

UNFAIR COMMENT.

**One Thing to Make a Charge,
Another to Prove It.**

Speaking editorially regarding the crime of unfair comment—and it is a crime from which Sumpter is not entirely free—the American Mining News says:

It would be an almost hopeless task for any one to attempt to analyze the characteristics of human nature. But certain of them crop out in such a conspicuous manner oftentimes in everyday business life, that it is impossible not to be impressed by them.

There is one peculiarity of the human mind to which the failures of many good enterprises are due. We refer to the total lack of common sense and reasoning power which is evinced by the public in general, but more particularly by the investing public.

It is a fact too well known to need corroboration, that the daily press uses an unlimited license in the way they talk about various affairs, and that they, apparently, do not care whether their stories possess the merit of truth or not, providing they furnish interesting reading matter.

The desire and habit of speaking ill of something or somebody is not, however, confined to the press. There are a vast number of individuals whose chief delight is to malign something or somebody.

It is just at this stage that the lack of reasoning power is shown by the public mind. It might even be called lack of common justice which the public shows to the party in question.

If any individual or corporation is found guilty of libel, the laws of the country provide adequate punishment for the guilty one, but he, of course, must first be proven guilty. This can only be done through the courts, by means of a law suit.

But how does the public look upon such proceedings? Does it reserve its decision until evidence has all been submitted by both sides, and is its final decision based upon an impartial, unbiased view of the salient parts presented? Unfortunately this is seldom—almost never—done.

The very fact that it has become necessary to carry the matter to the courts to settle, condemns it beyond recall in the eyes of the public. Yet how fearfully unjust all this is. Furthermore how it opens the gate for blackmail, and worse than blackmail, to enter in.

We know of a case very recently, where the clients of a certain firm of promoters received a letter from a man in which he made the most ridiculous statements about this firm. In fact, the letter was so completely composed of lies that a jury could bring in but one verdict.

To secure such a verdict it would be necessary to go to the courts, but, thanks to the unfairness of the public mind already mentioned, such an action would sound the death knell of the firm, for their clients would fall away, all because an injured party thought he had the right to resent the imputation put upon him, and to prove his entire innocence. When the case is presented in cold type so that it can be reviewed in its entirety, no argument is needed to show the injustice of the practice. But in actual occurrence the public flees from the suing party like rats

from a sinking vessel.

Again it is only necessary for a daily paper to print a derogatory article about any enterprise, be it good, bad or indifferent, to mark it so that its chances for success are almost completely blasted.

Within the past year one of the New York daily papers printed a most venomous attack upon a company which was at the moment placing its stock upon the market. The proposition was an excellent one, and was being handled in a conservative, business-like manner by conservative people. But, owing to the influence wielded by the newspaper, this scandalous attack practically put the company out of existence, for it became impossible to raise the necessary money by public subscription.

Can a more unhealthy condition of affairs be imagined than this? Yet such are the facts.

In a word, it would seem that the public mind is much more ready to believe bad news than good news, and it seems to stand ready at all times to desert to the enemy without waiting to see if the allegation can be proven true or not.

We leave it to the sober judgment of our readers to decide whether this is justice or not. But we sincerely hope that the day is coming when the public will remember that there are always two sides to a question, and that it will base its final decision upon the merits of the evidence submitted.

Do not jump at conclusions, for it is one thing to make a charge and another to prove it.

CALL FOR BIDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon, has authorized the issuance and offers for sale \$15,000 worth of its bonds, the same to be known as sewer bonds and to be issued in amounts of One Hundred Dollars or any multiple thereof, up to \$1,000, with interest thereon at six per cent per annum payable semi-annually. Said bonds to be made payable \$1,000 annually principal and interest to be payable at the office of the City Treasurer in the City of Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon.

Any and all prospective buyers of said bonds are required to send sealed bids addressed to the City Recorder of the City of Sumpter, accompanied by a certified check of \$750, made payable to the order of the City Treasurer of the City of Sumpter, as evidence of good faith of the bidder, said sum of \$750 to be applied upon the purchase price of the bonds in case of said bid being accepted.

All bids shall be in the hands of the City Recorder on or before the hour of eight o'clock P. M. on the 25th day of August, 1903, at which time the same are to be opened by the City Council of said City for acceptance or rejection.

In case any firm, person or corporation, to whom said bonds are awarded, shall fail, neglect or refuse to pay to the City Treasurer of the City of Sumpter, the purchase price of the same, within ten days of the acceptance of said bid, the amount of the certified check so deposited with said bid shall be forfeited to said City of Sumpter as liquidated damages for said failure or neglect.

All other checks so accompanying will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.

The City of Sumpter through its Mayor and Common Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Done by order of the Common

Council this 28th day of July, 1903.
C. H. McCOLLOCH, Mayor.
Attest S. S. START, Recorder.

...J. W. COWDEN...

HAS A FINE LINE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS OF ALL THE MINES AND PROSPECTS IN THE SUMPTER GOLD FIELDS 2222222222 MINE VIEWS ONLY

Address J. W. Cowden, Sumpter, Or.

ATTENTION!

Do you desire to sell stock in your Gold, Copper, Mining or other Industrial companies? If so, you cannot find a better advertising medium than

THE DIXIE MANUFACTURER
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

It is the leading industrial and financial paper published in the South. It reaches that class of readers who are interested in financial and industrial affairs. It is old and established. Published semi-monthly. Guaranteed circulation 10,000. Subscription price \$2.00 per year. Advertising rate reasonable. Send for sample copy and advertising rates. Address,

Rountree Publishing Company
Birmingham, Alabama.

THE NATIONAL BANKER

84 and 86 La Salle St.
CHICAGO, - ILLINOIS

A journal of national circulation. Is read by bankers, capitalists, investors, retired merchants. If you want to reach a good class of buyers and the moneyed and investing public, advertise in the National Banker. Thousands of copies of each issue of the National Banker goes to investors throughout the Middle West, Eastern and New England states. The best journal in the country in which to reach investors. Sample copies free. Advertising rates on application.

Tickets at Low Rates to the EAST

VIA

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway

Will be on sale at all ticket offices on June 4th and 5th, June 24th to 30th, inclusive; July 15th and 16th, and August 25th and 26th.

Tickets good for going passage for ten days from date of sale, with final return limit of 90 days, from date of sale.

For further information, address,

H. S. Rowz,
General Agent.
Portland, Oregon.

THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE AND THE RIO GRANDE WESTERN

Only transcontinental line passing directly through

**Salt Lake City
Leadville
Colorado Springs
and Denver**

Three splendidly equipped trains daily TO ALL POINTS EAST.

Through Sleeping and Dining Cars and free Reclining Chair Cars.

The most Magnificent scenery in America by daylight.

Stop overs allowed on all classes of tickets.

For cheapest rates and descriptive literature, address

W. C. McBRIDE, - General Agent
RIO GRANDE LINES
PORTLAND, OREGON

O. R. & N.

OREGON SHORT LINE
AND UNION PACIFIC

TO

**Salt Lake,
Denver, Kansas City.
CHICAGO ST. LOUIS
NEW YORK**

Ocean steamers between Portland and San Francisco every five days.

Low Rates!

Tickets to and from all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe.

Through Pullman Standard and Tourist Sleeping Cars daily to Omaha, Chicago, Spokane; Tourist Sleeping car daily to Kansas City; through Pullman tourist sleeping cars (personally conducted) weekly to Chicago, Kansas City; reclining chair cars (seats free) to the East daily.

For particulars, call on or address

H. C. Bowans,
Agent, Baker City, Ore