

# The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
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THE Prospector is the name of a new mining weekly which has made its appearance at Custer, Idaho. It is a neat looking sheet.

THE mining concerns of the Sumpter district are taking a common sense view of the matter in opposing the petition for the intervention of the referendum in the instance of the Eddy and Portage bills. They are opposed to the Eddy bill and have a right to be, but why combine the two? The Portage bill does not enter into the situation.

THE suggestion of the Western Mining World for the establishment of a permanent home for the aged and infirm prospector is a commendable one. The prospector in times past has been an essential factor in blazing the path of civilization on the western trend of empire, and he should not be forgotten in his days of poverty, age and decrepitude.

A FEW words to illustrate the position which Oregon holds in relation to itself, the rest of the United States, the world and the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. Oregon is in need of improvement, just as is the rest of the world—possibly a little more in need of it than some other parts of the world. And if there was ever a time in history when a state was provided with a good opportunity to materially advance its interests, that time is now for Oregon and the particular opportunity is the prosperity that prevails over the country, and the Universal Exposition of St. Louis in 1904. Increasing, newly created capital all over the United States is today seeking investments. The great dividends of the railways and industrials—enormous dividends on tremendous capitalization—must find an outlet for investment—they are looking for such an outlet. Let Oregon, by a fitting representation of its resources, mineral and agricultural, make them look this way. It can do this. What Oregon needs is men and money—population and capital. That is what any state needs—that all states must have to grow strong and prosperous.

## MOVEMENT TO SEPARATE BILLS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

follow and I thought by voting for the Eddy bill I would strengthen the support of my own bill, which I may mention provided for an appropriation, in a measure counteracting the tax exacted by the Eddy bill from mining companies.

There is a demand throughout the state, especially in the farming districts, for a corporation tax, and I do not mean to be understood that I am against the general principle of such a tax, but I am decidedly opposed to any measure which involves a discriminating tax as in the instance of the Eddy bill. If this tax were settled on the basis of the actual capital in the corporation or the market value of the stock, there would be no serious objection to it.

But it is not. It fails in not meting out equal treatment to all and therefore violates one of the basic conditions of our government. It is a well known fact that mining corporations usually capitalize at a high figure and sell their stock at a small per cent on the dollar. This is popular and certainly no objection can be urged to the method; but for these concerns to pay a tax on their capitalization the same as railroad and other corporations, whose stock is rated above par, is unjust to say the least of it.

When the bill was before the legislature, I looked up the number of mining companies operating in this county. Within the last four years 184 have been organized. These figures are exact, taken from the secretary of state's books. It is safe to say there are one hundred concerns whose home offices are not here but who are doing business here, and another one hundred organized in all time previous to the last four years making 384 in all. Their capitalization will average over \$1,000,000, at a low estimate, bringing in an aggregate tax of over \$48,000, and nine-tenths of this will be paid by Baker county and eastern Oregon mining companies. Therefore, while I favor an equitable corporation tax, I am opposed to the unjust discrimination of the Eddy bill and will do everything in my power to bring about its separate defeat through the referendum.

## OPERATIONS AT MINERSVILLE.

Hoist and Other Machinery Ordered and Development Work to Start Soon.

The Minersville Gold Mining company is making preparations to start active operations the first of the month. A hoist and other machinery is to be installed in a short time and development work pushed. T. J. McWatty has just returned from the east where he placed orders for the necessary machinery. This consists of a hoist, two 80-horse power boilers, and a 300-gallon No. 9 Cameron pump. One boiler will be used for the hoist and pumps and the other will be used in connection with the mill.

This machinery is now on the way, and it is expected to have everything ready for business some time after the first of the month. President Bergman, of the company, states that he is well pleased with the prospects of the property.

## FOR SALE

A BARGAIN

The well known Whitney House at Whitney, Oregon. Three story frame building, two years old, well furnished, new Double Range, office, barns, new \$300.00 covered Bus; everything goes; cleared \$100.00 per month last year; owner going into other business; will sell for cash or trade for cattle. For price and terms see the

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