

The Sumpter Miner

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The Sumpter postoffice has been advanced in class, because of its growth of business. The idea is to hold it there.

As the result of the discovery that a number of sweepers have contracted consumption by inhaling germs. Streetcleaning Commissioner Woodbury, of New York, has begun a medical examination of every employe in his department. Returns thus far indicate that the number afflicted will be about 2,000, about one-third of the total force. Plans are being made to send the sick men to the Adirondacks when the cases are not too far advanced.

The United States is the greatest mineral country in the world. Its production of minerals and metals run over a billion dollars per year, but, strange to relate, its vast surface has yet to yield platinum, tin or nickel in commercial quantities. There is some tin on the Black Hills of South Dakota, some nickel in Pennsylvania, and the sea sands of Oregon have been said to contain platinum, but in each instance these minerals are in such small quantities as to not warrant their exploitation.

The government will probably control all the wireless telegraph systems in operation on the seacoast of the United States. To this end the navy department will shortly place its wireless service at the disposal of newspapers, maritime exchanges, telegraph companies and the general public, for the transmission of news. It is stated that no charge is likely to be made by the government for handling messages. It is urged that this step is necessary toward the exclusive control of coast wireless, in the matter of establishing adequate protection.

An unexpected echo has been heard of the Sully failure. It arose over a pew in St. Bartholomew's church, New York, which was bought by Mr. Sully some time before the collapse of his firm. The deed for the pew reached his office after the receivers took charge and fell into the hands of these officials. Finally, Mr. Sully made inquiry and demanded the document, which he said was exempt. The receivers retained it, however, until device could be secured as to whether the pew was an asset of the cotton plunger. Upon the advice of their counsel, the deed has been held pending the appointment of a trustee in bankruptcy.

Here is a good "summer story," "picked from the waste dump" of the Mining and Engineering Review. Where it originated is not stated:

"J. H. Dingley, of Coeur d'Alene, lately arrived in Missoula with \$7,000 in gold, which he deposited in a local bank. Last year Dingley says he and a companion were hunt-

ing in Shoshone conny, Idaho, when his dog started a bear, which ran into a cave. Dingley crawled into the hole and killed the bear. An inspection of the cave revealed that it was over the mouth of an old mine shaft, and in the shaft was the skeleton of a man, who had evidently been killed by a falling rock. Dingley and his partner relocated the mine and last week sold it to R. H. Kingsberry, of Spokane, for \$14,000. Dingley received as his share half of the sum."

Steel and iron men throughout the world will be interested to learn that James Gayley, vice president of the United States Steel corporation, after a long series of experiments, has practically perfected a new process for making steel, which he believes will greatly reduce the cost of manufacture. For years Mr. Gayley has been working upon the process, and he has now informed his friends that his experiments conducted at the Isabella furnaces in the Pittsburg district, have indicated that the new method will prove a success. It is understood that they have resulted in reducing the moisture of the air applied in the converting of the ore to pig iron and steel. Other new features have also been introduced. Briefly stated, the Gayley process is a modification of the Bessemer process, which revolutionized the iron and steel industry. The process will be applied in the making of pig iron as well as steel. It is understood the process will greatly cheapen the cost of production.

The word day has no real meaning without an adjective defining what kind of a day is meant, for there is a civil day, the astronomical day, the apparent solar day, the mean solar day and the sidereal day, making five different ways of measuring a day. The civil day commences at the midnight preceding mean noon, and consists of twenty-four hours counted after 12 o'clock; the astronomical day begins twelve hours after the civil day, or at the mean noon of the corresponding civil day. These hours are reckoned from 0 to 24. It will be seen, therefore, that while ten hours, 12 minutes, January 1st, astronomical time, is also ten hours, twelve minutes, January 1st civil time, yet twenty-four hours, twelve minutes, January 1st, astronomical time, is also ten hours, twelve minutes, A. M., January 2nd, civil time. There are many anomalies growing out of this use of the civil day, and there are many arguments in favor of using the astronomical day. It is one of the reforms which undoubtedly will come some time.

It is said that soon after Sir Walter Scott's novel, "Anne of Geirstein," appeared, the price of opals declined over 50 per cent. This was due to the opal having a prominent part in the work, and always of a baleful nature. The superstition regarding opals is said to have originated from this book, and curious as it may appear, the superstition is as much a fact today as it was a hundred years ago. One of nature's most beautiful stones suffers greatly, but it should not continue. Cut opals frequently lose their color and brilliancy. It has in a few instances been known that opals having lost their color, when submerged in water for a time have retained their color and fire, but this has happened but seldom. It is pretty much the fact that once

an opal dies, its beauty goes with it, and no operation can bring back to them their superb beauty. Opals have a great tendency to much enhance their beauty when immersed in oil or water, and this fact is often made capital of by jewelers, who keep these gems immersed, and only remove when offered for sale.

