

The Sumpter Miner

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If union labels figure in the burial of the dead, the time may come when babies will have to be born wearing this stamp of unionism, or they will suffer boycott or ostracism.

All authorities agree that the recent financial scare has passed. New York banks are accused of working up the flurry in order to increase call loan interest rates. The condition of the country is so financially healthy that no permanent damage could be accomplished.

The American Grape Acid Association offers a reward of \$25,000 to the man who will invent a process for changing grape sugar back to tartaric acid. The time given is until December 1, 1904. Here's your chance. The money is already up and the man who wants to tackle the problem will undoubtedly get a square deal.

One county in Idaho will exhibit in the Mines and Metallurgy palace at the world's fair in St. Louis 2,000 opals. These will be shown in all stages, just as they come from the ground in Idaho, and later in every stage of cutting and polishing. The newly developed opal mines in Idaho are said to be the richest yet discovered in the world.

In the last issue of the Blue Mountain American is an editorial in which it is stated that there have recently been several local threats to blackmail. This is the text for a job lot of platitudes on that despicable practice. Such treatment accomplishes no good. Publicity is the only efficacious remedy for blackmail. If the American knows of any such attempts and feels it to be its duty to enter the list and have a tilt with that crime, then it surely is its duty also to expose the criminal, "name names," and not resort to the sneaking, cowardly method of arousing suspicion, fearing the while to locate the blame and incur the resulting responsibility.

Unless the Morning Knocker is lying about the matter, in quoting a Pittsburg broker as saying that in neither that city nor Philadelphia is Major Bonta offering bonds for his projected electric line, then some one here is endeavoring actively, aggressively to "knock" that enterprise, and the morning organ of the Ancient and Dishonorable Order of Dogs in the Manger is doing its appointed share in aiding the effort. Unless this letter is a part of the secret records of the fraternity, which can be shown to no paper except the official organ, will the recipient thereof please be so kind as to submit it to The Miner for inspection?

Eastern Oregon will never get anything of value in a political way from the state, either in convention

or from the legislature, until its representatives stand united in their demand. Over on the other side of the mountains there are bitter political factions in the dominant party. If eastern Oregon would act harmoniously, it would hold the balance of power, in the political and legislative battle, dictate terms and secure the spoils which belong to all victors. This is the policy which, if persistently pursued, would change our appeals for crumbs into peremptory demands for a square meal. The best in the house; our effort to pick the west side winner and secure a back seat in the band wagon would be a thing of the past. Instead, the other fellows would plot and scheme for our alliance and we would guide the musical vehicle, at the head of the procession.

The senate secretary's annual report the other day revealed the fact that rich senators have a littleness about them in the matter of making the government pay for private telegraph messages and other incidental expenses of a purely personal nature, which would hardly have been supposed. For instance, one item makes Aldrich look like thirty cents. It was for a telegram, and read: Aldrich, Washington, D. C., to Rockefeller, New York, thirty cents. Pages of the report are devoted to telegrams, which had nothing to do with official duties, sent by the senators. But this wasn't all. There were charges for manicure sets ranging from \$3 to \$12, books to contain railroad passes from \$1 up, Chatelain bags, wrist bags, purses with handles, repairing cigar cases, all bought with senate funds.

These old granddads should be made to pay such bills themselves. All of them have plenty of money with which to do it.

The death of Herbert Spencer has called forth a great deal of press comment, both religious and secular, in regard to the life and influence of the great philosopher. The Protestant press is somewhat divided in its opinion relative to the effects of Spencer's teachings, while the Catholic press is very bitter in its denunciation. Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist comment is not to say sympathetic, but Episcopal and Unitarian is extremely so. Rev. Minot Savage, of the Unitarian church, very briefly and forcibly expresses his position. He says:

"He is going to be recognized in the future as the man who has rendered a greater service to the religious life of the world than any other who has lived for a thousand years. For the first time in the history of the world he has planted religion itself on an utterly impregnable and immovable foundation. He has proved beyond question, scientifically demonstrated, that religion is an integral, inherent, eternal part of the universe of human nature and of human life. He has demonstrated that the one most sane item of all human knowledge is the existence of an infinite and eternal energy from which all things proceed. This is the scientific name; we religionists call it God; that is all the difference."

The current number of the Electrical World and Engineer contains a striking and valuable article by Mr. Peter Cooper Hewitt, giving in detail the results of elaborate experiments made by him on the conductivity of mercury vapor. These results are of special interest because any conclusions drawn from them

should logically apply to all gases and vapors, says the Commercial. Incidentally, his article explains fully and clearly how it is that in the new electric lamp that he has invented the illumination depends upon the conduction of a gas instead of upon the glowing filament or the rapid consumption of a carbon stick.

