

# The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
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Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
One Year ..... \$2.00  
Six Months ..... 1.25

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER



The Portland Telegram throw a moral spasm over the steer roping contest at the Sumpter race meet. It says that bullfighting has no greater cruelties, and questions in a righteously indignant manner how a town could "permit the baiting of a maddened steer, wounded, ferociously turning upon its tormentors." Without stopping to explain to the Telegram that the steer was not wounded nor was anyone hurt, it can be readily seen why a Portland newspaper would fail to appreciate this dash of strenuous life—this characteristic western sport. A potato race, or a pie eating contest would probably be more in line with the agricultural ideas of Portland, but the smack of the real west, with its turbulent pastimes and its manly diversions is a bit too swift for a community of farmers. Linger among your wine presses, O Portland, yank the lacteal from the bosoms of your kine, plant your prunes and garner in your hay crop! but if a vigorous community like Sumpter sees fit to manifest its wild western ways by roping the festive steer, pray don't be too severe, don't lay on the rod of chastisement too heavily.

As shown in the news columns of The Miner a day or so ago, the vacant houses in Sumpter do not begin to supply the demand. Homeless folk are daily being turned away from rental offices. The fact of the matter is that there has not been a time during the spring and summer months when houses have stood tenantless for any length of time; but the demand seems to have increased radically within the past few weeks. This shortage is to be deplored. It is not pleasant to think of women and children having to camp out or sleep in tents during the cold winter months, or worse still seek a city of refuge elsewhere, yet it shows at least a healthy condition here. It shows that there are many people coming here to cast their lot with us, to engage in trade or to seek employment. The great scope of mining country looking to Sumpter as the chief point of supply, and the steady development of the mineral resources in this region are bound to make it a good business town, becoming more and more attractive to outside capital. Another fact is also to be pointed out. Money invested in houses and lots here is capital judiciously expended, and with the assurance that a good interest will be yielded. This should certainly produce an activity in the building industry which would create a supply equal to the demand.

The Miner could not at this stage of the game be induced to perpetrate on its inoffending readers a dissertation on the silver question, in its relation to our politics-dominated currency. It is not good form. No

paper ever mentions the subject these days, except those that made fools of themselves denouncing the beautiful white money metal, as partisan publications are wont to do, and the burden of their song is ever and always and only: "The silver issue is dead," knowing the while that it is not.

During the past few months silver has occupied a lime-light position in the commercial affairs of the world and this is the Miner's excuse for publishing these scientific and historic facts, taken from an exchange:

Silver sold above sixty cents per ounce in New York last week. Once again this beautiful white metal has become an interesting topic because of its recent rapid rise in price; and it is in order that the metals main features be again produced. Silver weighs less than gold, but it is relatively harder, but less hard than copper. It has a tenacity about equal to gold and melts at a temperature about equal to copper. Among the metals of commerce it is the whitest, even tin being perceptibly less white. Its worst feature is its liability to tarnish when exposed to sulphur in any way, and thus silver ware in cities must necessarily be cleaned repeatedly. It is too soft to be used in an unalloyed state, copper always giving it a hardness in coins. It can be beaten into leaves of less than 1-100,000 of an inch in thickness, and wire of extreme tenacity can be drawn out. It melts at a full red heat of 1,870 degrees F. Silver at one time was valued higher than gold.

From the earliest of times to the present day its value as compared with gold has varied much at different periods. In the fifth century, B. C. throughout the East gold was valued at six to eight times as much as silver, and in Plato's time their relative values were as ten to one, and this ratio continued a long time, or up to the sixteenth century. In the seventeenth century the new world's output of silver made the ratio as sixteen to one, but in the eighteenth century it rose to fourteen to one, and for much of the nineteenth century it held at fifteen to 15½ to one. The present ration is about thirty-four to one.

Silver ores are not numerous, the important ones being native silver, argentite, pyrrhotite, proustite, stephanite and cerargyrite. Considerable of the metal is found native, and the argentiferous galena ores furnish a large percentage of the world's production. In 1860 the United States' production of silver was but \$150,000, and in 1903, \$86,588,000.

## FOUND OLD CHANNEL ON GRANITE CREEK.

Manager Carson, of the Milwaukee placer ground, reports if the weather holds favorable for the next few weeks he will complete his working tests of the placers that has been in progress throughout the summer. Piping into the large elevator has been going steady now for a number of weeks until they have cut 150 feet in length about twenty-four feet deep and fully fifty feet wide at the top. A few feet of gravel was left on the bedrock, which remains to be run through the boxes before the bedrock can be cleaned and the test

completed.

