

The Sumpter Miner

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JAMES LOGIE

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It has been several weeks since a public meeting was held in this city for the express purpose of organizing for the betterment of the district, by means of bringing the business and mining men into closer union, etc. At this meeting there was much enthusiasm displayed and many promises made. Was all this an effervescent dream? Did all the private resolutions formed at that time die when the choicest viands served at the dinner digested? The most diligent inquiry fails to throw any light upon the subject. Is this the end of a laudable movement that started out under such auspicious circumstances.

Oregon has made great progress during the year, additional stamp mills and reduction machinery of all kinds having gone to the state. Around Sumpter alone it is estimated that there are at least 400 stamps dropping. The Golconda property has again entered the shipping list to the extent of sending out its weekly quota of bullion. In the Greenhorns it is said there never was as much activity as there is at present. Everyone seems to be stimulated with the idea that the year 1903 is to be the greatest in the history of eastern Oregon. In fact every possible sign points that way. The entire country is well known now from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and thousands have it in view, many of whom will head this way when spring opens so that traveling is easy.

MAYOR McCulloch has given notice in his first message to the city council that an ordinance will be passed as soon as practicable compelling property owners to keep the sidewalks fronting on their property clear of snow. No doubt the Mayor is sufficiently observing to notice that slippery sidewalks are a nuisance and danger to life and limb, and an unnecessary eye-sore in an up to date city. It is to be hoped that there will not be a dissenting vote among the councilmen when this ordinance comes up for final passage, and that every citizen will back up the city fathers with their moral support. Sumpter has some handsome buildings, broad streets and well constructed sidewalks, it should be no hardship on property owners to keep them clean, the walks especially, as nothing would give a stranger such a poor opinion of a town as filthy or ice covered sidewalks.

It should be a great source of satisfaction to the readers of THE MINER and others to be informed as to the policy of the gentlemen composing the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, whose mammoth buildings are rapidly approaching completion on the outskirts of this city. This enterprising concern is really more than up to date. Not only do they intend to reduce the ores and concentrates of eastern Oregon, but they intend to purchase all gold and silver produced by the mill man and the dust and nuggets cleaned up by the placer miner. There are so many advantages in this laudible enterprise that it is difficult to enumerate them all. Attention is called to many of the advantages in an article on another page. One important fact in this connection should not fail to go on record, and that is, the smelting company intend to sell their silver product

direct to the arts, thus securing a better price for it. By this means the eastern Oregon producer of the white metal will be better paid for his product than those of less favored sections.

EUREKA AND EXCELSIOR

Deal Now on in Portland For the Property.

It will be remembered that a few weeks ago John Thomas, former superintendent of the noted E. & E. mine of Bourne, spent some time examining and sampling that property.

His brother Thomas, of this city, just received a letter from him at Portland, stating that a deal is on for the mines and mill but it has not been closed yet. Should their negotiations fail of maturing, Mr. Thomas will return to Sumpter by the latter part of this month.

The record of this prolific producer is so grand, and so many have been striving to secure it since a number of bonanza mines have been proven in its near vicinity, that there can be little doubt but that some fortunate individual or association of individuals will secure such a prize, which is already equipped with a modern reduction plant capable of handling any class of ore which the mine may produce.

ACCIDENT IN CRACKER-OREGON.

Miner Had a Close Call for His Life in the Shaft.

What came near being a fatal accident occurred at the Cracker-Oregon mine in this camp Thursday afternoon.

Wm. Delaney, who was working in the shaft, struck a stick of giant powder, which had missed fire when the round was fired that morning, with his pick, and was saved from instant death by the fact that the shot was in a soft, sticky formation, instead of rock.

As it was he was terribly cut up about the face and head and may lose an eye. Dr. Grant, who is in attendance on him, states that there is little danger of that, however.

The shaft has just entered the old river channel encountered in the lower tunnel and the formation was very soft, almost a mud, where the shot exploded.

Mr. Delaney has been working in the shaft for some time past, having come here from Sumpter about two months ago.

WORK ON THE CALIFORNIA MINE

Shipments of High Grade Ore Commence Next Week.

A. L. McEwen, superintendent of the California mine, is in the city today.

He states that the work of dividing the upper levels so as to have what is termed as assay plan, is now completed.

Next week the company will begin shipping high grade ore to Puget Sound. Shipments to that point will be discontinued however, when the smelting works at Sumpter are ready to receive ore.

All the low grade ore bodies on the lower levels have been properly located and will be used to supply the concentrating mill now nearing completion.

Beware of imitations. See that the powder you purchase is branded "Giant Powder, San Francisco, patented May 24, No. 241941 and June 14, No. 242993.

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