

## PLUG HAT MINER, BEWARE OF HIM

### Western Mining Man Can't Afford to "Take a Fake Mining Proposition East."

Congressman Van Duzer, of Nevada, has been giving Washington people some interesting talks anent mining conditions in the west, one of his topics being the "Plug Hat Miner."

The "Yellow Legged Expert" has been the butt of many a good-natured joke throughout the mining camps of the west; but, like the tenderfoot or the young man, age and experience will remedy defects to which he was born heir; but the "Plug Hat Miner" - the Lord deliver the unsuspecting public from his graft!

We know full well that the investing public of the east have been robbed right and left in matters pertaining to mining, and that many investors have good cause, or think they have, to feel sore against the mining industry, for they have been induced to buy mining stock that was not worth the paper it was printed upon; they have been talked into buying into mines which really had no existence, and they have been betrayed in almost every manner and form by swindling agents who were after their money and nothing else. As a matter of fact, they have been "taken in" by the "Plug Hat Miner," by the slick, smooth talker, who, perhaps, never saw a mine in his life, and who could not tell the difference between high grade ore and country rock, if he had a specimen of both in his hands.

It is the "Plug Hat Miner" who comes out west, secures a claim or group of claims in some mining camp, and, no matter whether or not they are possessed of merit, he makes them the basis of an incorporated company, the stock of which he feeds out to "suckers" at wholesale, and at almost any price, his statements and promises being of such a nature that the honest mining man could hardly contemplate them without his cheeks being colored with the tinge of shame.

But, as a fool is born every minute the field for the "Plug Hat Miner" is a wide one and his profits are always large. He gets the money, but the mining industry of the west has to bear the brunt, the ignominy of his rascality.

It is very rare, indeed, that a true western man, an experienced mining operator, ever goes east with a fake mining proposition. If our eastern readers ever meet with a person representing himself to be a western mining man, and if he sports a plug hat, "pass him up," for, in nine times out of ten, he is a rascal of out for suckers. The true mining man, however, can be told by his dress, by his walk and by his talk. He will be able to tell something about the property he represents, of the formation of the district, of the character and value of the ores of his mine, of the amount of work done in its development and exploration, and his bearing will be such that one will feel at once that confidence can be reposed in him. He is ready to deliver the goods, and is not a dealer in hot air, for he well knows that

any misrepresentation he may make will have to be explained upon his return home and that the future welfare of the mining industry depends upon the integrity and fair dealing of those who are legitimately engaged in the fascinating occupation.

The "Plug Hat Miner" has no care for the future. If he can hold up a victim today, he is satisfied.

Tomorrow he will go through the pockets of another, and when his territory is worked he will seek greener fields. Shun him as you would his satanic majesty!— Salt Lake Mining Review.

## ROAST FOR ONE KIND OF PROMOTER

### He Who Sloughs Off His Stock Worse Than Cut- Throaters or Mining Exchanges.

J. H. Le Compte, of Springfield, Missouri, writes The Miner on a subject that deserves consideration by mining men and mining papers everywhere. He thinks, and rightly too, that the promoter who sells his individual stock in competition with the treasury, is a worse enemy to legitimate mining than either the cut-rate broker or the thimble-rigging mining stock exchange. Here is what he says on that interesting subject:

"I notice with pleasure that The Miner is making a valiant fight on the cut-throat broker and mining exchanges. I do not believe, however, that the broker is as bad as usually represented, at least not by any means as bad as the mining exchanges.

"But the worst one of them all, in my view, is the scoundrelly promoter who throws his stock on the market while his company is still selling its treasury stock. This is the most reprehensible business of it all. The broker could scarcely get hold of any stock if stockholders were not eager to realize, even at a sacrifice. This condition of dissatisfaction is brought about in most cases by the aforesaid promoter, who butts into the market as soon as he sees a chance to realize a profit, thus embarrassing the company and causing other stockholders to lose faith and hope. This cannot be denied.

"It is being done continually and by men who pose as honest and upright. Mr. Godfrey tells us that this is exactly what put the Red Boy in its present predicament. It is this, too, which has given the Golconda a decidedly black eye.

"I want to see the promoter, who by his standing in his community, invites people to join in his enterprise, then turns and sells out before the company is financed, lashed as a common malefactor, because it is a moral wrong and an irreparable injury to the business of mining and especially to the company in which he is interested."

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