

The Sumpter Miner

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The Santa Fe's defense in a damage suit brought by certain shippers, to recover for the loss of a car load of eggs in a flood, was that the damage was caused by an act of God, and therefore, since the Almighty could not be held responsible as the first cause, the railroad company should not be.

Schmidt's law for finding a faulted vein is usually enunciated as follows: If a dislocation or fault is struck on its hanging wall, it must be passed through and the driving continued towards the hanging wall side of the faulted lode. If the footwall of the fault is struck, it must be passed through and the driving continued towards the footwall of the faulted vein.

The story is now being printed that Homer Davenport's talent as a cartoonist had its source in ante-natal causes. It is related that prior to his birth his mother was greatly interested in the work of Thomas Nast, when he won world wide fame through his work on Harper's Weekly; that it became a passion with her and the artist's genius was thus transmitted to her son. You may believe this or not, just as you please.

There is only one woman coal miner in Missouri, says an exchange, and she has but one arm. Miss Minnie Petrie began to work in the mine of her nephew, Theodore Petrie, near Fulton, a few years ago, because he could not get as many men as he wanted. The first day she worked she wore feminine clothes, but finding them unsuitable, the next day she wore an old suit of her nephew's and attired in men's clothes, she has been digging coal ever since. She is fifty years old.

Over in Butte, a Methodist minister, who for years had gained but small support from the church, living a more or less hand to mouth existence, decided to try his luck at something else. He turned gambler, and now is living on the fat of the land. While it is perhaps true that this man did not contact a true case of religion in the first place, or he would not have made such a radical change in his business, it is also true that soul-savers as a general proposition are poorly paid. It may be they get all they are worth, but the fault of the system is that there are too many preachers. What is needed is some sort of church merger to combine the interests of salvation, cut down the number of churches, hire only the best ministerial talent and pay good salaries.

The platform adopted by New York democrats is entirely satisfactory to republicans and fits the New York candidate for the presidency like the paper on the wall. No one knows what Judge Parker's views on national issues are and the principles enunciated by his political friends in this platform interfere with no

man's opinions, for they can be construed in any old way.

Of course, for thirty years past, as every one knows, most political platforms have been constructed insincerely, with the view to getting votes, to placate various powerful interests, mere baits to catch fish; but some effort has been made, with more or less skill, to conceal the hook therein. But those near-sighted, narrow provincials, the New York democrats, still labor under the mistaken impression that all the people can be fooled all the time, and make no attempt to cloak their purpose with honesty.

Judge Parker will never receive the full vote of the democratic party, for those who believe in the wisdom of the Chicago and Kansas City platforms, the two notable exceptions to the general rule of making such instruments mere vote traps, can not conscientiously support him and will be justified in bolting.

It looks decidedly as if congress would get out of law-making and into politics by the first of May, says the Seattle Times. This is contrary to all precedent, for this is the "long term" of congress and should last until midsummer. To bring about such a result the republican leaders have determined to sit upon all appropriations and thus cut off a great deal of work and a great deal of talk that would otherwise occur. This may be all right from the standpoint of politics, but it is all wrong from the standpoint of what is best for the country. There is no business sense in the proposition that all appropriations must be curtailed during a presidential year, in order to help out the party in power. From the standpoint of right and justice such a course is more hurtful than beneficial. If it be right to appropriate a million dollars for any specific purpose, there is no reason why it should not be appropriated and expended in a presidential year, as well as the next year following. Such "political economy" would never have been sanctioned by Adam Smith, nor any of the modern teachers of that interesting subject in the great universities of the country.

One not familiar with the conditions in both states can scarcely conceive the vast difference between the people of Oregon and Washington; the former unenterprising, indifferent, "mossback", the latter all enterprise, enthusiastic, full of state pride. So far as human happiness is concerned, The Miner would not care to say which attains the end the more completely—or rather which makes the less dismal failure. But so far as the material welfare of the two commonwealths is concerned, there can be no doubt that our northern neighbor is distancing us in the race of progress. This is not a matter of commendation or blame, but merely the citation of a strange, unexplained social phenomena. Being effected by the same environment, climatic and commercial, the natural inference would be that the people would be of practically identical characteristics; but they are not.

