

The Sumpter Miner

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Reports say that the skeleton of a human being supposed to be between 200 to 300 years old, has been found under a giant fir on the grounds of A. M. Hunt at Gin Harbor, near Tacoma. The tree is three feet in diameter and the skeleton is believed to have been buried centuries ago and the tree planted on the grave.

A bimetallic dollar is now being discussed in print throughout the country. It is proposed to mint a coin of that value, composed of fifteen cents worth of silver and eighty-five cents worth of gold. In size it would be between that of a silver quarter and a half. All kinds of advantages are claimed for such a piece of money; the main one being its sanitary value, the germs that are said to lurk in paper currency being thus eliminated. The matter was once brought to the attention of congress by Alexander H. Stephens when he was a member of that body, but the civil war came on and it was dropped.

During the first three months of the current calendar year, according to Dunn's Review, the number of business failures in this country was 3,344, with liabilities amounting to \$48,000,000, against 3,200 failures with liabilities aggregating \$34,000,000 for the corresponding period of last year. Examination of these figures in detail shows, however, that the situation is not as bad as it looks on its face. The increase in the number of failures and the amount of liabilities is due chiefly to the suspension of fire insurance companies, cotton brokers and kindred concerns. Among the manufacturers there was scarcely any increase in the number of failures, or in liabilities, and the same is substantially true of merchants. Considering the recent falling off in business, the prevalence of strikes and the frenzied speculation in cotton, coffee and wheat, in which a multitude of business men other than brokers joined, this showing is far from discouraging.

The mercantile agencies of Portland have during recent months adopted the plan of sending circulars of inquiry to a half dozen or more people in a town, asking about the commercial standing of some business man there. The information requested is of a detailed nature and cannot be secured without going to considerable trouble, and much of it can only be supplied by the business man himself. No remuneration is offered or paid for this work, and it is a sure thing that it is worth no more than it costs. A rating based on information acquired in this way is necessarily of no value. It is a bad practice in other ways; a knocker can thus do a personal enemy an irreparable wrong, and on the other hand, a partisan of the business man could easily get up a report that would deceive the wholesaler to whom the rating is prepared, in

throw the the gaff into him a plenty. The whole system is of the cheap John, shoddy variety and should be suppressed.

Says the Baker City Herald: "The periodically recurrent reports that the Sumpter smelter will start up in a few days are not at all warranted by the fact that all the former officials of the smelter company are leaving Baker county for other fields. Yesterday J. P. Richards, who for a long time has been head carpenter of the smelter, passed through Baker City en route to Grand Encampment, Wyoming, to accept a position with a smelter plant there, of which Carr B. Neel, formerly superintendent of the smelter at Sumpter, is general manager."

The Herald is ill advised in the premises. The fact that Mr. Neel and Mr. Richards have found employment elsewhere has nothing whatever to do with the smelter's starting up. The matter of operation hinges on an ore purchasing fund sufficiently large to warrant a continuous supply. The local management asked for this. The eastern stockholders sent a smelter expert here to see if conditions justified the granting of such request, and it is understood that this fund has been recommended. The leaving of a couple of employes when the plant was idle and their services not required, in no way figures in the situation. The smelter will undeniably run this summer.

Cautiously the Portland Journal advocates the government ownership of public utilities; cautiously evidently because it has not the courage of its conviction. Its superficial thought on the subject has led it to believe that such a system would be advantageous to the public at large, but it does not care to antagonize the powerful corporations that now control these utilities.

Doubtless some benefits would result were they transferred from private to government ownership; but one great injury would be inflicted that would more than offset all the good which could possibly be accomplished. This has been concisely stated in this way: "It would enable an administration to perpetuate itself." Should our federal government, for instance, take charge of the railroads and other transportation facilities; municipal authorities get control of street car lines, water, light and telephone companies, the great numbers of men necessary to operate these concerns, all voters under the constitution, added to the thousands of appointive officers in the already existing governmental departments, would be sufficient to decide any election, and it would be impossible for any opposition to dislodge the administration in control. This would effectually end our republican form of government. To argue that these employes would not necessarily vote for the party through which they hold their bread winning positions, would be to deny a characteristic of human nature that the ages have not nor cannot change. This objection does not, of course, apply to European monarchies.

