

# The Sumpter Miner

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The Denver Republican estimates that the miners' strike in Colorado during the past sixteen months has cost something over twenty-three millions, and gives an itemized statement.

The president of a New England savings bank complains that depositors are withdrawing their money and putting same in farm mortgage loans, oil and mining stocks, etc. The low rate of interest prevailing in the east necessarily compels people with money to seek new channels of investment.

Mineral discovered in place, whether payable or not, location of claim must precede it. The mineral must be found within the limits of claim as subsequently located, and it is not necessary to be near the center of the location, but it is essential that the claim be staked off in a way that the vein will run as near as possible through its center, as a matter of protection.

It is announced that Mr. Lawson, the Boston copper plunger who has instituted a suit against the Amalgamated company, the Rockefeller copper trust, for something like a dozen million dollars, will in one of the July magazines exploit that deal, over his own signature. It will make good reading matter, all right, and will doubtless prove that another church donation is due from Brother John D., a safe fire insurance premium.

The prohibited zones in Mexico are those areas within which foreigners cannot acquire land or mining property without first obtaining permission from the federal government. They are on the borders of the country and consist of strips of land twenty leagues wide on the land borders and ten leagues on the sea borders. Concessions are, however, generally readily granted to responsible individuals, but rarely to organized stock companies.

It is said that to make a producing copper mine in northern Michigan, whereby a tonnage daily for 1,000 to 2,000 tons is secured, it takes several years of active development and from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 in actual cash. These figures are astonishing, but are quite true, the ore being deep in the ground, and the copper contents but small, so that an enormous territory must be developed before actual production is begun.

There is evidently a persistent effort being made by some one, whom The Miner can not locate, to stir up strife over the matter of building a road to the Burnt river country, for the apparent purpose of preventing its completion. The Morning Knocker, as every one knows, is the tool employed in the effort to create dissension. It is a job that it enjoys

and is performing the task with all the ability at its disposal. This is a matter which the business men of Sumpter can easily control, if they are so disposed.

The latest form of railway tie is made of leather. The scrap leather from shoe shops is taken into a disintegrator, ground very fine, subjected to a refining process and molded. The tension of the molding machine can be so regulated that ties hard enough to take a spike or ties through which a spike cannot be driven can be produced. The three great essentials in a cross tie are apparently found in this leather sleeper, for it is guaranteed to hold a spike, the fish plate will not splinter in it and it will not rot. Samples ties which have already been down twenty-eight months fail to show the least wear.

The recent diplomatic negotiations with China on the part of the United States have resulted in some advantages to mining men. Protection to American miners and encouragement to them in the exploration of mineral resources in the Celestial empire have been before referred to in these columns. The question of patents on inventions has been favorably acted upon and accepted by China to protect American patents from infringement in that country, the United States, of course, extending a similar protection to Chinese inventions. In the event American mining men enter China on a large scale, American mining machinery which they introduce will thus be afforded protection.—Daily Mining Record.

A photograph made with a piece of ore containing radium, through the opaque shutter of a photo-plate holder, is the interesting result of an experiment made at the Utah state building at the World's Fair, by S. T. Whitaker, director-general of the state exhibit. The ore is from Richardson, Grande county, where the mineral is being mined for commercial purposes. The Richardson ore is being used by the French experts who discovered the radium in ore which was first found in Bulgaria. Almost the entire output of radium is now obtained from American ores and the mine at Richardson, Utah, has recently been purchased by a wealthy syndicate. Although the photograph taken by Mr. Whitaker was only the reproduction of the slide of the Photo holder, it was obtained by simply placing the piece of ore on the shutter and leaving it over night.

Tests of a new powder which the inventor claims is without recoil are about to be made by United States government officials. If the inventor's claim can be proved true it will revolutionize ordnance and may perhaps revolutionize methods of warfare. The greatest difficulty that a maker of big guns has to overcome is the recoil, which in time puts the gun out of commission, by destroying its machinery. The new powder, it is said, has no perceptible recoil, and a child may hold its hand on the breech of a big gun when fired without fear of being injured.

The above is a condensation of a news item which has been extensively published of late. It sounds like a fake. It seems to imply that an explosive has been discovered that will explode in but one direction. Science has accomplished wonderful things, but it doesn't seem possible that it can govern and guide the force of an explosion.

Secretary Shaw asked congress a few weeks ago to remove the limit upon the amount of subsidiary silver coin which the mints may produce, says Mining World. The limit at present is \$100,000,000. The only "lawful money" upon the production of which there is no limit is gold. All the yellow metal that is offered at the mints will be turned into coin. The secretary has no authority to buy silver bullion, and may coin into dollars or subsidiary coins only that which he has on hand. The volume of United States legal tender notes or "greenbacks" has been unchanged for more than twenty-five years; and that of the treasury notes authorized in 1890 is limited to the amount of silver purchased by them. Gold and silver certificates are not legal tender for a debt; nor are national bank notes, although all three are usually accepted without question in ordinary transactions. The subsidiary silver coins are legal tender for only \$10, and the minor coins of nickel and bronze for twenty-five cents only.

