# BAKER CITY FIRM WANTS MONOPLY IN MEAT TRADE

## Secret of Its Violent Opposition to Burnt River Farmers Coming to Sumpter.

The Marning Knocker, which is the Controlling the retail trade there, ing finally realized that it made a handy, ever ready hammer to the Burnt river road and ranchers' trade shift its position of opposition, as a preliminary step to coming out strong in advocacy of encouraging that trade. But the Knocker is as devoid of brains as it is of character, so its latest effort places it in even a more embarrasing attitude than was its previous open opposition to the entire enterprise. It now wants to force the Burnt river farmers to sell their produce to dealers only. This is exactly what they will not give a bond to do.

The Miner has given considerable attention to this matter during the past few weeks, and it is worthy of the continued attention which it will receive. The people of Sumpter should understand the situation thoroughly. It is because Baker City has adopted the policy advocated by daily edition of the American-don't forget this fact—that the residents of the Burnt river country are anxious to trace in Sumpter, and if this town pursues it, they will go elsewhere to trade; good road, or no road at all. This is the way one of these farmers, than whom a no more intelligent class of people can be found anywhere, explained the situation to The Miner. He said:

"For years we have taken our farm produce to Baker City for sale. Most of the people there are small farmers themselves. We could only sell our stuff to the merchants, for trade. We had to accept any price they offered, and it was not an uncommon thing for us to have to take it back home. They would either not buy at all, or else would not pay what it was worth to us as food for the famonly human, and if they can get us ready market for beef.

beef business. Of course, we would here. rather drive up in front of a meat market and sell out in one transacrather than sell to a dozen different people. The manager of the Sumpter Meat market says he offered us a half Miner? cent more than we were selling at. He didn't do anything of the kind; it was a half a cent less. You see, this Sumpter Meat market is owned by the Baker City firm that is seeking here for several years, and left for to monopolize the meat business of Mexico last spring, to take charge of eastern Oregon. They control every a mine for a Seattle syndicate, arthing in Baker City, and will here if rived in town today. He says the

daily edition of the American, have they also control the price of beef on the hoof, being the only buyers. business blunder in applying its Their purpose is to dictate both the buying and selling price of beef. It is not because we sold a few beeves proposition, this morning endeavored here, that the manager of the Sumpto square itself with this town, to ter branch has made such a kick and endeavored to work up a boycott against The Miner, but because he knows that it Sumpter and Bourne furnish us " market for our beef, his firm can'. longer force us to sell to it, at its own price. In this connection, tell the people this: That as this firm has progressed in its efforts to obtain a monopoly, the price paid to the farmer has decreased and the price charged the consumer has increased-and so it will ever be.

"But this is not the worst feature of the monopoly, so far as we are concerned. They buy only fat cattle. They buy only as they need the beef, force the stockmen to keep their beef cattle fat for months, feeding away our hay and our profits. They have had a cinch, have worked the Morning Knock, which is the it to the limit and are whining because Sumpter is giving us an even break. We will save the people of this town many dollars during the course of a year in the price of farm products, by eliminating freight charges from distant points, if they will stay with us on this meat deal, so that we can get a fair price for our cattle. And the merchants of the town, in every line, will also be the gainers, for we buy a whole lot of goods, of one kind and another. to a farmer. Arriving at the age of Furthermore, if they wish to handle our other stuff, a relatively small and "freedom suit" for his services, item, there will be no trouble on that score."

Now, every reader will recognize the good sense and justice of these remarks. On the other hand, the prosperity of Sumpter is not wrapped the lucky finder of a rich mine. The up to the Sumpter Meat market, this branch bouse of a Baker City monopily. The merchants of Sumpter are oly. It is a detriment to the town, in fact; it doesn't even pay out the in the same box, they will apply the wages for slaughtering here. It pays screws to us in the same way. After the rent of ope room, the wages of a years of this kind of treatment, we manager who is noisily, persistently were driven largely into the stock working against the interests of business, thinking we could secure a Sumpter, and of the driver of a delivery wagon. It draws from Sump-"Now let me tell you about this ter ten dollars for every one it brings

Does any resident of Sumpter, who has the interest of the town at heart, tion, if we can get a fair price, feel it encumbent upon himself to toady to this concern, to give it his money, to aid it in its boycott of The

#### C. F. Raht Back From Mexico.

C. F. Ruht, who was an assayer the people perhit them to do so. Mexican mining venture has proved a success, but eastern Oregon, all things considered, is good enough for him. Mrs. Raht did not accompany bim to Mexico, but remained in Seattle, from which point Mr. Raht has just come. He will resume business either here or in Baker

## **ALAMO OFFICERS** ARE WELL PLEASED

The party of Alamo officers who went out to the property the other day returned this morning, and left for Spokane on this afternoon's train. They were, N. E. Nuzum, vice president, J. R. Casin, secretary and treasurer, T. D. Trenholm and M. C. Dunne, directors.

A meeting was held while they were at the mine but no changes were decided upon. The officers express themselves as highly satisfied with the management and the operation of the new mill.

### **WORK AT THE AUBURN PLACERS**

Joe Reed, superintendent of the Auburn Deep Mining company, will leave Monday to look after the work at the company's placers, operated near Auburn. The machinery was the times how far demand for copper started up the early part of the week, and operations resumed in accordance with the plans previously outlined in The Miner. The new policy of the company is to be carried out as speedily as possible.

#### ROMANCE OF EARLY MINING DAYS IN CALIFORNIA

The news of the serious illness of Alvinza Hayward, the aged San Francisco capitalist, will recall another romance of the mines.

Mr. Hayward was born in Northern New York. His father died when he was quite young, and as his mother was unable to support him be was, in the custom of the day, "bound out" and went as far west as Minnesots, where he married. The California gold fever soon swept him further west, where, toiling with pick and spade he was, after much bardship, rest was easy.

Mr. Hayward was associated with Flood, O'Brien, Mackay and Fair in

certain mining ventures, and his fortune was not far behind theirs.

So long as the farmer lived to whom Mr. Hayward was "bound" in youth, he made frequent trips to the east to visit his old home and stir the minds of farm youngsters by tales of wonderful things in the land of gold. -- Exchange.

### YOUNG ROCKFELLER CUT HIS EYE TEETH ON COPPER.

The Spokesman-Review's Wall street correspondent writes: The prediction made in this paper several weeks ago that the price of crude copper would work lower, alleged to come from a prominent man identified with the Amalgamated company, was the opinion of William G. Rockefeller, the treasurer, and it came true to the letter.

Mr. Rockefeller has passed through s varied experience in copper and has unquestionably "cut his eye teeth." He has at his command all the experts that the country affords and although he found that copper could not be held at 16 % or 17 cents, he has discovered some things that can be done. It is said that the active management is now largely in his hands, sithough H. H. Rogers took a principal part when the price dropped from the high level and the fight hegan in earnest.

William G. Rockefeller knows the copper business from the standpoint of the mining expert and assayer. He is a close student of the business situation and can read in the signs of is likely to improve or fall off. He is the son of William Rockefeller, and while he does not make a specialty of Sunday school Bible classes, as does his cousin, John D. Rocke-

feller, Jr., he can give the latter

many points on practical affairs.

WILLIAM WELLS ELMER

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