

MONEY STRINGENCY A THING OF THE PAST

President Scriber, of the First National Bank, Says the Worst is Over With.

J. W. Scriber, president of the First National bank here, and an officer of other banks in the Inland Empire, at La Grande, where he makes his home, Canyon City, and elsewhere, arrived in Sumpter this forenoon and will remain here several days.

Miner readers will remember that last winter, when financial circles in the east were decidedly nervous, fearing a panic, Mr. Scriber expressed the opinion through these columns that there would be no very serious financial disturbances, basing this belief on reports received from correspondent banks all over the country.

That prediction has been verified, and now the gentleman comes forward with the cheerful, positive assertion that the worst is over with in eastern Oregon, especially in Sumpter and other mining districts. He says:

"There is already a marked improvement all over. In the agricultural and stock sections, particularly where sheep are raised extensively, times are good, money is easier and there is no occasion whatever for apprehension. Money from the sale of wool has been re-

ceived and soon hundreds of thousands will be pouring in to pay for a big wheat crop at high prices.

"Here in Sumpter, as you know, from the time of the spring thaw to late in July or the first of August, is always our dull season. The roads are now in good condition, the weather is fine, and all mining operations are being pushed; resulting in a general business revival. In the banking business we see evidences of these changes, perhaps, sooner than those engaged in other lines, and I am glad to state that this year the improvement is taking place even earlier than usual.

"This, of course, is speaking generally. Specifically, the settlement of the long standing Red Boy troubles and the early resumption of work at that famous old mine means much for the betterment of conditions in this district. Already considerable money has been put in circulation from that source and there will be much more in the near future. Then, too, I hear that work will again be started up at the Golconda, and that, also, will be a great help. That railroad out to Bourne and Cable Cove will, of course, make Sumpter a better and more prosperous town than it has ever been."

IMPORTANT PLACER DEAL THOUGHT TO BE PENDING

Frank Hobson, the mining engineer, left for Baker City this afternoon on an important mining deal. Just what the nature of it is Mr. Hobson did not care to state, but the presumption is that it has to do with the big placer option which he has secured on placer ground, starting with the Ellis interests at Sumpter and extending down the valley for several miles.

Mr. Hobson has an option on some 2,000 acres of placer ground, and it is generally supposed that he has interested capital to take hold of it. It is largely a dredger proposition, and the possibilities it presents with the introduction of sufficient capital are enormous.

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.

Numerous duplicate petitions are being prepared by the local optionists to be sent broad cast over the county. Each petition will be accompanied by a representative of the cause who will wait on voters until he receives ten per cent of the voters in a given community. Rev. Floyd of this city stated today that the organization has sufficient funds to carry on its campaign and would make a careful and strong fight. He said that it was a non-political issue. Republicans and democrats are found who advocate the idea while what are called prohibitionists sometimes oppose it. Many of the prohibitionists want to make it a political move but the present organization will not permit politics to enter the campaign.—Herald.

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