

**ELECTRIC ROAD
FOR SUMPTER.**

**Major Bonta Has Successful
Interview With Leading
Citizens.**

Major J. W. Bonta spent Sunday in Sumpter. He has passed through the camp frequently on the train, but this is the first time he has stopped off and looked around. It is needless to say that he was pleased with conditions here.

As an evidence of this fact, he stated that he would at an early day, possibly the latter part of this week, put an engineering crew in the field to make a preliminary survey of a branch road from his main line, running between Baker City and the Oregon Wonder mine, to Sumpter, a distance of only fifteen miles.

While here Major Bonta consulted with perhaps a half dozen enterprising citizens who wish to emancipate this town from the Sumpter Valley's galling yoke, men who dare to defy that insolent dictator. On the advice of friends of himself and his enterprise he kept away from those men who in the past have proven that they will betray Sumpter at the bidding of the Sumpter Valley management.

As The Miner understands the situation, from an unofficial though reliable source, Major Bonta has financed the main line of his road. Money for building the branch to Sumpter and the extension to Burns has not yet been raised, though the charter provides for the issuing of ample bonds to cover both of these. To facilitate the sale of these additional bonds, he asks for freight contracts and nominal subscriptions for the bonds from the people of Sumpter and Burns, which will, of course, demonstrate to eastern capitalists more conclusively than any other method that the road will be a money making investment. He has received from Burns what he asked for and has satisfactory assurances that Sumpter people will accede to his modest demands.

That the line to Sumpter will be mutually beneficial needs no arguing. That fifteen miles will give him more tonnage than any other fifty of the entire system, and The Miner has before given statistics to show the vast business the road will receive from the John Day country and Harney county. The advantages which Sumpter will derive are self-evident.

The first ship load of rails has left Liverpool for Portland, and will come around the Horn.

**TO TEST THE
EDDY LAW.**

**Constitutionality Of Act To Be
Passed Upon By The
Courts.**

The mining firms of this city are contributing to a fund being raised to test the constitutionality of the Eddy corporation tax law, passed at the last session of the legislature, and it is understood that the movement has the backing not only of the

mining corporations but of various large manufacturing and mercantile concerns. Attorney J. Schnabel, of Portland, has been authorized to act for a number of corporations, both local and foreign, and it is stated that a suit is to be filed at once. A test case will be made in the instance of some individual corporation as plaintiff and the secretary of state and state treasurer as defendants.

In a recently published interview regarding the matter, Mr. Schnabel said:

"It is unconstitutional. It is double taxation, and not uniform. It is called a license, but is revenue-producing.

"The secretary of state has demanded a report from all corporations doing business in Oregon. That goes so far as to mean that if I write to Montgomery, Ward & Co., in Chicago, to send me a bill of goods they are liable for taxes in this state. Any outside corporation filling mail orders would be liable. If a corporation in another state sends a traveling salesman here to take orders, the corporation would have to pay a license. I believe the secretary of state holds that all corporations doing any business whatever in this state are included, but I understand he has asked Attorney General Blackburn for an opinion as to how far-reaching the law is, and if a corporation that has no branch here is liable.

"Salesman here representing foreign corporations cannot be taxed; that would be a violation of the inter-state commerce law. A citizen of another state is entitled to the same immunities and privileges as a local man. The law cannot discriminate."

**DIVISION OF
CLAIMS EFFECTED**

**North And South Pole Companies Reach Settlement
Of Matter.**

It is understood that the matter of effecting a division of the claims held in common by the North and South Pole companies has been practically concluded. The negotiations have been conducted by Hon. J. H. Robbins representing South Pole people and Emil Melzer the North Pole.

When approached regarding the matter Mr. Robbins stated that while an amicable settlement has been reached between himself and Mr. Melzer, the transaction has not been ratified by the two companies and no papers signed. For this reason he declined to make public the details until after the papers have been signed.

The claims involved in which the two companies held joint interests are: The Villard in which the North Pole owned three-fourths, South Pole, one-fourth; Yankee Jim, half each; Yankee Jack, one-half each.

The importance of the deal is at once apparent, since it throws these rich and valuable claims open to development. The claims are on the mother lode and adjoining the end lines of both companies.

F. A. E. STARR.

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