This week the workmen broke into a bed of gravel under a large bank of clay which has every appearance of being the deposit from an old gray channel of Granite creek. It is too early yet to state how much of the yellow metal this gravel will carry though it has the appearance of being a rich discovery. The deposit where found is over twenty feet below the present level of the creek.

The holdings of the Milwaukee Placer company take in full three miles of Granite creek and comprise several hundred acres of patented ground; also a sufficient body of water to work on a large scale as late as the weather will permit in the fall. The property was worked quite successfully a number of years ago, but owing to disagreements among the owners was closed and has remained idle until started by Mr. Carson's company.—Granite Gem.

## GOLD NUGGETS DO NOT "GROW."

It has been stated repeatedly here in that gold nuggets do not "grow," regardless of the numerous "theories" to the contrary. There is no rational evidence to lead to the belief that a mass of gold once included in the loose material of a gulch, which represents the breaking down or disintegration of the neighboring hillsides, ever accumulating a single atom of gold to itself, or increases in any manner, either in weight or bulk. The oft repeated story that gold nuggets contain a little grain of sand or iron oxide as a nucleus, about which the nugget has been built up, is a myth. Gold is derived from veins or deposits in solid rock in place, and from the moment of its exposure to the powers of disintegration and erosion it begins to grow smaller in size and weight, and as gold in its original state in the rocks is universally rough, with sharp edges, or a generally ragged appearance; when a nugget is found smooth and rounded by the attrition of the rocks with which it has been associated in the stream bed, it is safe to say that such a nugget has lost a large portion of its original weight and size by the process. The theory that gold nuggets grow in placer or alluvial deposits of any kind is not susceptible of direct proof.—Mining and Scientific Press.

## Rights Secured by a Patent.

When the government issues a patent to a mining claim that patent secures to the holder of the claim the exclusive right to all veins apexing within his territory as defined by the lines of his claim. The question of extralateral right, however, has been a subject of litigation, and not been positively determined by the United States Supreme court. The question arose over priority of location as between a mining and an adjoining agricultural patent. Under the laws of 1866 the end lines of a mining claim need not of necessity be parallel, and claims located under that law where the end lines were not parallel have not been denied the privilege of taking the extralateral right, even though the diverging lines were in the direction of the dip of the vein, consequently giving to the claim owner an increasingly greater length of the vein with increasing depth. No precedent has as yet been established by the United States Supreme court regarding the matter. As to claims having parallel

end lines, where located under the laws of 1866 or those of 1872, the claim owner has the extralateral right.—Mining and Scientific Press.

## MOONSHINER'S STORY.

Where the Corn is Full of Kernels  
and the Colonels Full of Corn.

Andrew Jackson Bess, now employed at the I. X. L. mine, formerly lived in Tennessee where he confesses he carried on a flourishing business as a wild cat distiller. He had an ingenious device by which he evaded the revenue officers. Yesterday in the presence of "Doc" Edwards, also a Tennessean, and a Miner man, he related his experience as a moonshiner. Here it is:

"For years I carried on a flourishing business, and not a revenue officer ever tumbled. I had my wild cat joint right near a cornfield and in plain sight, but nobody ever saw a whiff of smoke rise from it. The smoke you know is a dead give away and the sign which leads to discovery. But I fixed that good and plenty. A distillery must have a supply of water, so I arranged a flume to carry the water in and the smoke out. The flume ran right into my chimney and the smoke went right up it. Nobody except my customers were the wiser, and it was a dead sure thing they wouldn't peach.

"O, yes, I knew 'Doc' Edwards well—fine old southern family. In fact 'Doc' and I were in partnership—that is I made the liquor, and 'Doc' consumed it."

## Gold and Silver Production.

Revised statistics show that the United States produced \$80,000,000 of gold during 1902 and 55,5000.00 ounces of silver, having a commercial value of \$29,415,000. Colorado is on first in both gold and silver production, having yielded \$28,468,700 of the yellow metal and 15,676,000 ounces of the white metal, the entire being valued at \$8,308,280. California is a good second as a gold producer, with \$16,7921.00 while Montana comes close to Colorado, as regards silver, with a output of 132,438.00 ounces valued at \$70,192.14. Alaska has won the third place, ranking next to California, as a gold mining region.

## NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of the Little Cracker Gold Mining and Milling company will be held in the office of the company at Sumpter, Oregon, November 5, 1903, at the hour of 10 o'clock, a. m. to elect officers for the ensuing year and transact any other business that may come before said meeting.

D. E. WILLARD, Secretary.

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