

# The Sumpter Miner

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

J. W. CONNELLA

T. G. GWYNNE, EDITOR

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.



Every lover of justice, a square deal and a game fighter, hopes that the men who entered into a conspiracy to blacken Asa Thompson's reputation and ruin his political prospects, arrested a few days since at Pendleton, will get the guff good and hard and deep.

When an investor subscribes for an alleged investment publication and directly afterward receives matter pertaining to some mining company he can put it down that the publication in question is an owned or subsidized organ of some promotion house. Promoters get access to our subscribers only through the use of our advertising columns and then they must attract and interest them. —Daily Mining Record.

As to a class of "sandbag" publications that pretends to give advice to its readers as to how to invest, or how not to invest, in this or that particular mining scheme, the Mining Record of Denver, says:

"These publications are parasites sapping the life blood of the mining industry; a detriment to all interested in that industry. They are harmful to mining companies and are a great detriment to legitimate and meritorious publications devoted to the mining industry."

Every indication now points to a record breaking prosperous year in the gold fields of eastern Oregon. Gentlemen now in the east for the purpose of raising money for several propositions here all report flattering prospects of success. Some have already succeeded in their efforts, while others say there is no doubt about "landing" sooner or later. The most important of these enterprises, of which The Miner is aware, was a dismal failure in November and December, and so much has the eastern money market improved that it was consummated two weeks ago with little difficulty.

Mineralogists assert that the time is not far distant when the term "weather forecast" will be abolished and for it will be substituted, "weather statement." Radium and the X ray are the things that will transfer meteorology from the realm of prophesy to that of exact science. A Cambridge university professor has issued a book entitled "The Condition of Electricity Through Gases," in which the matter is explained. He says that the whole business has been reduced to a scientific basis, and that weather reports of the future will be thoroughly reliable.

If the numerous reports of the discovery of radium, coming from almost every state in the Union, are to be credited, it will not be long before

all a man will have to do to obtain a supply for home consumption will be to hie himself to his back yard and dig out a chunk. If folks keep on discovering the curious metal and simplifying the process of reduction it will soon be cheap as salt. The Miner has not exerted its efforts to locate a supply in these diggings, but it warns the public that if other localities keep on springing radium mines it will be up to it to sustain the honor of this great mineral section.

The Mining Investor of Colorado Springs, quotes a prominent mining operator of that state, who had returned from the east after consulting with his associates, said to be Standard Oil people, as follows: "Within the next year, we will see evidences of a pronounced change in sentiment in Wall street affecting the metal producing industry. Heretofore mining investments have been sneered at by Wall street operators, but the developments during 1903 growing out of the industrial trust movement, have persuaded many that a new field of operations will have to be looked for. Mining is sure to profit by this search for investment schemes, the more so since the men who are apt to look in this direction for opportunities are of a class to confer honor upon any business in which they engage."

Legitimate mining papers have given considerable attention of late to fake publications. Mining World, one of the best published, says: "When you see an advertisement offering a mining paper free or for a nominal sum, just make up your mind that it is some advertising dodge by which some promotion company seeks to boost its own property. It costs money, and lots of it, to publish a mining journal, and they are not being sent free to anybody. When you get one of this description carefully look and see if it has been entered as second-class matter at the post office. If it has not you may know that the postoffice department has set its seal of disapproval on the publication as being in the interest of some individual or company. When reading mining news you want to read unprejudiced and disinterested reports and this you cannot get from the so-called mining journals which have not been approved of by the post office department."

The Idaho Statesman enters an encomium on the six college graduates employed at the Snow Creek mine, reference to which was made in The Miner a few days ago, and the institutions at which they received their training. In part it says:

"This speaks well for the institutions in which they received their training. When once not only a college here and there but all the colleges and universities and also the public schools turn out pupils that have right ideas as to the value and dignity of hand labor, the millennium draweth nigh.

"Nearly all the great men, the really great men whose words and deeds have pushed humanity to higher levels and changed the map of the world, have been men who were not ashamed of homely labor of the hand. They did so much of it each day as a matter of choice and pleasure, as a means of putting their bodies in better trim and adding keenness and vigor to their minds. The mawkish sentimentality of a maudlin society is responsible for the repugnance, felt especially by young men of educated tastes and high aspirations, for all forms of hand labor. A

really healthy mind looks upon a moderate amount of hand labor as a pleasure. It no more thinks of making a special effort to shun the fresh air and sunshine. And under proper social conditions and proper ideas no man or woman would be looked down upon by effete do-nothings, that are in fact but so many parasites on society, because he or she labors with the hand.

