

# SECESSION TALK RIFE IN GRANT CO.

## Want Certain Districts That Are Tributary Annexed to Baker County

Both the Baker City papers have taken up the matter of annexing to Baker county the several mining districts now included in Grant county, but which are necessarily tributary to Sumpter, owing to the topography of the country as well as the geography of county lines.

The Democrat quotes a number of the prominent residents of the districts so situated as being violently in favor of the proposition.

The Herald has much to say on the subject in recent issues. Last evening it published an alleged interview with the editor of The Miner, which an irresponsible attache of this paper dares to reproduce during his temporary absence from the office, knowing the while that it will offend that dictator around this shop. But he ought to be here attending to business himself, instead of leaving it to a subordinate. The Herald says:

Thomas Garlie Gwynne, the brainy editor of the Sumpter Daily Miner, one of the newest little newspapers published in any town the size of Sumpter in Oregon, is down today from the hills.

"What's all this I hear about secession in Grant county?" he asked.

"Why is the whichness of this big noise? What has Grant county ever done to the Herald that you should lambast her and throw dire threats in the way of robbing her of a big chunk of land? Let me in on the inside of this thing. I am all ears but my feet."

"Peace," said the Herald editor. "Peace be with you. War has not yet been declared. The miners and the mining camp merchants of the north end of Grant county want what they want. In view of the fact that they are entitled to something they haven't got, it is but natural that the Herald should make known their wants and announce itself as willing that they should want things."

"Thank you," said the Sumpter journalist. "You are as plain and coherent as a diplomatic note. Listen, Alamo, Granite and Greenhorn, likewise Susanville, are undoubtedly isolated. They are in close connection with the county seat of their county only by wireless. They are compelled to undergo hardships in making necessary journeys from their cloud-kissing hills to Canyon City. This is to be regretted and if it can be remedied, everybody—even the sheepherders of Grant county—should help toward that end. But why Alamo, Granite, Greenhorn and

Susanville? Why this invidious distinction? The camps mentioned are not the only open cuts on the ledge.

"Take a map of the Sumpter mining district—What's that? O, all right—the Baker county mining district—and trace the line which meanders along the heaven-climbing granite divide between Cable Cove and Lake creek, ten miles as the crow flies, from Sumpter. This line is the Grant county line. It was located by some one with a predilection for Mazama work. He only wanted to hit the high places. He put the boundary line where no one could conveniently cut it down and coil it up. He strung it up above the timber line where only the clouds and Tom Gray ever go, except on compulsion. The Crown Point mine tunnel starts in Baker county and is now in Grant county. The Uncle Sam tunnel starts in Grant county and the breast is in Baker county. Miners in the Crown Point and Uncle Sam never pay poll tax. When the assessors come around they simply move forward or back as the case may be.

"Every miner in Cable Cove, Lake Creek, La Bellevue, Monumental, Crane Flat and contiguous districts, trade in Sumpter. When they are compelled to go to Canyon City via Granite, they climb over two or three dizzy-pinnacled summits, stage it from Granite to Sumpter, rail it from Sumpter to Whitney, stage it from Whitney to Prairie (except over that portion of the road which compels walking) and finally then enter upon the last stage of their journey from Prairie to Canyon by stage, if they have any money left, and by hand if they are broke. It takes three days to make the trip under favorable conditions, and costs enough to keep an automobile and steam yacht in commission for a week.

"If by any hook or crook there is going to be any county division, Cable Covers and Lake creekers want to get into the game. They need it; they are entitled to it, and they will probably get it.

"The real proper way to settle the question would be to move the county seat of Baker county from Baker City to Sumpter, and then add Cable Cove, Lake Creek, the La Bellevue, the North Fork of the John Day region, all of Granite, Alamo, Greenhorn and Susanville and settle down to make a greater Baker county.

"I am well aware, however, that

this arrangement would not meet with your unqualified endorsement, so I merely suggest the matter; I do not urge it."

### MCPHEE SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO SUMPTER

The Miner received a letter today from J. M. McPhee, dated [at El Paso, Texas, February 2, in which he states that he expects to return to Sumpter within from two to four weeks.

He states that the eastern officials of the Golden Wizard have written, urging him to return here and take charge of the mine again. To this request he replied that he would do so on one condition; that his authority, so far as dictating the work done at the property is concerned, should be absolute, without interference. His return depends on whether or not this demand is complied with to the letter.

Mr. McPhee intimates that some tinhorn experts have been hammering him during his absence, and he is anxious to get back and face them, declaring that the Golden Wizard is a mine and he will make it a producer if the stockholders will let him alone.

As every one knows, there has been considerable talk here, to the effect that the gentleman left here under some sort of a cloud, no one ever mentioning the nature thereof. President Miller says he has been in constant communication with him.

Mr. McPhee requests The Miner to inform his friends here that the baby, on account of whose ill health he left, is much better and entire recovery is hoped for.

### BONDED TO EASTERNS

Roy H. Clarke, of the engineering firm of Juessen & Clarke, left this afternoon for Pine, Idaho, where this firm turned the Franklin mine recently to eastern clients. This group of claims was bonded to eastern people through Juessen & Clarke, and Mr. Clarke was retained as superintendent of the property.

According to Mr. Clarke's statements made to a Miner representative, the group includes ten claims, and the eastern people have already begun work with a force of fifty men and contemplate continuous development.

There is something like 1,200 feet of tunnel work done at the Franklin, and there is a ten stamp mill located on the property. Mr. Clarke says it is the policy of the new people to inaugurate vigorous development.

### DAILY FIFTEEN TONS OF CONCENTRATES.

A report from the United Elkhorn, formerly known as the Baisley-Elkhorn, states that the company is now shipping daily fifteen tons of concentrates.

The property is equipped with a five foot Bryan mill, which is steadily operating. Superintendent Fields is exerting every effort to bring the property to the front.



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