

The Sumpter Miner

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER

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J. W. CONNELLA
T. G. GWYNNE, EDITOR

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The secretary of the treasury has officially decided, after an exhaustive study, to determine the rate at which frog's legs when imported from Canada should be taxed under the Dingley tariff law, that they shall go as poultry. The question arises, if frog's legs are poultry, is a bull frog a rooster?

In some of the French forests a platinum wire kept at a white heat by an electric current has been employed instead of a saw for felling trees. It is claimed that by this plan a tree can be felled in one-eighth of the time required by the old sawing method. The entire absence of sawdust and the beneficial effect of the slight carbonization of the ends of the cut timber in preserving the wood are reckoned as decided advantages.

That a senator from the little two by four state of Connecticut, the people of which are endowed with mental vision as small and narrow as their state, can reach across the continent and enforce their puritanical ideas on Oregon is an irritating proposition. It was United States Senator Platt, of Connecticut who forced the amendment to the Lewis and Clark exposition appropriation bill, requiring that the show be closed on Sundays, making a sort of church fair out of the enterprise.

Wall street operators have been detected in a scheme to learn the decision of the Supreme court in the Northern merger case, before it is made public, for speculative purposes. Their plan was to bribe subordinates of the court to reveal the information in advance. Another Wall street operator, who was refused admittance to this syndicate of bribery, informed one of the judges of the enterprise. As a result no stenographer, typewriter or other clerk will be permitted to do any work connected with compiling this decision, and the opinion will be written by one of the Supreme court judges.

There is an effort on foot to secure the passage of a bill proposing to endow and support schools or departments of mining in the several states in connection with state agricultural colleges, at the present session of congress.

The pending measure proposes to create a fund from the moneys derived from the sale of public lands in all states which are not benefitted by the national act. From this fund it is proposed to pay \$10,000 to each state and territory for the current year for the purpose of establishing schools or departments of mining.

This appropriation of \$1,000 over the grant of the preceding year, until the amount to be paid thereafter to each state and territory becomes \$20,000.

Beginning March 1, the Union Pacific will resume running regularly at intervals of a few days homeseekers excursions. Many thousands of people will be brought west from the east and the Mississippi valley, looking for locations to establish themselves in business and invest in property. These excursionists will be given stopover tickets wherever desired. They will all pass through Baker county, and unless some effort is made to attract their attention and interest, they will merely pass through; none of them will stop and invest a dollar here. This is a great opportunity for Sumpter and Baker City to unite and do some beneficial work for this county, but so indifferent are the people here, possessed of so little public spirit, that The Miner feels that it is useless to suggest that if a representative were stationed at Shoshone, Idaho, and supplied with good literature, presenting the advantages offered by this section to settlers, business men and investors, for distribution on these excursion trains, it would be of vast material benefit, directly so to individuals.

Over at Rathdrum, Idaho, the local attorneys are lying awake nights, trying to devise some scheme whereby outside lawyers can not practice in the courts of that county. Their central idea is to make residence a necessary qualification. This idea is not original with the Idaho pettifoggers; they are merely adapting it to their profession. The brilliant plan to shut out rivals through some rule of law or legislation was first conceived in the commercial world, and took tangible form in the protective tariff. Now, every business and profession is endeavoring to work the graft. Over in Washington the dentists secured the passage of a law that makes it practically impossible for a new man to settle there, unless the "board of examiners" arbitrarily so will it. The doctors lobbied through a bill barring out the disciples of certain schools of medicine. Down in California, resident members of both of these learned professions are securely protected from "outside competition." In Chicago the great Dr. Lorenz, who came all the way from Vienna to operate on the little cripple Armour girl, was fined \$30 for "practicing medicine without a license." And this is the spirit of the age.

Prince Cupid, the congressional delegate from Hawaii, finds the affairs of state at Washington too weighty, and, moreover, he complains of a lack of consideration on the part of the president, members of congress and the various departments. He threatens to resign, and wants the job of delegate to the republican national convention at Chicago. Prince Cupid was sent to Washington with misgivings by the influential men of Hawaii. He was nominated for delegate as a republican, although acknowledged as a home rule leader at heart, every white man there recognizes the limitations of the delegate. For this reason business men and planters made up a fund and agreed to pay \$5,000 a year for a secretary to the delegate, provided a lawyer and a man competent to give advice was chosen. Cupid was willing to accept the offer of salary to his sec-

retary, but he could not agree as to the man. He refused to take any one but a native, and the business men and planters would not agree that there was any Hawaiian capable of holding the place. So there was a parting of the ways, and the delegate took along a young native, with no particular qualifications for the place.