Mr. Hewitt's work in this field is held to be of the first importance, and in thus making freely available to the world at large the results of his researches and discoveries he is exhibiting a public spirit worthy of a "son of a worthy sire." Instead of keeping his secret to himself, to be turned to his own personal advantage—as so often happens in similar cases in this commercial day and generation—he voluntarily spreads it open to everybody.

Mr. Hewitt's action in this instance will undoubtedly stimulate further inquiry in the same direction and thus open up an entirely new field in the electric arts, not only in lighting but in power transmission, wireless telegraphy and other ways.

In no less than unlucky thirteen places "American Magazine of Mining and Investment" for December, published at Cleveland, Ohio, declares that it is a legitimate proposition. Although apparently no one has accused it of anything in particular, with gushing emphasis it denies that it owns any stocks; makes all kinds of propositions to secure subscribers, among others offers \$2.70 worth of advertising for every subscription at one dollar, and publishes this in its advertising columns, address here omitted, of course:

"We can use any stock or bond that ever was issued. We have an outlet for non-dividend paying, questionable, absolutely worthless and defaulted securities. We will allow you just what you paid for them regardless of what they cost you. We will do better by you than any Investment Banking House; in fact, we are the only concern accepting that class of securities at any price or under any condition."

"Thou doth protest too much." It reminds one of the old Scotch proverb about the man boasting of his honesty and the woman of her virtue. As a matter of fact, the American Magazine, etc., is controlled by F. Wallace White, a stock broker, who, though he has sold some stock in companies owning fair prospects, his methods are those of the fakir and the exaggerated claims he has in the past made for these properties were little less than fraudulent. The publication is not admitted as second class mail matter.

Old Chief Red Cloud, the Sioux Indian, is dying at the Pine Ridge agency. He is one of the most conspicuous of the living Indian warriors and in the history of the great struggle between white men and red will take high rank for caution, intelligence and bravery.

Red Cloud was second in command at the battle of the Little Big Horn when Custer and his men were massacred, but long before that battle he had gained renown as a warrior. Sitting Bull has often been given credit for Sioux victories, but, as a matter of fact, Sitting Bull was rarely at the front. His business was to hug the tent and "make medicine," while men like Red Cloud, Gall and others went into positions of danger and did execution.

As a warrior in whose fighting there was method, Red Cloud has been placed in the class with Tecumseh, Osceola, Black Hawk, Geronimo,

Joseph and others prominent in frontier history, and students of Indian warfare and customs have declared that Red Cloud represented the best type, as Geronimo did the worst. Since the peace that followed the final defeat of his tribe he has been classed as a "good" Indian and as the white man's friend he has received many attentions from officials at Washington, where he has made several trips in the interest of his people.—Spokesman Review.

All of which is true, in a measure, and interesting, but the career of no other Red warrior so strikingly demonstrates the fact that the Indian has no individual, personal courage, physical or moral. He will fight and die, seemingly without fear, as all savages do, for they place a low value on human life; their own as well as that of others. But they plan to fight only when the odds are greatly in their favor, and never engage a superior enemy if it can be avoided.

Red Cloud once tried to bluff Dr. McGillicuddy, when he was Indian agent at Pine Ridge, the agency being surrounded by young braves hungry for a killing, and soldiers miles away. The doctor caught the old murderer by the nose, led him out of his office and kicked him off the porch. He was so thoroughly surprised and cowed that he made no resistance and was never the bully afterwards that he had always been before.

WHY AMERICAN STEEL MAKERS DOMINATE THE WORLD.

The mere existence of natural supplies of raw material would not in itself be sufficient to account for the marvelous growth of the iron and steel industry in America. The raw materials must be brought together to some common center and the transportation of this enormous tonnage, the frequent handling and transshipment that is necessary, must be done with the least possible amount of expense, if the American ironmaster is to start with anything like an even chance in competition with European manufacturers; for these are not under the necessity of transporting their materials over a thousand miles of distance, before they can smelt them in the blast furnace.

Now, here it is that man has so ably co-operated with nature. Acting on the well established industrial principle that the greater the magnitude of the scale of operations, the less is cost per ton of the finished product, the machinery and general plant for excavating, handling, and transporting the ore have been built on a colossal scale.

At the mines, steam shovels capable of lifting five tons of ore at each stroke will load a twenty-five ton car in two and a half minutes, or at the rate of 600 tons an hour, and in accordance with the same policy cars have grown to fifty tons in capacity and locomotives to 130 tons in weight. When the ore trains reach Lake Superior special automatic, quick-acting machinery unloads the ore direct into special ore steamers built for this particular work.

At the eastern terminal ports, similar machinery unloads the ore from steamers to railroads, where again fifty-ton cars and 130-ton engines haul the precious mineral in trains of 1,000 tons or more total weight, into the heart of the coal and coke region, where it is finally unloaded by special machinery, at the foot of the blast furnaces.—Scientific American.