

## The Sumpter Miner

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.



The Fourth of July committees are getting down to business and a glorious occasion is assured.

If Mark Hanna is becoming interested in Mexican silver mines, as it is claimed, would it not be about an even break if Billy Bryan were to acquire a block of stock in some Sumpter gold mine?

It is to be hoped that the visit of county Commissioner Brooks to Sumpter this week will result in the betterment of the roads in this vicinity. It was the commissioner's first trip to the district, and he expressed a lively interest in the camp, and exhibited a willingness to do all in his power to promote the construction of the highways which are so badly needed. This is a matter to which the county should give its early attention. Mine operators are ready to ship ore but are held back on account of the exorbitant freight charges due to the bad condition of the roads. The mining interests of Baker County should receive the proper encouragement from the county in this direction.

### REMOVE HANDICAP ON JOHN DAY VALLEY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

portation.

Again, aside from the heavy tonnage which his own mining operations will furnish the road, there are already several mines in position to ship ore as soon as transportation at reasonable rates is supplied; but can not afford to pay \$20 a ton, rates now prevailing. The ore that now comes from this district is all sorted and is necessarily limited. The Prairie Diggings mill has resumed operations and, aside from the gold saved on the plates, produces large quantities of #40 concentrates. These are accumulating, waiting for rail transportation. It is the same with other mines. Modern concentrators are now being installed in the old Lawrence customs mill. The Standard, the big consolidated properties now under control of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, will put in a large concentrating plant this season, and the Dixie Meadows has ordered machinery for a twenty stamp mill. These four companies alone will furnish 100 tons a day for shipment. Mines that will be developed and the tonnage they will supply is a matter that cannot be estimated, but that it will be enormous there is no possible doubt.

The writer rode over the Prairie City end of this line for a distance of six miles to the east, where the permanent survey stakes have been set. This engineering corps, consisting of twelve men, is in charge of

Frank Hobson, of Sumpter. There are two other crews in the field, the three aggregating thirty-four men. At that time Mr. Hobson was running lines through two passes, to determine which is the more favorable route for crossing the divide. When this matter is disposed of, he will survey the route to the Oregon Wonder, six or seven miles in a southerly direction.

The starting point of the survey is on the other side of John Day river from the present town, a part of the platted townsite owned by Cleaver Brothers. There the site for the depot has been selected, near which the company's headquarters office building will soon be erected. The road will be operated by electricity, generated by water power. The electric equipment has been contracted for and 90-pound steel rails have been bought in England. They will be shipped in sailing vessels from Liverpool to Portland.

There can be no question but what, when this road is completed, Prairie City will at once become one of the most important towns in eastern Oregon, with a record breaking rapid growth. Already, in anticipation of this devoutly hoped for event, enterprising men are contracting for lots and preparing to erect business houses and residences. Since the fire of a year ago there has not been a good hotel in the town. A gentleman of ample means and long experience in the business was on the ground at that time negotiating with Cleaver Brothers for the erection there at an early day of a commodious hotel. In the presence of the writer, another man stated he was prepared to put up a stone and brick building and have it finished in time to ship a \$20,000 stock of merchandise over the road when completed. "And there are others."

This is the most attractive and advantageous site for building a wide awake, prosperous town that lays out of doors, beneath the blue sky, and many dollars are to be made there by those enterprising ones who get in on the ground floor.

All these statements are facts of common knowledge to residents of eastern Oregon, who have waited for years and wondered why a railroad was not constructed into that country and rake in the big, sure dividends.

### VISIT STICE'S GULCH.

Satisfactory Work is Reported at Placers by Operators.

D. L. Killen, president of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, his brother J. E. Killen and F. V. Taylor, manager of the firm's Grand Rapids branch, came in yesterday from a trip to the Stice's Gulch placers, operated by the company. They report satisfactory operation at the property. The sawmill has cut over half million feet of lumber, and several hundred cords of wood have been finished. On account of such little rain during the early spring, there may be a shortage of water. The present rains may, however, prolong the season.

The company has fifteen men at work, and expects a good cleanup. This is one of the biggest placer propositions in the state.

### New Insurance Firm.

The real estate and insurance firm of Manning & Welsh has been appointed local representative for the Hartford Fire Insurance company.

### IOWANS INVEST.

Visit Standard And Are Well Pleased With Property.

A party of Iowa gentlemen returned Friday from a visit to the Standard, and were so well pleased with the property that they invested heavy sums before leaving for the east. While there they thoroughly inspected the mine and had a number of assays made. From the two distinct vein systems, carrying respectively gold, cobalt and copper, and gold values alone with which the mountain seems ribbed, these assays were made. The former averaged about \$100 while the latter ran something over \$20. This was sufficient to convince the Iowa people what an investment in the Standard means, and they were not slow to seize the opportunity.

The Standard company has retained the services of W. A. Irvine, a competent metallurgist, who will sample all ore as a guide to development in the present and prospective operations.

The company now has under advisement plans for an extensive treating plant to be erected on the property this fall. It is stated that the daily capacity will be between 100 and 200 tons.

### RICH HIGHLAND ORE.

Shoot Encountered Continues to Gain Strength.

A fine lot of ore samples was sent in today from the Highland mine, operated by Neil J. Sorensen & Co. They were from the rich shoot on the Glasgow drift and show heavy sulphide values with a sprinkle of galena. It is an exceedingly good grade of milling ore.

This shoot, when it was encountered a distance of forty feet from the Glasgow crosscut was eighteen inches wide. It has been drifted on now forty feet and has strengthened to four feet, with every evidence that it will gain further strength as the work advances. The vein proper ranges from ten to forty feet in width.

### AT THE BLUE BIRD.

Good Ore Shown in the Number Three Level.

President O. C. Wight, of the Blue Bird, returned yesterday from the property bringing back a fine lot of samples from the present workings. The ore, he says, is showing a marked improvement as the work advances.

The drift in the No. 3 level is now in the best ore which has been encountered at the property for some time.

### Married in Portland.

Dr. Ed W. Mueller, general manager of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, and a member of the Killen, Warner, Stewart firm, and Miss May Frick, of Portland, were married at the First Congregational church of that city Sunday evening. The newly married couple will arrive here next week, and will take apartments at Hotel Sumpter, until a dwelling house can be obtained.

Shoes of all kinds at Neill Mercantile company's.

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