



THE SUMPTNER MINER

ALL KINDS OF RUMORS

STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD FROM SUMPTER TO BAKER CITY PROJECTED.

Man Who Built the Line From Grand Forks to Republic Promoting the Enterprise—Looks Like a North and South Line—May be Closely Connected With the Plan to Erect a Mammoth Saw Mill Here—Company Agrees to Build Seventy-Five Dwellings This Year.

The Baker City Herald of Monday published a special from Spokane stating that Wiley C. Morris had returned from the money centers of the east, where he succeeded in raising \$900,000 for the purpose of building a standard gauge railroad from Baker City to Sumpter. The road is to be called, so the dispatch stated, the Washington and Oregon Railway, so the natural inference is that this is merely one section of the proposed line.

Mr. Morris is the gentleman who built the railroad from Grand Forks, British Columbia, to Republic, Washington. This suggests another surmise; namely, that this is another section of the same road, which is to run north and south through the two states from which it takes its name, connecting the Canadian Pacific with the O. R. & N., of the Harriman system; and crossing two other transcontinental routes, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. This looks like too big a scheme for an individual to tackle; so it is natural to suppose that one of the above mentioned through lines is back of the enterprise. The Canadian Pacific has announced that it will build into American territory, both on the Sound and further east, entering Spokane. As is well known, Senator Turner, of that city, is the American representative of the Canadian road, so far as these lines are concerned. It, therefore, seems probable that the road from Grand Forks to Republic will be extended further south, first to Spokane and afterwards connected with the Sumpter-Baker City line. Such a road would surely control a large portion of the trade of the Inland Empire. It would connect the mining districts of British Columbia and eastern Oregon with the great wheat fields of Washington and Oregon, and also the latter with the exhaustless timber lands to the west and south of Sumpter. The purpose, of course, in building the road from Sumpter to Baker City is to secure the immense traffic already established between the O. R. & N. and the Sumpter

mining district.

W. M. Morris, referred to above, was in Sumpter about two months since. Those who met him here state that he was endeavoring assiduously to secure reliable tonnage statistics.

The idea is firmly fixed in the local public mind that the building of this road is in some way connected with the much talked of saw mill which the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber company is expected to build here. As was mentioned in THE MINER of last week, a representative of this company had spent a couple of weeks in and around Sumpter investigating the feasibility of the proposition, and expressed himself as highly pleased.

This is the great lumber concern of Puget Sound, of which Henry Hewitt is at the head, for whom Seymour H. Bell has quietly during the past two years bought 13,000 acres of timber land.

In speaking of this projected railroad, Mr. Bell stated that he had no personal knowledge of the enterprise; but he did know that within a few days, perhaps a week, Mr. Hewitt and his associates will submit to the citizens of Sumpter a proposition for the erection here of a saw mill with a daily capacity of 100,000 feet. In the event that this offer is accepted, the mill will guarantee to supply such a railroad with twenty-five carloads of freight daily.

It is also reliably reported that one of the clauses in the proposition to be submitted is that the Lumber company will bind itself to erect during the present year from fifty to seventy-five dwellings, equipped with all modern improvements. Many of these will be needed for its own employes. This company has adopted the policy to give the preference to married men and if it starts in business here will add many families to Sumpter's population.

Pacific Coast Miner's Oregon Number.

B. J. Watson, representing the Pacific Coast Miner, of San Francisco, who has been in this district for several weeks past, has been called in to the office by wire, leaving here Monday. Mr. Watson is well and favorably known throughout the gold fields of eastern Oregon, as this mineral region is well and favorably known to him, and he will doubtless do the subject full justice when describing it in the paper he represents. The Oregon State number of that publication reached here today. It is full of good "stuff" about the mines of this state, principally those of southern Oregon. The leading editorial paragraph is as follows: The present issue of the Pacific Coast Miner is the Oregon State number. It contains much interesting information concerning mining operations in that promising and progressive state. Sumpter, Oregon's greatest mining camp, is reserved for special treatment in a succeeding issue."