The difference is being strikingly illustrated at this time. Over in Washington every county is aflame with political excitement. Members of the same party are sparring for points among themselves, in the interest of favorite candidates; while the managers of the two parties are fighting as if the fate of the republic depended on their efforts. Here in Oregon, all is apathy, lack of interest and don't-care-a-damniteness. This

is not merely because Oregon is safely republican and there is no use in the democrats making an effort; for over in Washington the same condition obtains. It is a difference in temperament of the people, probably the lingering effect of the early environment, that does not exist today.

It is as unfair to charge the mistakes and failures of a mine manager to mining generally as it is to charge the mistakes or crookedness of a defaulting bank cashier to all banking. This is an entirely rational simile. Because one mine manager makes a failure or is too extravagant to admit of a division of net earnings it does not follow that all mining is unsafe or that heads of all mining companies are untrustworthy.

In mining, as in banking or any other business, three essential qualities are to be primarily considered in the man who is placed in a position of trust: honesty, economy and ability, says the Black Hill Mining Review. But it is not enough that a man in a place of trust should be merely legally honest. Lots of men have avoided the penitentiary but have shown the most flagrant disregard for the moral statutes. Their careers have not inspired the confidence of other men, for it is a notorious fact that where a man is dishonest under one circumstance it is not safe to trust him in any other. It is a poor rule to proceed upon the theory that a rogue will treat you with greater integrity than he would any one else.

It is always well for the security of investors to scrutinize the men in to whose keeping they are placing their money, when they go into any business, whether it be mining or manufacturing, banking or railroad-ing. Find out what a man's conscientious tendencies are. This is just as necessary as it is to investigate the enterprise he is leading you into. He should be accountable for every penny given into his custody.

TO START LOGGING OPERATIONS AT ONCE

Grant Geddes, of the Oregon Lumber company, is here today employing men to send to logging camp No. 2, near McEwen to start up operations at once. Eugene Brown, who has charge of this camp, returned yesterday from a visit to Portland, and things will be in readiness for work right away.

Mr. Geddes said he had not set a date for opening up the Whitney camp, but the presumption is that this also will be started at an early date.

THE FAIR ROUTE

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THE PASSING OF THE BURRO

While a great deal is said about the growing use of the automobile and the relegation of the noble horse to the back ground, little sentiment is wasted by mining men over the passing of the faithful burro. Recollections of former exploits in the saddle follow the modern cavalier as he turns chaffeur and speeds over the country roads, skirting the pastures where the cast-out steed reproaches his fickle affections. But the aerial tramway is sending to oblivion, unwept and unsung, the little pack animal whose service to the earlyday miner was great beyond the reach of calculation. His rejection may be said to be typified in a way by the sign of the cross which he bears upon his shoulders and from which the fervent imagination of the Mexican gambustino has derived the traditional belief concerning its Christian origin, a reference to the only ride the man of Nazareth ever took.

Though the burro train in many localities, especially in Mexico, is still an important incident of mining operations, practically the only means of transportation possessed in the early stages of a district's development, the modern miner makes no effort to conceal his desire to be rid of the pack-saddle method altogether and delays as little as possible the opening of wagon roads and the construction of tramways and tunnels to meet his requirements. The abandonment of the old burro trail is one of the first signs of advancement which a mining enterprise in a remote region is apt to offer. And the reason is plain. The burro has to be fed and watched—emphatically, watched! The expense is considerable, compared with the results attained, and the successive improvements which are made in the means of transporting ores from the mine to the mill or smelter or railroad are all designed to lower the cost of production and bring the inferior grades of ore within the range of profitable treatment.

Yet what has the old-time prospector and miner to say about his burro train? In the days when nothing less than \$40 or \$60 or \$100 ore was regarded as ore at all, the burro was the salvation of many a good mining property. In any case wagon roads were not feasible and the aerial tramway had not yet arrived. Besides, the cost per ore ton of maintaining a pack train was not so significant as now in relation to the margin of profit allowed for. So the service which the burro has rendered to the mining industry in the past is not to be lightly considered. In fact, it is up to Tom Walsh or some other old-timer who has made his millions out of the mines to erect somewhere a fitting monument to the burro, even though the burro will never appreciate it.

The Record wonders how Mr. Walsh has forgotten how picturesque the old-time burro train was—and is still, in some localities. And does he recall the exasperating and yet amusing perversity of the big jack that insisted upon lying down after the ore-sacks had been carefully and precisely balanced upon the saddle? They used to rawhide their ores on a large scale in the San Juan. If Mr. Walsh doesn't remember it, he lacks the sentiment we have given him credit for having.—Daily Mining Record.