



THE SUMPTER MINER

FEAR OF FINANCIAL CRASH HAS PASSED

J. W. Scriber, in Close Touch With Money Market, Says "All is Well," Absolutely.

J. W. Scriber, of La Grande, director of the First National bank here, an officer of banks in the Grand Ronde and John Day valleys than whom no man in eastern Oregon occupies a more commanding position in the financial world, nor is in closer touch with eastern and coast financiers, is in town today. He brings with him a cheerful message regarding the monetary condition of the country at large, and eastern Oregon especially. To a Miner representative this forenoon he said:

"Sixty days ago, even thirty, we feared the worst. Now all danger is past, and the banks of the country are feeling secure; absolutely so. As the new year approached, it became more apparent every day that the annual January settlements would be made with the usual promptness. This foreshadowed event has now become a reality, and there is nothing in the present financial condition of

the country at large that indicates a tightening of the money market.

"My advices from Salt Lake, Montana, Colorado, and especially from Portland and Puget Sound points, are all satisfactory as to the present and optimistic regarding the future. In fact, I will not be surprised even if the usual comparative dullness attending a presidential election is omitted from the program this year. All branches of business is improving, and within thirty or sixty days the normal condition of finance and commerce will be restored. Of course, you know that all eastern reports are entirely encouraging.

"Locally, by which I mean in eastern Oregon, in which Sumpter is an important factor, everything is all right. No one need feel any apprehension for the future. This is sure to be a particularly prosperous year in the mining regions, as was last year."

I. X. L. ORE THAT GOES \$8,000.

Morris Sullivan came back last night from his claim adjoining the I. X. L., where he was paying off for assessment work just completed, and reports a fabulously rich strike in the lower workings of the I. X. L. Mr. Sullivan says:

"The ore goes \$8,000 to the ton, and is among the richest ever encountered at this property, which is remarkable for its high grade stuff. I saw the rock myself, and it was hardly possible to put a pin point on it without hitting free gold. It's just full of free gold, as its value would indicate."

Mr. Sullivan has an adjoining claim on the same lead, which he thinks will become equally valuable with development.

He also reports good progress at the Lucy group, in the Greenhorns, where he is also interested. The main Lucy ledge, he states has been encountered on the crosscut, and

satisfactory values are shown.

The Milwaukee officers and stock holders of the Lucy company are expected here January 15, when the annual election will take place.

SAYS THE STORY WAS OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH

Manager Howard, of the Golconda, who returned from Pendleton a day or so ago, states that the story regarding the improvements at the mine, published in the East Oregonian, was entirely unauthorized.

There was no meeting held, as one of the directors was sick and another east, making a quorum impossible. A meeting will be held as soon as a quorum can be gotten together. Mr. Howard had nothing to make public relative to any contemplated improvements at the mine.

Found Gold Nugget in Goose's Crop.

The finding of gold nuggets in the true inwardness of fowls in this section of country has come to be of

such frequent occurrence that it scarcely excites comment. But here's just one more.

The other day W. Longwell purchased a New Year's goose at the Hillman market. Yesterday he killed the goose, and found inside the bird a gold nugget worth \$1. So he practically played even as far as the goose feature of his New Year's dinner was concerned.

FREIGHT HANDLED BY SUMPTER VALLEY IN '93

A key to the business situation in Sumpter and the tributary mining districts for the past twelve months is to be found in the amount of freight handled by the Sumpter Valley Railway company for this period. According to the statements made by Joseph Barton, general freight and passenger agent, who was on the train to Whitney this morning, to a Miner representative, the freight tonnage handled by the road for the year ending December 31, was probably heaviest in the history of the company. While his reports are yet incomplete and exact figures for this reason cannot be mentioned, he states that the incoming and outgoing freight exchanged between the O. R. & N. and the Sumpter Valley approximately amounted to 15,000 tons. This, however, does not include shipments direct from Baker City, and way stations, which will very largely increase the figures. Speaking of the matter, Mr. Barton, said:

"The year has been one of unprecedented prosperity for the railroad company, as shown by the business I have outlined. Other departments show similar gains. The passenger traffic has been unusually brisk throughout the year, and the express business good. We have no kick coming as far as our year's work is concerned."

Incidentally a little figuring on the side will show that Mr. Barton is giving out straight facts when he speaks of the prosperity of the Sumpter Valley. The amount of freight exchanged between the two roads at the prevailing rate amounts to an annual revenue of approximately \$90,000, or a daily income of about \$250, not to mention other freight hauled, and the passenger and express business, which no doubt would more than double the receipts.

Pete Healy Back From Grizzly.

P. D. Healy and Jack Gerrin, who were hurt at the Grizzly mine on McCully's Fork the other day, came in on the stage from Granite today. Mr. Healy is one of the owners of the property and Mr. Gerrin was employed by him. Neither was seriously injured.

TESTING PLANT AT MAGNOLIA.

A. Burch, of Burch & Burbridge, returned from the Magnolia yesterday and left for a short trip to Boise. It is understood that there is no doubt but that the firm will take over the property. Mr. Burbridge remained at the mine, and will at once proceed to sample it.

It is stated that they will put in a sampling and testing plant for the purpose of ascertaining values and at the same time determining the kind of treatment best suited to the ores.

The fact that sinking at the Independence shaft has been temporarily abandoned, looks very much as if the firm has practically decided to take over the Magnolia. Indeed little doubt was entertained on this head by Mr. Barret when he took a bond on the property. It is understood that the intention is to sink on Magnolia ground in the gulch between the two and work both mines from the same shaft. The two can in this way be worked much more economically.

LADD METAL COMPANY BUYS \$250,000 WORTH OF ORE

The Ladd Metals company are employing all the teams that apply for work at Mineral, and are going right along with the work of getting material on the ground for the big smelter at the Mineral ferry, says the Richland News.

General Manager Adams has returned from the Seven Devils mountains, where he spent some ten days in looking over the possibilities of the camp. While there he contracted for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of ore from the Peacock mine, to be delivered to the Homestead smelter.

This does not look much like a suspension of operations by this company. They are pursuing the even tenor of their way, and when the time comes that the demand for railway transportation is imperative, or the furtherance of their other plans, they will build the Snake River railroad themselves rather than suspend operations. In fact, it is known that Mr. Adams has stated emphatically that work on the Snake River road would be commenced in the near future.

Will Put in Extra Shift.

J. W. Wilson, manager of the Listen Lake property, came in from the mine this afternoon. The shaft is now down sixty feet and the ore is looking better than ever. He is preparing to put on another shift and rush development along.