Another reason against the system is that the public is better served through private companies than it would be by the government. Your advocates of the plan will deny this assertion, and cite a few isolated instances to prove their case; but the preponderance of evidence is all the other way. As a matter of fact, the history of the civilized world is very largely a series of proofs of the un-

wisdom, the bungling incompetence of governmental officialdom. The mere fact that private corporations are allowed to abuse government granted privileges, to impose hardships and extortions upon the public, from which they derive their franchises, is proof of this statement.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the Baker county court house during the week ending April 19, 1904.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

April 8—I. K. Clark et al to Mrs. S. M. Woodford, lot 15 block 1, Mill and to Sumpter; \$500.

March 6, '01—Jno. Clement and wife to P. F. Shaw, 83 acres in N. W. ¼ Sec. 17 T. 10 R. 40 E.; \$1,000.

April 14—Isidor Fuchs to Alexander Clo. Co., bill of sale to all chattels in "Togger", Baker City; \$1.

April 8—D. S. Morrison to C. H. McColloch, all property for benefit of creditors; \$1.

April 6—W. H. White and wife to E. Hammel, 370 acres in Secs. 27 and 34 T. 10 R. 41 E.; \$1,250.

April 5—Ira B. Sturges and wife to Mary A. Bayliss, lots 22 and 23 block 3 Stewart's add to Baker City; \$150.

Oct. 30, '01—V. A. Usher and husband to Jas. P. Wilson, lots 4 and 5, Usher's South add to Rebland; \$180.

April 6,—Jas. P. Wilson and wife to O. Kendall, same as last above, \$600.

Sept. 3, '02—Fanny O' Rourke and husband to Agnes Foster, lots 1 and 2 block 9, syndicate's 1st add to Sumpter; \$125.

April 12—Harry G. Nelson and wife to Amelia Smith, 88x247 feet in S. E. ¼ Sec. 20 T. 9 R. 40 E.; \$800.

April 14—Jno. Wilson and wife and Emma Case and husband to Mrs. A. Meade and M. Lynch, 320 acres in Secs. 24, and 27, T. 10 R. 37 E.; \$2,000.

March 19—J. B. Fryer and wife to M. Lynch, 160 acres in Secs. 22 and 27 T. 10 R. 37 E.; \$1,000.

March 23—Eugene A. Case and wife to Mrs. A. Mead, 160 acres in Sec. 28 T. 10 R. 37 E.; \$1,000.

May 7, '03—Receiver to P. J. Soards, S. E. ¼ Sec. 13 Tp. 11 R. 38 E.; \$400.

April 4—P. J. Soards to Wm. Kelly, W. ½ S. E. ¼ Sec. 13 Tp. 11 R. 38 E.; \$1.

March 3—F. S. Lack and wife to Wm. S. Blackman, block 40, Livingston addition to Baker City; \$1.

March 15—M. Hoff and wife to J. N. H. Eichner, lot 9 and 10 block 37, Pacific add to Baker City; \$50.

March 19—R. P. Anderson et al to S. E. Rhine, lots 4 to 9 block 1, 012, add to Hines; \$30.

July 3, '02—U. S. to Rudolf Guyer, W. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 20 T. 9 R. 45 E.

April 7—Perry Lewis and wife to K. H. Bennett, lot 1 block 18 B & McComas addition; \$165.

MINING MATTERS.

DEEDS.

March 10—Jas. F. Laue and wife to Cracker Eagle G. M. Co., Pearl quartz claim; \$1.

FIXING GRANITE ROAD FOR TRAVEL

An attempt will be made tomorrow to get the Granite road in shape for travel. Seven span of horses with wagons will leave Granite early in the morning headed in this direction. It will probably take two days to make the trip.

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