

The Sumpter Miner

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER



The New York Commercial is printing an interesting series of articles on "The Gold Bricks of speculation" by John Hill, Jr., member of the Chicago Board of Trade.

No more cents are to be made by the United States mint at Philadelphia for at least a year unless a special order is issued from the United States treasury at Washington. This is the latest instruction from Washington, due to the enormous production in the last five years—3,000,000,393 pennies having been shipped from the Philadelphia mint, which is the only one that coins the one-cent pieces, to various parts of the country. Between July 1, 1902, and June 1, 1903, 89,600,000 cents were coined.

Rich strikes in the district are coming thick and fast. These are the Tabor fraction and E. and E. in the Cracker Creek, the I. X. L. and Morning in the Greenhorns, and the Bear Gulch property just outside the city limits, at all of which phenomenally rich ore is being taken out. What's the matter with Sumpter, with such mines as these in the surrounding country? And these constitute a very small part of what there is in the district. There are hundreds of others, which, if they have not such rich ore, have nevertheless substantial bodies which will probably prove more enduring and valuable in the long run.

The prospector may be said to be the pioneer of civilization. Conquering armies may devastate a territory, depopulate it or subdue the inhabitants to a certain extent, but they never civilize, declares the Mining and Engineering Review; the real pioneers of civilization are the men who delve in the mountains for the precious metals; the men who penetrate the wildest regions, explore the rugged, uninviting mountains, or tramp with scanty rations over the hot and arid sands of the desert; who dare to tread where the foot of civilized being has never trod before; who sleep for months at night under the arched canopy of heaven after a hard day's toil; whose bones are sometimes found bleaching by one of their brethren on a mountain side, in a lonely canyon or on the burning desert, whither hope had beckoned him; whose reward is the discovery of mineral, perhaps after years of laborious search, a discovery which, when he gets back to civilization, exhibits his samples and makes known his find, results in a rush—a new camp—mines being opened, machinery being erected and the noise of the stamps and busy population of the new town soon banishes the desolation which surrounded the prospector when he slept on the ground the

night before his discovery!

Trails are followed by wagon roads, later by railroads and the freight wagons are supplanted by the engine and cars; the camp, which perhaps in time grows to the dimensions of a great city, has been connected with the centers of civilization by rail and wire.

The prospector has perhaps received a sum of money for his claim or claims, which makes him independent for the balance of his life and he may rest from his labor; but away, somewhere ahead of the march of civilization, ahead of the locomotive, away from the haunts of men, may hap surrounded by hostile natives there are other prospectors blazing a trail for the army which is sure to follow. The man with the pick and pan, with his little store of bacon, beans, flour and coffee, with his rifle and burro, if fortunate enough to afford the luxury, is hunting for mineral, and whether on the desert, in the canyon, or on the hills the bright star of hope leads him on until he finds the magnetic metal which attracts man and which builds up cities and empires, or until he gives up the search and lies down to take the last sleep under the blue vault, which he gazed at so many lonely nights and passes over the last "great divide."

CUT RATE BROKERS.

TAKE OFF YOUR HATS.

"Cut-Rate Brokers," "Jobbers," and "Bargain-Counter" dealers in mining stocks must all take their hats off to the "Combination Order Blank" issued by the Douglas, Lacey & Co., of New York and branch offices in thirty-seven other cities. "Eight Special Combinations Carrying Out the Principle of General Average as Applied to Mining," extensively circulated among the verdant greens ought to bring in sufficient funds to make the "average" amount contributed by the poor public of considerable interest to the schemers who have the nerve to foist such a proposition on the public under the guise of mining.

There is no such thing as "Average as Applied to Mining." The "average" which this firm has in view no doubt applies to the public, and the "average" sucker who goes up against such a game ought to have a guardian appointed. Their circular smacks of "Preferred Treasury Stock Only" at "Original Founders' Share Prices," and many other catchy phrases, soothing to and winning to the small investor, who is looking for something for nothing.

This firm is careful not to advertise their wares in the legitimate mining papers, preferring to use the daily press of New York. The object of this is apparent to any one with an ounce of brains. If the Douglas, Lacey & Co. are not entitled to a place among the "Get-Rich-Quick" concerns, their method of operations is questionable, to say the least.—Western Mining World.

EXAMINING GROUND.

Andy Stinson, secretary and treasurer of the Oregon Blue Gravel Mining company, started yesterday examining the pay channel on which the company proposes operating along its lower course in the townsite. He says as soon as he hears from General Warren he will begin active work prospecting the ground with a view to early operations.

All the latest novelties in hats at Neill Mercantile company's.

WILL PUT IN KEYSTONE

DRILL AT AUBURN.

Thoroughly Prospect Ground and Drift From Present Shaft.

Superintendent Joe Reed of the Auburn Deep Mining company, a placer proposition, has discontinued sinking for the bedrock, and states that in all probability, he will put in a keystone drill to determine the direction in which to drift.

The shaft is now down 242 feet with indications that it has entered a depression or pocket. The formation and configuration, Mr. Reed states, lead to this belief. With a keystone drill, the ground can be thoroughly prospected, the pay gravel located and it will then be known the direction in which to drift from the shaft. Superintendent Reed says in all probability he will put in a keystone at once, as he thinks this is the most conservative basis on which to work.

FOUND ONE NUGGET

THAT WEIGHS \$3,276.

A great gold nugget, valued at \$3,276, the largest ever found in Alaska or the British Youkon, has been taken from a Nome claim. It was seven inches long by four and a quarter inches wide.

The beautiful specimen is the product of a bench claim, No. 5, off Discovery on Anvil creek. It weighs 182 ounces and was discovered September 8 by a miner in the employ of the Pioneer Mining company, which has a lay on the property. The rich gold piece nestled in a gravel bed covered with two feet of glacial ice and over the ice lay three feet of muck. The ice and muck were removed by ground sluicing.

The discoverer had started to use a pick. Presently he let drive and the point of the pick imbedded itself in the soft substance of the nugget. In withdrawing the pick he hauled up the nugget. With a single blow he had unearthed a small fortune, though unlikely not for himself.

The find created a sensation in the town of Nome, where it was taken and placed on exhibition. The claim which produced the nugget is owned by Cashier Cowden of the Alaska Banking Safe Deposit company of Nome, and several of the clerks in that institution.

Numerous valuable nuggets have been found in Nome, Klondike and other districts of the north, but none approaching this chunk of native gold, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The Anvil creek claims and benches have been most prolific of such treasures, but their value singly never equaled \$1000. Klondike produced one worth about \$1100, and Atlin gave up a specimen valued at \$900.

Ice Cream! Ice Cream!

On, and each day after May 1st the renowned Hazelwood Ice Cream and Ice Cream Soda will be had at Sturgill's. 10 cents a dish, 25 cents per pint.

Shoes of all kinds at Neill Mercantile company's.

ALL WHITE HELP.

Hotel Sumpter Now Has Full Corps of Union Assistants.

There is all white and union service now at Hotel Sumpter. Manager Hazelwood decided to fire the Chinks and substitute white labor. Wes Frasier, of Colorado, assumed duty as chef with a corps of able assistants, all white and union members, yesterday.

Hitherto there has been some dissension among the union people in regard to the employment of non-union labor at this popular hostelry, and attempt was made toward boycotting. Manager Hazelwood stood ready to make the change at any time when competent union help could be secured, but not until now has he succeeded in finding it.

Wanted—Woodchoppers to contract from 100 to 1,000 cords at \$1.50 per cord for Don Juan mine. Apply to T. W. Davidson or A. B. Browne; office, Center St., rear of First National bank, Sumpter.

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