



THE SUMPTER MINER

IS INSPECTING THE DISTRICT

WM. B. ROOT, A COLORADO PIONEER, NOW LOOKING OVER SUMPTER GOLD FIELDS.

With Over Two Score of Years Varied Experience in the Centennial State, Mr. Root is Capable of Making Comparisons—He is Much Pleased With the Highland Gold Mines Property.

On Monday last a MINER representative had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Wm. B. Root, of Colorado, who has been examining the Sumpter district. As Mr. Root and THE MINER reporter had been in the same camps in the Centennial state between a quarter and a third of a century ago, they naturally had a pleasant time comparing the past with the present, and exchanging information on the doings of the old timers who still had the earth under their feet.

Mr. Root has resided in Colorado the most of the time since 1860. He was for some years the president of the Colorado Mining Stock Exchange of Denver, and has always been identified with the mining interests of that state.

Upon being asked for his conclusions concerning this district, he replied: "I have not been here a sufficient length of time, nor have I had the opportunity to see many of the developed properties, to give as decided an opinion as I might otherwise, but I have met and talked with a number of gentlemen, some of whom I had known in Colorado, and who have spent some years in this mining region and whose experience should give weight to their opinions, and they all express great confidence in the future of this locality.

"Another thing I notice which should convince one of the present good showing and future outlook is the fact that many of those well posted are making permanent investments, and erecting substantial homes, thus showing their faith by their works.

"I am well pleased with the town of Sumpter—am partial to mining camps anyway, having spent the greater part of my life in them. The snow fall may not suit everyone; I prefer, however, good sleighing during the winter months to mud and slush. The general absence of wind in this locality is a pleasant feature.

"Yes, in company with Mr. Neil J. Sorensen, I visited the properties on Rock Creek owned by the Highland Gold Mines company. I had previously read the report made upon these properties by Col. M. L. Lohmire, and have no hesitancy in saying that I found the statements made by him fully verified;

and his conclusions as to its future are conservatively drawn.

"The great amount of timber suitable for fuel and mining purposes, together with an ample supply of water, are items of no small importance in practical mining. There is certainly a remarkably strong, well defined ledge, highly mineralized, with large ore bodies exposed by adits and tunnels along the strike of the vein across the three claims.

"These properties can be operated very economically for many years, as all development work can be done by tunnels, thereby obviating the purchase and use of expensive plants of machinery. My judgement is this property can be made, with a reasonable expenditure of money, a profitable and permanent producer."

Mr. Root, as stated above, went to Colorado in 1860, before quartz mining in that vast region was known. He has seen it grow from nothing to the immense proportions it has assumed at the present time. There is scarcely a camp of any importance in the state but that he is acquainted with from the time it was struck until it reached its highest pinnacle of production.

To have a gentlemen with this varied experience, and one possessing the knowledge of mining and its conditions, that Mr. Root does, to be favorably impressed with a comparatively new mining country like this, is a great deal in its favor.

PEDIGREED DOG POISONED.

Valuable Registered Irish Setter Belonging to Sumpter Man is Dead.

Frank E. Hobson mourns the loss of a valuable dog which died yesterday morning from the effects of poison, administered by parties unknown. This superb animal, a female, was a registered and pedigreed Irish Setter, known as "Patterson's Wave." She was sired by Beau Brummel, an American prize winner. Her mother was "Patterson's Polly," considered the best strain of Irish Setter ever brought to the Pacific coast.

Wave had been trained as an upland bird dog, and was a rare type of her class. She was raised and trained by her owner, who had refused many handsome cash offers for her by parties who desired a thoroughbred hunting dog.

To Recover for Broken Leg.

Tracy Curtis, who was employed in the Columbia mine as a miner last August, has commenced a suit against the Columbia Gold Mining company for damages to the amount of \$1944. He sets up in his complaint that while working in a drift a cavein occurred which broke one of his legs. Negligence of the mine management is charged in not properly timbering the drift.

All the latest novelties in hats at Neill Mercantile company's.

