

SUMPTER HAS NO KNOCKERS.

Other Districts, However, are
not Free From This Class
of Genus Homo.

There is one thing among a great many others of which the Sumpter district can boast, and this one thing is almost an entire absence of a species of genus homo known as the knocker. This individual flourishes in all climates, and in all conditions of human society, but somehow or other, he has not occurred to any alarming extent in Sumpter. Other districts are not so free from his presence, however. Commenting on the knocker in general and ending with grievances along this line from the Seattle Times and the Northwestern Miner, the Mining and Engineering Review, of San Francisco, says:

"It is a singular fact that men who are engaged in business in mining districts, and who are actually deriving their sustenance from the mining industry will place every obstacle in the way of obtaining capital to develop the mineral resources of their own districts.

"There is a certain class of undeveloped idiots with just enough sense to know how to eat, that believe the proper thing to do is to knock everything they don't know anything about.

"With all the evidence of men growing wealthy around them from the products of mining they never seem to learn that mining is like all other business, a legitimate venture and that fewer failures are recorded in that than in any other business. The Seattle Times in commenting on this subject says:

"It would be well for mining interests of Washington if men who are uninformed concerning the mining possibilities would inform themselves before answering queries that are put to them by strangers. Recently, a visitor from Cleveland, Ohio, came to Seattle as the representative of capitalists, for the purpose of examining the Ethel at Index, and incidentally, other mining properties in Western Washington. Unfortunately he met an attorney of the city who gave him a decidedly pessimistic talk about the mining resources of the Cascades. The positiveness with which he spoke led the visitor to suspect that the man was informed. The stranger was probably already affected with a feeling of homesickness at being so far away from his family, and when he heard the Seattle man's wall, decided to return home, not even visiting the property he came west to look at. The injustice of the lawyer's 'knock' is plain to any well-informed person. In commenting upon the incident the Northwestern Miner says:

"As a matter of fact, the whole west side of Washington is being prospected and opened up for mineral. In the Mount Baker district there are at least two companies turning out bullion from their mills, besides several others that are practically ready to do so. In Monte Cristo and Silverton two other companies are outputting steadily, and new mills are being installed at the latter place. Index has one property paying dividends, and at least three others ready for plants. In fact, from one end of the state to the other on the western slope of the mountains

the developments in a mining way are simply startling in their magnitude."

Important Decision.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided the long contested case involving the ownership of the Hillside mines, in western Yavapai county, Arizona. In 1891 John Lawler and associates sold the group of mines, of which the most important was the Hillside claim, for \$450,000. The deed was placed in escrow, the money to be paid in installments to the owners of the property. A large cash payment was made and the purchasers incorporated as the Seven Stars Mining Co. It was extensively advertised, both in America and Europe, and a large amount of stock sold on excessive capitalization. It was alleged by the stockholders that the prospectus contained many misstatements, and an effort was made to hold Lawler and Wells, who were the principal owners of the property at the time of the sale, responsible for the misstatements made by the promoters of the company. The Supreme Court of Arizona decided the case in favor of defendants, and the case was appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which has now affirmed the opinion of the lower court, the court holding that Lawler and Wells were not cognizant of the misrepresentations made by the promoters; and even had they been informed on the subject, they could not have been held responsible. The decision is important, as it releases a valuable mine from the bonds of litigation and establishes a precedent by which others may be guided.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Will Probably Build.

David Wilson, of Spokane, who is heavily interested in Sumpter property, was in the city several days last week. It is understood that he will erect several buildings here this summer, but as yet definite arrangements have not been made.

Miller cap protectors. T. G. Harrison agent for Baker, Grant and Union counties.

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