"Our educational ideas are far from being perfect, though it is a pleasure to note an advance and for the better and in no respect is this advance more marked than in the growing importance attached to hand culture as well as brain culture, which, under a true system of education, will jog along together."

Writers on the labor problem, those who have studied the question intelligently and presented the result of their enquiry conscientiously, put the unions in the same category with trusts. The labor bosses seek to control the labor market by preventing "scabs," men who will not submit to their dictation, from securing employment. The trust magnate's game is to combine all those engaged in any one line of business, under his manipulation. Should any institution possess sufficient independence to refuse to enter the combination, it is treated as are the scabs. Both seek a monopoly, for the purpose of practicing extortion on the public.

The latest device is for employers and employees to unite, ascertain how much their customers, unorganized citizens generally, have and take it all. In Chicago the coal dealers and draymen originated this method of robbery, which has extended to the other trades and other cities. In the current issue of McClure, Roy Stannard Baker tells in a most entertaining manner how these brigands operate in San Francisco. There no man in any independent calling is given a show for his financial life.

Of course, the system is being carried too far, and time will rectify the evil, as it does all others that go to such extremes. But it is an injustice to blame the labor unions. They were organized for sorely needed protection and have developed into engines of oppression, as all other human institutions do that acquire great power, without responsibility. They are merely an exemplification of the spirit of the age, a desire to get the best of it, to give our neighbor and the rest of the world the worst of it, without regard to equity, in defiance of moral and civil law.

Until within recent years, this condition of affairs, so far as comparatively modern times is concerned, has been of slow growth; but during the past half dozen years it has sprung, apparently, full grown into a national danger. Its first assumed tangible form was when the New England manufacturers forced upon our government the protective tariff policy. Later a few shrewd manipulators persuaded the government to build and pay for transcontinental railroads for themselves. Then the financiers worked the greatest graft of all, in the demonization of silver. This was followed by the so-called industrial trusts, and now we are confronted with the labor union trust. These are the big fish in the puddle with a myriad of smaller ones, similar in character and differing only in size.

It is a manifestation of the nature of the human beast let loose, of course, but laws were intended to be a restraint against human proclivities, a protection of society against itself, and one need not necessarily

be a pessimist to believe that the time has come for government, state or national, to correct these grievous abuses, or else the days of this republic of ours are numbered.

## STRANGE HISTORY OF THE FOUNDER OF SMITHSONIAN.

In charge of Professor Alexander Graham Bell, the body of James Smithson, founder of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., is on its way to New York from Gibraltar. It is due in New York about January 20.

James Smithson was the natural son of Hugh, first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth, niece of the Duke of Somerset, a lineal descendant of Henry VII. He became a wanderer, visited this country, and when he died at Genoa, Italy, in 1829, he left his entire fortune, amounting to \$500,000, to the government of the United States "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

It had been Smithson's boast that his name would remain known among men when the titles of Northumberland and Percy who were his ancestors, were extinct and forgotten. Smithson's legacy to the United States was brought to this country by Richard Rush sixty five years ago. The money was brought in one hundred and five bags, each containing one thousand gold sovereigns. As a result of the investment of that fund there has grown up in Washington an institution which, in addition to the income of \$50,000 from Smithson's legacy, expends each year \$450,000.

It came to the attention of Professor Alexander Graham Bell about a year ago that Smithson's body was about to be disturbed. The cemetery in Genoa, where it was buried, was to give way to a marble quarry, and the idea of bringing his body to America was set forth. The matter was thus brought to the attention of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

As a result of the action taken by the board of regents, Professor Bell sailed for Europe about a month ago. He superintended the disintering of Smithson's body.—Exchange.

## Mining Methods in 1561.

A magazine entitled "Out West" has unearthed from some library a copy of a Latin book written in 1561 by one Agricola, in which many things learned and interesting concerning mineralogy and mining are set forth, together with numerous very old fashioned wood cuts. The editor undertakes to praise these sixteenth century miners to the detraction of the men who have made the business of mining famous in the present day by their mechanical appliances. It may be true that the principles of the suction pump, the windlass and other fundamental mining machinery was known in the sixteenth century, but it is absolutely unfair to detract from the complete and especially constructed engines of today by any such comparisons, for mechanical enterprise has made more progress in the last century than in 2,000 years before that day, and mining machinery has kept pace with the rest, likewise the allied sciences of geology and mineralogy. Agricola might have been all right in his day, but he could not hold a miner's candle to some of our present day authors and progress we make in the mining business. The western editor had better stick to facts and avoid comparisons which do not compare. —Mining World.