Another old, abandoned mining camp has been electrified into life by the discovery that it had not been worked out. This time it is the Mountain City district, in Nevada, near the Idaho line. Twenty years ago the town had a population of 5,000, and many millions of dollars worth of silver was taken out. At a depth of about 100 feet the veins faulted, the price of silver declined under the influence of adverse legislation and the miners moved on to other fields. Last season two Colorado men thought the formation looked good to them and started a tunnel to run under the fault. Recently the ledge was encountered below and sensationally rich ore was uncovered.

Another discovery made is that no attention was paid during the early days to the gold values contained in the rock, which the old dmups prove was in itself worth mining for, and below the fault there is a still greater proportion of the yellow metal. During recent years it has been demonstrated that it is about as profitable to prospect abandoned as new districts.

The Massachusetts legislature has just passed a law, the operation of which will be closely watched by business men everywhere, should Governor Bates affix his signature thereto. Its object is to put down bribery in private business, by imposing penalties of imprisonment and fines on persons convicted of giving or taking such bribes. It prohibits the payment of a commission or the presentation of a gift to the purchasing agent of any business concern by the persons with whom he deals. There is reason for believing that this species of bribery is more widespread than the general public has any knowledge of. Many cases have come to light in which buyers for mills, factories, department stores, railroads and other business establishments practice this sort of "graft." This sort of corruption differs not a particle in principle from "boodles" in public affairs. As a rule, too, it is far more contemptible, for the victims are usually persons to whom the bribe takers are under individual obligations. The state or the city is an impersonal institution, so that the "boodler" who, by means of bribery, plunders it is not conscious of having robbed anybody in particular, not an acquaintance or, perhaps, a friend.

The amount of water raised per ton of ore in the west varies very materially. At Leadville over thirty tons of water are raised per ton of ore. At Butte about twenty tons of water to the ton of ore are pumped. Cripple Creek at one time pumped forty tons of water to the ton of ore mined, although since the completion of the El Paso drainage tunnel this amount has very materially decreased. Cripple Creek is not what may be considered a very wet camp, although some two or three years ago the mines on Raven hill, like the Doctor-Jackpot and the Elkton, had an enormous flow to handle.

But the tonnage of ore mined is so materially smaller than the tonnage of Leadville or Butte that, naturally, the proportion of water pumped to the ore mined is very much greater than in Butte or Leadville. Still there can be no question that Leadville pumps at least twice the amount of water that Cripple Creek pumps. It has been estimated that it costs about \$1,000,000 a year to pump water in the Leadville district, or about six per cent to seven per cent of the gross output. The cost of pumping depends very materially on the character of the machinery used for pumping, as well as the care exercised in the operation of the plant. A common estimate for ordinary mining purposes with a fair equipment of machinery is ten cents per thousand gallons raised 1,000 feet, or per 1,000,000 gallons raised one foot. A modern triple expansion condensing pumping engine will do this work for about six cents. With sinking pumps the cost would probably be thirty cents, but may be easily raised to seventy-five cents with careless handling.—Mining Reporter.

In the scrapyards at Pittsburg lies a shapeless mass of iron which shows the tremendous pressure of water at a great depth. It was constructed for a diving bell, and was used in the waters of Lake Michigan, says the New York Herald. It was a cube about six feet square, tapering slightly at both ends, and was made of phosphor bronze five-eighths of an inch thick. Each plate was cast with a flange, and the plates were bolted together, the bolts being placed as near as was consistent with strength. The side plates were further strengthened by ribs an inch thick and two inches wide, and the entire structure was strongly braced. The windows, intended to be used as outlooks for the divers inside, were three inches square, fortified with iron bars and set with glass plates one inch thick. The entire weight of the bell was 23,000 pounds.

When completed it was sent to Milwaukee and towed out into the lake about 12 miles, where there was over 200 feet of water, and sent down for the test. The inventor was so confident of its success that he was most anxious to go down in the bell when the trial was made. Fortunately for him he was dissuaded. When it reached a depth of about 200 feet, strong timbers which had been attached to it came up splintered into fragments. Suspecting an accident, the bell was hauled up and found to be crushed into a shapeless mass. The inch thick plate glass bull's eyes were pulverized, and the entire body of the bell forced inward till the original shape was obliterated.

On a basis of 200 feet depth, the pressure that crushed this seemingly invulnerable structure was 86.6 pounds per square inch, or 353,942 pounds to each side of six feet square. The total pressure on the cube was 2,723,548 pounds, or 1,261.7 tons.