RED BOY WILL SINK ANOTHER 500 FEET.

Mill Will Not Shut Down While This Work is in Progress.

The Granite Gem of last week announced that the Red Boy company had decided to sink its working shaft another 500 feet, stating also that the mill would be shut down while this work is in progress.

Secretary J. A. Howard, of the Red Boy company, when questioned yesterday regarding the report, said: "It has been decided to sink the 500 feet, but it will not be necessary to carry out the Gem's program in other matters. Mr. Godfrey will be here tomorrow and will doubtless give you full details."

Mr. Godfrey did not arrive today, so details cannot here be given. Secretary Howard's remark clearly implied that the company has no intention of stop milling ore while sinking the shaft. It will not be necessary to do so, as all who are familiar with the property know. The sinking plant is one of the best and most powerful in the west. Its only equal in this state is the one at the Bonanza. Each cost upwards of \$150,000.

As was stated in these columns some weeks since, at the time the six per cent dividend was declared, \$75,000 was placed in the reserve fund. This was doubtless done for the purpose of paying for this and other work in contemplation.

TALK OF THE TOWN.

A. H. Sprague, of the Alpine, is in town today.

W. S. Eberman left for St. Paul last Thursday on a short business trip.

Mrs. Brock left yesterday for her old home at Bellevue, Idaho, where her mother is now dangerously ill.

The Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias will give another of their popular dances in the opera house Friday evening, February 27.

C. S. Miller, one of the pioneer miners of the Granite district, the original owner of the Monumental mine, at present superintendent of the Old Arastra, is a guest of Hotel Sumpter.

Peter McGeery, an old time miner, who has extensive mining interests near the Red Boy, was attending to business in the city, which is the center of this gold mining country, last week.

Charles H. Breck, one of Baker City's hustling young business men,

came up from the county seat last Friday so as to have a view of the life and bustle always going on in a live mining community.

Dr. R. M. I. Kennear, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, arrived in Sumpter today. He is a friend of Dr. Mueller, general manager of the smelter, and is here to transact important business with that gentleman.

P. A. McPhee, mayor, hotel man, etc., of Alamo, was in Sumpter a day or two last week. He reports the Alamo mine as drifting on the finest ore yet encountered, and about the same can be said of the Strasburg.

Lou Walker returned yesterday from Salem, where he had been for several days seeking the office of mining inspector, created by the Robbins bill. He says he secured assurances of support from certain quarters and that there is a chance that he will land the prize.

T. S. Kennerly, superintendent of the Gold Coin mines in the Greenhorns, was transacting business in Sumpter last week. He reports that everyone is so busy in that section they have no time to tell their neighbors the news, although there would be plenty of a favorable nature were it known.

Cards were received here today announcing the marriage of Robert Roscoe Myers and Miss Emma R. Starr, of Baker City, February 17, at Portland. They will be at home after March 1, at the Geiser Grand. Mrs. Myers is well known in Sumpter, having frequently visited her sisters here, Mrs. Hurt and Mrs. Griffin. She is universally admired by a wide circle of Sumpter friends.

Whitney Lumber Company.

Messrs. Rogers, Roe and Ryan constitute the strong combination that has bought the Lawton saw mill and will begin in a few days to operate it, under the corporate name of the Whitney Lumber company. Mr. Rogers will have charge of the timber lands, Mr. Ryan of the mill and Mr. Roe of the firm's business. There is a good market in the vicinity of the mill, for the entire possible output of the mill. Alamo, Granite and the surrounding mines are large consumers of timber, much of which has heretofore been hauled from Sumpter.

Judge Evans Has Not Resigned.

Last week it was announced that Justice of the Peace Evans had or would resign that position. City Recorder Start and ex-Justice Felix at once secured numerous signed petitions requesting the county commissioners to appoint them to the vacancy. And there are also said to be other candidates. And now comes Judge Evans himself and today informs THE MINER that he has not resigned and now doesn't expect to. It is a fact, however, that he had contemplated taking such a step.