The Rev. J. B. Cranfill, promoter of the San Jacinto Oil company of Beaumont, was arrested at Texarkana, Arkansas, on May 12 on a charge of assault to murder, the complaining witness being the Rev. S. L. Hayden. Both are Baptist preachers and both were on their way to attend the Baptist convention at Atlanta, Georgia, when they had the encounter which led to the gun play made by the preacher-promoter. For years they have been publishers of rival religious papers at Dallas, Texas, and their continued and freely expressed animosity has caused considerable feeling among their followers. Hayden rubbed it into Cranfill pretty hard on account of the failure of the Cranfill oil promotions to realize the promises and hopes of the organizers. The two men were on the same train out of Dallas, but did not discover it until they met in the wash room of the sleeper in the morning. Words between them were followed by a pistol exhibition with Cranfill as the star performer. Hayden grappled with the gun totter and in the melee two shots were fired, neither of which took effect. Cranfill gave \$1,000 bond and was released. Both preachers then proceeded on their way to the love feast at Atlanta. Cranfill evidently had been studying up some in firearms, for the gun he carried was one of the latest magazine pattern, capable of killing about ten preachers in two seconds when properly aimed and manipulated. Those who lost their money in Cranfill's oil company will doubtless be thankful for the information that if the sky pilot who piloted them into the hands of a receiver is not a successful oil operator, he is at least vigilant and goes loaded for bear, fellow-preachers or anything else that may bob up. Complaining stockholders who call on him in person please take notice.—Oil Investors Journal.

The "enterprising" and "public-spirited" citizens of Baker City continue to tip their hands by filing attachment suits against various mines in the lower districts which are temporarily involved in financial difficulties and which are as carion to the flock of county seat vultures, whose real interest in, and assistance to the struggling mining industry of Baker county, is thus plainly shown to be based solely and strictly upon a selfish desire to accept the "main chance." It is conceded, by those who are in a position to know, that could the flock of human vultures among the lawyers and business men of Baker City have been eliminated from the Iron Dyke and Coruncopia cases, the temporary difficulties into which these mines were thrown by a combination of circumstances could easily have been adjusted, and suspension an costly litigation avoided. This tendency on the part of a certain powerful portion of the population of Baker City to join in a concerted rush to wreck struggling mining companies is simply another manifestation of the knocking spirit which pervades the Baker City atmosphere. Until such time as there is a unity of interest and purpose among the business men at the county seat;—until it dawns upon the cent-

per-centers of the junction town that the mining industry of Baker county is the backbone of Baker City's commercial activity;—until ALL the hammers of the knockers—including the legal as well as the verbal ones—are buried in kind oblivion;—until such a time no mining corporation or company, except those possessing a practically unlimited cash surplus fund, is safe to enter the Baker City field. Just as long as lawyers, bankers and merchants of Baker City hover like birds of prey over the mines of the lower camp, ready at an instant's notice to fasten their debt-collecting talons on their victim—just so long will outside capital remain chary of entrance into a field where friendliness to the mining industry is a matter of personal profit, and where all helping hands extended to struggling mining enterprises are branded with a \$ mark on the palm.

The Citizens' League of Baker City, which has accomplished much good since its organization in the way of attracting settlers and home-seekers to the agricultural districts tributary to the county seat, might adopt an admitted policy of wisdom by turning its attention toward relieving the conditions outlined above.

U. R. & N. SUMMER BOOK.

The handsome 1904 summer book, "Restful Recreation Resorts," issued by the passenger department of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation company, is just out. It tells all about the summering places of the Columbia river valley—a brief description of the trips up and down the Columbia river, to the mountains, beaches, inland resorts and fountains of healing, where they are and how to reach them. The book has a special designed front cover, printed in two colors, and the inside pages are splendidly illustrated by costly and beautiful half-tones. A copy of this publication may be obtained by sending two cents in stamps to A. L. Craig, general Passenger agent of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation company, Portland.

Clearing Out Sale.

We are clearing out some regular 12 1/2 cent cigars for 10 cents. Harvards always 10 cents with us.
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