Minneapolis mine, reports a big strike at that property, which is located on the hill just below town. He states that the lead has been cut at a depth of about forty feet by the crosscut tunnel and they have gone in on it about thirty feet, but had not struck the hanging wall up to last night. The ledge is proving to be a big one and the ore runs \$12.30 to the ton.—Bourne News.

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