LARGE PAY ROLL FOR SUMPTER

BRANCH OF LARGEST LUMBER PLANT IN UNITED STATES FOR THIS CITY.

St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company May Build Large Mill Here—They Own 165,000,000 Feet of Timber Around Sumpter—They Ask Free Site and Right of Way.

Within the next two weeks, in all probability, a proposition will be submitted to the people of Sumpter which means the establishment of an immense and permanent pay roll immediately in this city. The cause of this additional prosperity will be the erection of a large saw mill, planer, sash, door, window and box factory, mining timber dressing works, etc.

The concern which proposes to inaugurate this industrial enterprise is the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber company, who manufacture at their mills near Tacoma, Washington, 121,000,000 feet of lumber each year, being the largest output in the United States. There are five millionaires in this company, and they are considered the most enterprising people on the Pacific coast.

This company have timber lands surrounding the city of Sumpter which will supply 165,000,000 feet of lumber. The title to this land is invested in what is legally known as the Hewitt land company. Henry Hewitt Jr., who is worth no less than \$6,000,000, is the president of this company, which is really a branch of the St. Paul and Tacoma concern.

It is proposed to install a plant at Sumpter, which will have a capacity of 60,000 feet per day. This will involve an expenditure of \$100,000, and give employment to from 300 to 350 men the year round, thus considerably augmenting the steady pay rolls already here.

Mr. Seymour H. Bell, of Sumpter, who is too well known as a business man, and one possessed of the requisite nerve and push, to require any introduction, is the gentleman who has the handling of this important enterprise at this end of the line. He has used every endeavor to have the plant located at Sumpter instead of Baker City.

Mr. Bell will visit Tacoma next week when many of the final arrangements will be consummated. It is to be presumed that the details of such a large transaction cannot be completed in a few days, but is desired to accomplish all that is possible so work can be commenced early in the spring.

There are two matters of importance in the inauguration of this permanent industry that the people of Sumpter

must consider. First; this company, to locate here instead of at Baker City, desire that a suitable site be presented to them. Second; as they propose to use steam trams for logging purposes, they must first have a right of way through the city and the privilege of crossing lands held by other persons.

It is now up to the business men and others of this city whether they will take their places in the procession, and join the grand march of progress now sweeping over the Pacific northwest, and do all in their power to secure this prize when it is within their grasp.

Sumpter's enterprising citizens voluntarily purchased and presented to the Oregon Smelting and Refining company the fine site below the city on which their colossal buildings have been erected, and doubtless they will be just as eager to do the handsome with the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber company, so as to induce them to locate here and establish their pay roll.

COMMITTEE RETURNS.

Those Who Went to Salem Claim to Have Been Successful.

The committee representing the mining interests, which went to Salem last week have completed their labors and returned to their homes. D. L. Killen, E. J. Godfrey and N. O. Richards composed the Sumpter delegation, while C. A. Johns, of Baker City, represented the mining interests of his section.

These gentlemen arrived at the State Capital a few hours too late to be of any use in making suggestions or having any changes made in the bill to tax incorporations, as it had passed the House and was rushed through the Senate in railroad fashion. It is claimed that this measure was crowded through by the Granger element.

A joint committee of both houses met and considered all mining laws that had been introduced. The Robbins bill is the only one that the committee agreed on, therefore it is about the only mining measure now before the legislature.

It is the opinion of the committee that Mr. Robbin's act will be so amended and modified that it will be an equitable and just law by the time it has passed both Houses and is entered upon the Statute books. In fact they feel that their mission to the seat of government has not been in vain.

Four Feet of Ore in Golconda.

Another big strike is reported in the Golconda Mine. This time on the 300 foot level; the body is said to be four feet wide and assays \$360 per ton. The ore is heavy sulphides and is being sacked as fast as it is broken so as to be shipped direct to the smelter. Two carloads of concentrates forwarded a few days since averaged \$83 per ton.

Leave your measure for a suit of clothes at Neill Mercantile company's.