From down Goldfield, Nevada, way comes a wail so familiar to Oregon ears that it almost seems to be an infringement on our copyright. Goldfield is the new gold camp about twenty-five miles south of Tonopah. A few weeks since free milling rock running as high as \$600 was uncovered less than ten feet from the surface, there being four feet of it. In several other places rich ore was found at the grass roots, \$200 being the minimum value. These discoveries don't create enough excitement to suit the press correspondents there, who verify the reports in detail. They say Nevada has been hoodooed as a mining state for a dozen years past; that if such discoveries were made in Colorado, Montana, or California the local people would go wild, that there would be a great stampede from the outside; but nothing of the kind occurs there. The same here, friends. Within a half dozen miles of Sumpter ore bodies have been opened up that went \$50,000 in gold and there wouldn't be four people go out to look at the dump—an event that would call for special excursion train for hundreds of miles around in Colorado. There is surely something in this mining hoodoo business.

It is reported from New York that John D. Rockefeller's bank made Russia the loan that enabled the Czar to go to war with Japan. This was disclosed after actual hostilities had begun. The Standard Oil company is understood to have secured the good will of Russia in connection with oil concessions as part of the consideration for the transaction. President James Stillman is the man who engineered the delicate deal. It was after the Czar had appealed to the Rothschilds and had been repulsed because of Kishinef atrocities that the City bank became interested. In order that the public might be kept in the dark as long as possible, the loan was handled for the Czar by the Imperial bank of St. Petersburg and was made to look like an ordinary commercial transaction. With almost the single exception of the City bank, New York downtown banks are in open sympathy with Japan. Banks with Oriental connections were receiving contributions all day from Japanese and their friends for the use of Red Cross society in connection with the war. Rockefeller is evidently making a big play for absolute control of Russian oil interests and the case will probably go on record as one of the Standard's greatest manipulations. Russia may also have been playing its game in repulsing Standard control in that country a few months ago.

Forty-five years ago, says the Spokesman-Review, Oregon was admitted into the Union as a state. In 1848 Oregon had been made a territory, and included within its limits what has since become the state of Washington. When Joseph Lane, the first governor of the territory, arrived and organized the territorial administration the population was less than 9,000. For many years afterward the growth was slow. The

Pacific coast was then a remote section of the country, and had it not been for the gold discoveries in California, which brought thousands to the far west, it is doubtful if there would have been any notable advance for a quarter of a century or more.

The Rogue river mining excitement attracted many people to the western part of Oregon forty years ago, and gradually the Willamette valley began to fill up with people who appreciated its marvelous fertility; but it was not until the advent of railroads that the state began to note a substantial increase in population. In the last fifteen years the growth of Oregon has been solid and satisfactory. Thousands of people have settled upon its rich farming lands, east and west of the Cascade mountains, and the growth of its cities and towns has been in keeping with the advance of its rural communities. Like Washington, it is a state of magnificent resources, and only the first chapter in the story of its development has been reached

GIRL RIDES 75 MILES TO TAKE TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

Miss Retta Andrews, a teacher now attending the examination at the courthouse, rode 75 miles on horseback through a blinding snowstorm, for two days, to reach this city, in time to take the examination, and be enabled to teach school the coming year.

She is a resident of Umatilla county, near Dale, and should have taken the examination at Prairie City, having taught in Grant county, but the mountain roads were almost impassable, and as she was determined not to be defeated in her purpose to teach, she saddled up her horse and started for Pendleton in a driving snowstorm, traveled two days over the rough roads of the interior and reached this city in time to begin at the first of the examination.

She has been teaching at Ritter, in Grant county, 80 miles south of this city, is a proficient instructor, and has held a second grade certificate. She is very modest in giving her account of the long and perilous trip and speaks of it as if it were only an ordinary occurrence.

She will return home at the close of the examination, as she came, and thinks nothing of the fact that she made a trip that would cause strong men to think twice before attempting it.

The road from Dale to Pendleton leads over the spur of the Blue mountains, is a rough, uneven, hilly, mountainous highway, and only an Oregon girl inured to hardships, determined in her aspirations, and brave beyond compare, would have attempted the trip, in the middle of the winter, in the face of a blinding snowstorm that threatened to blockade the trails and roads at any time. —East Oregonian.

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